

Choral composition as musical social practice:

Reena Esmail's *Take What You Need* in
Skid Row, Los Angeles

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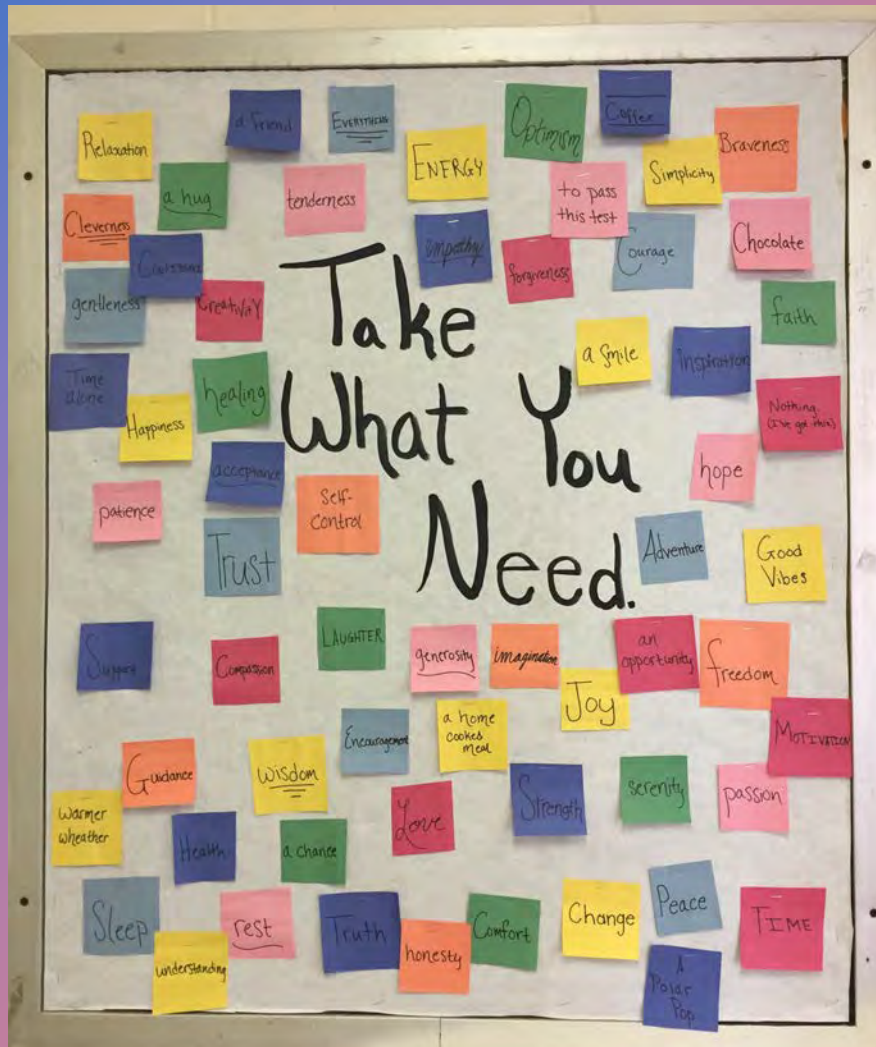


“Every piece I write [now], I’m thinking what is the interaction between people. I just want to connect people to each other.”

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- Reena Esmail, composer





Text for *Take What You Need*

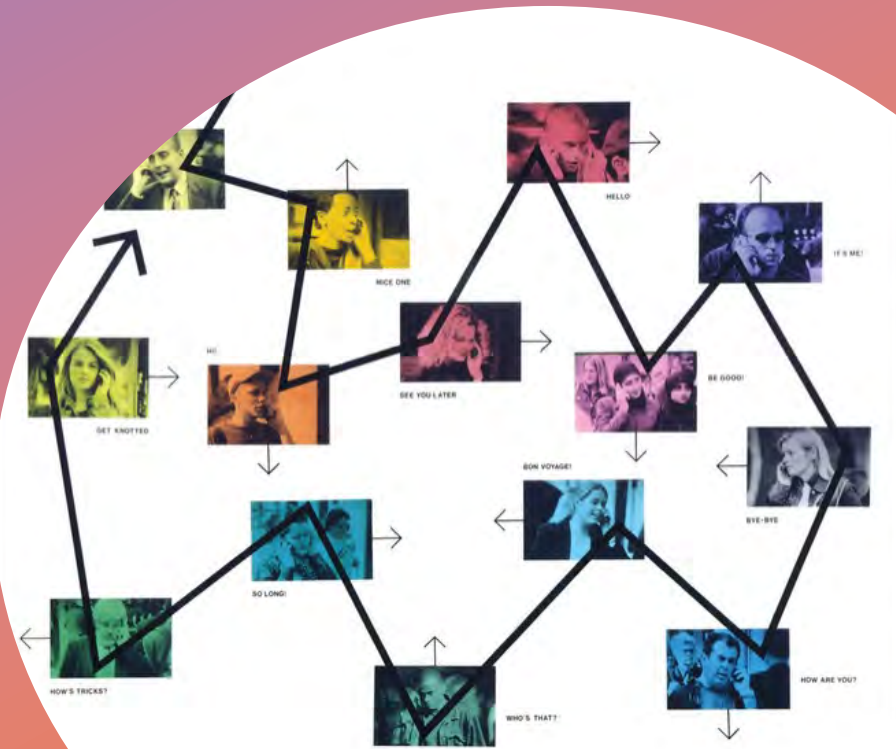
“Take a moment...Take a breath...Take time...Take care...Take heart...Take hope...Take a step...Take a chance...Take courage...Take charge...Take a stand...Take pride...Take joy...Take pause...Take a moment...Take a breath...Take what you need.”

- Text by Reena Esmail



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“a dialogical aesthetic requires that we strive to acknowledge the specific identity of our interlocutors and conceive of them not simply as subjects on whose behalf we might act but as co-participants in the transformation of both self and society.” (Kester 2013, 78-79).





“There is no longer performer/audience. It is more ‘support group’ positioning – all speaking, all listening.”

- Reena Esmail



"for all people to have a therapeutic space."

- Vijay Gupta, Street Symphony



“So where can healing be done? It has to be done in a healthy space that feels safe.”

- Leeav Sofer, Urban Voices Project

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“moderator says a phrase like ‘I miss...’ or ‘I wish...’...[until] they are all wishing for the wishes of each other.”

-Reena Esmail’s pre-compositional notes

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“most of the [singers] don’t feel like they can perform the piece without the presence of a trained musician or facilitator to provide the platform.”

-Leeav Sofer, Artistic Director of Urban Voices Project





Thank you

Works referenced:

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