

# LIFT UP YOUR VOICE: KWA MANENO NGUVU

Two-Part (Optional Three-Part)  
Treble Voices with Piano

James M. DesJardins

*BriLee Music*  
**Part-by-Part**



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Ranges:



Language: English, Swahili

Use: General/Festival

Time: Approx. 2:35

\*Difficulty: Moderate

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## Notes

This piece speaks of hope, compassion and unity. During the introduction, soloists may perform spoken quotations that support those themes. Consider the following suggestions:

“If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.” — Booker T. Washington

“Find the sweetness in your own heart, then you may find the sweetness in every heart.”  
— Rumi

“I will not allow my life’s light to be determined by the darkness around me.”  
— Sojourner Truth

“Nothing is hopeless that is right.” — Susan B. Anthony

“A smile or a tear has not nationality; joy and sorrow speak alike to all nations.”  
— Frederick Douglass

### Swahili Pronunciation and Translation:

Kwa imani milele [KWAH EE-MAH-NEE MEE-LEH-LEH] = with eternal faith

Na elimu ya [NAH EH-LEE-MOO YAH] = with education

Kwa maneno nguvu [KWAH MAH-NEH-NOH N-GOO-VOO] = with mighty words

Na umoja [NAH OO-MOH-JAH]= with unity

Each line of Swahili text partners with a line of English text, continuing its thought. For example, “Lift up your soul/with eternal faith, lift up your mind/with education, etc.” This complimentary design musically exemplifies the text’s plea for unity, empathy and interdependence.

### Three-Part Section:

Choirs may perform the three-part section at m. 44 in three different ways:

1. Perform all three parts.
2. Perform only the top two lines: a partner song between the English and Swahili melodies.
3. Perform only the bottom two lines: the English melody in canon.

## About the Composer

James M. DesJardins teaches, conducts and composes music in Upstate New York. He holds degrees in Music Education and specialized certifications in Orff-Schulwerk and Music Learning Theory. He has served on the board of his local Orff-Schulwerk Association, as Classroom Music Co-Chair for his county organization, and as composer in residence for the Buffalo Niagara Youth Chorus. He is a sought-after honors ensemble adjudicator, guest conductor, conference presenter and guest lecturer. He has been a church soloist and musician for three decades. He was the 2017 recipient of the ECMEA/Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Award for Excellence in Music Education. He specializes in composing beautiful and engaging music that is accessible for young choruses, and he enjoys exploring his city with his wife, Julienne and their son, Luke.

# Lift up Your Voice

(Kwa Maneno Nguvu)

for Two-Part (Optional Three-Part) Treble Voices with Piano

♩ = 110

JAMES M. DESJARDINS

(Repeat until speaking parts are finished.)

Piano

*mp molto legato*

6

All Voices  
with conviction

Lift up your soul, bring

12

peace to the vi - o - lence. Lift up your mind and o - pen your eyes.

18

Lift up your voice for those who fall - si - lent. Lift up your

23

heart and free-dom will rise. Kwa i - ma - ni mi-

28

le - le, Na e - li - mu ya. Kwa i - ma - ni mi - le - le,

33

na e - li - mu ya. Kwama - ne - no n - gu - vu, na u - mo -

38

ja. Kwama - ne - no n - gu - vu, Na u - mo - ja.

## Optional three-part\*

43

Part 1 *mf*

Kwa i - ma - ni mi - le - le, na e - li - mu ya. Kwa i -

Part 2 *mf*

Lift up your soul, bring peace to the vi - o - lence.

Part 3

48

ma - ni mi - le - le, Na e - li - mu ya. Kwama - ne - no n - gu - vu,

Lift up your mind and o - pen your eyes. Lift up your voice for

Lift up your soul, bring peace to the vi - o - lence. Lift up your mind and

\* If performing two parts, use the upper two voice parts or the lower two.

54

na u-mo - ja. Kwa ma - ne - no n - gu - vu, na u-mo -  
 those who fall - si - lent. Lift up your heart and free-dom will  
 o - pen your eyes. Lift up your voice for those who fall -

59

ja. **f** Kwa i - ma - ni mi - le - le, na e - li - mu ya. Kwa i -  
 rise. **f** Lift up your soul, bring peace to the vi - o-lence.  
 si - lent. **f** Lift up your heart and free-dom will rise.

*sva*-----  
**f** preferred a cappella, piano optional

64

ma - ni mi - le - le, na e - li - mu ya. Kwa ma - ne - no n - gu - vu,

Lift up your mind and o - pen your eyes. Lift up your voice for

Lift up your soul, bring peace to the vi - o - lence. Lift up your mind and  
8va-----

70

na u - mo - ja. Kwa ma - ne - no n - gu - vu, na u - mo - ja.

those who fall \_ si - lent. Lift up your heart and free - dom will rise.

o - pen your eyes. Lift up your voice for those who fall \_ si - lent.  
8va-----

*piano resumes*

76

Lift up your heart and free-dom will rise. Lift up your heart and

Lift up your heart and free-dom will rise. Lift up your heart and

Lift up your heart and free-dom will rise. Lift up your heart and

82

free-dom will rise. *rit.*

free-dom will rise. *rit.*

free-dom will rise. *rit.*

*p*

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