

THIS SONG was inspired by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and all the tribes, nations, native and non-native people that came together to protect the Missouri River water threatened by the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota. It springs from that historic moment and continues as a call to all of us across the world to stand courageously to protect the water. —ST

Pronunciation notes:

The chorus contains two phrases in Lakota: Mni wičoni (mini wi-cho-nee) —“Water is life.”
Mitakuye Oyasin (mee-dah-koo-yeh o-yah-seen) —“All My Relations”

Water Is Life ~ Mni Wičoni

A song for Standing Rock
And for all water protectors, everywhere

Written and arranged by
SARA THOMSEN

The musical score is written for three parts: Alto (A), Soprano (S), and Tenor (T). The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-6) features the Alto part with lyrics: "All my re-la-tions, come Ev-'ry na-tion, come All my re-la-tions un - der the". The second system (measures 7-12) features the Soprano and Tenor parts with lyrics: "sun We are one. We are pray-ing, come We are pray-ing, come". The third system (measures 13-18) features the Soprano and Tenor parts with lyrics: "We are the song and we are the drum. We are one. We are the song and we are the drum. We are one." Chord symbols (Eb, Ab, Bb) are placed above the Soprano staff in the first system, and above the Soprano staff in the third system.

Alto

All my re-la-tions, come Ev-'ry na-tion, come All my re-la-tions un - der the

A

sun We are one. We are pray-ing, come We are pray-ing, come

T

We are pray-ing, come We are pray-ing, come

A

We are the song and we are the drum. We are one.

T

We are the song and we are the drum. We are one.

17

S We are the riv - er, come We are the riv - er, come We are the boat, the

A We are the riv - er, come We are the riv - er, come We are the boat, the

T We are the riv - er, come We are the riv - er, come We are the boat, the

Ab

22

S pad - dle, the shore, We are one. M - ni wi - čo - ni,

A pad - dle, the shore, We are one. M - ni wi - čo - ni,

T pad - dle, the shore, We are one. M - ni wi - čo - ni,

Bb Ab Bb Eb Chorus

26

S sing M-ni wi-čo - ni, sing M-ni wi-čo - ni, "wa - ter is

A sing M-ni wi-čo - ni, sing M-ni wi-čo - ni, "wa - ter is

T sing M-ni wi-čo - ni, sing M-ni wi-čo - ni, "wa - ter is

B Mi-ta-ku-ye O - ya - sin. Mi-ta-ku-ye O - ya - sin. Mi-ta-ku-ye,

Ab Bb

26

Additional harmonies

Mi - ta - ku - ye O - ya - sin. Mi - ta - ku - ye O - ya - sin. Mi - ta - ku - ye,

Pronunciation and translation of the Lakota phrases:
 Mni wičoni (mini wi-cho-nee) — "Water is life." Mitakuye Oyasin (mee-dah-koo-yeh o-yah-seen) — "All My Relations"

37 $A\flat$ $B\flat$ $E\flat$

S life" for ev-'ry-thing. We are the wa-ter, sing We are the wa-ter,

A life" for ev-'ry-thing. We are the wa-ter, sing We are the wa-ter,

T life" for ev-'ry-thing. We are the wa-ter, sing We are the wa-ter,

B Mi-ta-ku-ye Mi-ta-ku-ye O-ya - sin. Mi-ta-ku-ye O-ya - sin.

37 Mi-ta-ku-ye Mi-ta-ku-ye O-ya - sin. Mi-ta-ku-ye O-ya - sin.

36 $A\flat$ $B\flat$ $A\flat$ $B\flat$ $E\flat$ *Jump to measure #81 for ending*

S sing We are the wa-ter, We are where all life be-gins. Verse 2

A sing We are the wa-ter, We are where all life be-gins. We are the an-cient

T sing We are the wa-ter, We are where all life be-gins.

B Mi-ta-ku-ye O-ya - sin. Mi-ta-ku-ye, Mi-ta-ku-ye Mi-ta-ku-ye O-ya - sin. ...an-cient

36 Mi-ta-ku-ye O-ya - sin. Mi-ta-ku-ye, Mi-ta-ku-ye Mi-ta-ku-ye O-ya - sin.

42 $A\flat$ $B\flat$

A ones We are the an-cient ones In your breath and bones we sing

B ones We are the an-cient ones In your breath and bones we sing

47 $A\flat$ $B\flat$ $E\flat$ $A\flat$

A on, We are one. We are the mead-ow, come We are the mead-ow, come

T We are the mead-ow, come We are the mead-ow, come

B on, We are one. We are the mead-ow, come We are the mead-ow, come

53 $B\flat$ $A\flat$ $B\flat$ $E\flat$

S We are the new day, run, run, run!

A We are the lark that sings the new day has be - gun. We are the new day, run, run, run!

T We are the lark that sings the new day has be - gun. We are the new day, run, run, run!

B We are the lark that sings the new day has be - gun. We are the new day, run, run, run!

59 $A\flat$ $B\flat$ $A\flat$ $B\flat$ $E\flat$ To Chorus

S We are the new day, run, run, run! We are the old and we are the young, We are one.

A We are the new day, run, run, run! We are the old and we are the young, We are one.

T We are the new day, run, run, run! We are the old and we are the young, We are one.

B We are the new day, run, run, run! We are the old and we are the young, We are one.

Verse 3

65

S Eb Ab Bb

We are the earth and sky! We are the thun-der cries! We are the fi - re, We are the

A

We are the earth and sky! We are the thun-der cries! We are the fi - re, We are the

T

We are the earth and sky! We are the thun-der cries! We are the fi - re, We are the

B

We are the earth and sky! We are the thun-der cries! We are the fi - re, We are the

71

S Ab Eb Ab

light in your eyes. We are stand - ing strong! Like a rock, like a stone!

A

light in your eyes. We are stand - ing strong! Like a rock, like a stone!

T

light in your eyes. We are stand - ing strong! Like a rock, like a stone!

B

light in your eyes. We are stand - ing strong! Like a rock, like a stone!

77

S Bb Ab Bb Eb To Chorus

On this sac - red ground we be - long, we are home.

A

On this sac - red ground we be - long, we are home

T

On this sac - red ground we be - long, we are home

B

On this sac - red ground we be - long, we are home

81 Ending

S Ev - 'ry na - tion, come. A $\flat$

A All my re - la - tions, come. Ev - 'ry na - tion, come.

T Ev - 'ry na - tion, come.

B sin. Ev - 'ry na - tion, come.

85

S All my re - la - tions un - der the sun, We are one. B $\flat$ A $\flat$ B $\flat$ E $\flat$

A All my re - la - tions un - der the sun, We are one.

T All my re - la - tions un - der the sun, We are one.

B All my re - la - tions un - der the sun, We are one.

"The phrase Mitakuye Oyasin has a bigger meaning than just our blood relatives. Yes, it's true; we are all one human race. But the word Mitakuye means relations and Oyasin means more than family, more than a Nation, more than all of humankind, everything that has a spirit. The Earth herself, Maka Uinci, is our relation, and so is the sky, Grandfather Sky, and so is the Buffalo and so are each of the two-leggeds, the four-leggeds, those that swim, those that fly, the root nation and the crawling beings who share the world with us. Mitakuye Oyasin refers to the interconnectedness of all beings and all things. We are all interconnected. We are all One."

—Chief Arvol Looking Horse, from his book *White Buffalo Teachings*