

NOTES FROM THE COMPOSER

Lead With Love was written in answer to a call for connection in troubled times. It is about persistence, community and moving ahead. "One foot in front of the other" is a metaphor for determination and forward motion . I think of love warriors like Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Ghandhi, Dolores Huerta. All of them started their movements out of the love of their people not out of the hatred of someone else.

When singing this song in concert it is my request that you invite the audience to sing with you. This song is not meant to be 'listened to', it is for all to be a part. There's no need to 'teach' it to them. Always begin with a few measures of hand clapping on 2 and 4 so that folks can join in.

On the last chorus, I often sing 'we' gotta put, etc, instead of 'you'.

TEXT

*You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love,
Put one foot in front of the other and lead with love!*

*Don't give up hope. You're not alone,
Don't you give up, keep movin' on.*

Chorus

*Lift up your eyes and don't you despair.
Look up ahead, the path is there.*

Chorus

*I know you're scared, and I'm scared, too
But here I am, right next to you!*

Chorus

DURATION: 2 minutes 30 seconds

BIO

Melanie DeMore : Vocal Activist - is one of the most outstanding vocal artists of today helping to preserve the African American Folk Tradition through song and Gullah stick pounding. She was the subject of a documentary called *Stick and Pound* which showcases this tradition. She has a career spanning 30 years dedicated to teaching, lecturing, mentoring, conducting, directing and inspiring children and adults about the power of song as social and political change. Melanie is a sought after presenter, conductor and soloist at national and international choral and music festivals, including Festival 500 in Newfoundland, Canada and Chorus America.

She is sought after as a song/ prayer facilitator, creating spontaneous choirs for *The Trinity Institute*, *The Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society* and the Powell Foundation as well as many varied spiritual and faith based organizations. She is adjunct faculty at the California Institute for Integral Studies, Master teaching Artist for CalPerformances at UC Berkeley, a featured presenter for *SpeakOut!* the Institute for Social and Cultural Change and was the Artistic Conductor of *The Oakland Children's Community Choir with Living Jazz* for nine years.

She was a founding member of the Grammy nominated, Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir and has had the pleasure of sharing the stage with such varied artists as Odetta, Richey Havens, Pete Seeger, the Trinity Choir, MUSE Cincinnati Women's Chorus, The International Threshold Choirs and many others.

Melanie DeMore is a singer/songwriter, composer ,conductor and vocal activist, who believes in the power of voices raised together.

She says:

'A song can hold you up when there seems to be no ground beneath you'.

LEAD WITH LOVE

SATB a cappella

Words and Music by
MELANIE DeMORE

Swing ♩ = ca. 152 (♩ = $\overset{-3-}{\text{♩}}$)

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

mf

You got-ta put one foot in front of the oth - er and lead with love,

4

Put one foot in front of the oth - er and lead with love! You got-ta put

9

one foot in front of the oth - er and lead with love, Put one foot in front of the oth-

14

*** Solo f*

Don't give up hope, You're not a-lone,
- er and lead with love! Don't give up hope,

* Visit sheetmusicdirect.com to purchase and download digital choral scores and audio (MP3s).
** Audience is invited to echo the soloist throughout the entire piece.

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Don't you give up, Keep mov - in' on.

You're not a - lone, Don't you give up,

Solo tacet to ms. 40

Keep mov - in' on. You got-ta put one foot in front of the oth - er and

Keep mov - in' on. One foot, one foot, one foot in

mf

mp

lead with love, Put one foot in front of the oth - er and

front of the oth-er. one. one foot, one foot, one foot,

mp

lead with love! You got-ta put one foot in front of the oth - er and

lead with love! One foot, one foot, one foot in

mp

lead with love, Put one foot in front of the oth - er and

front of the oth-er, one, one foot, one foot, one foot,

mp

* Lower notes optional through ms. 40.

** Tenors & Basses swell to *f* on the tied whole note each time this happens.

39

Solo f

Lift up your eyes... Don't you de-spair...
lead with love!... Lift up your eyes... and

43

Look up a-head The path is there
don't you de-spair... Look up a-head see:

47

Soprano Solo tacet to ms. 65

Soprano The path is there... One foot, one foot, one foot in
Alto The path is there... You got-ta put one foot in front of the other and
Tenor The path is there... One foot, one foot, one foot in
Bass The path is there... One foot, one foot, one foot in

51

front of the other, one, one foot, one foot, one foot,
lead with love, Put one foot in front of the other and
front of the other, one, one foot, one foot, one foot,

lead with love! One foot, one foot, one foot in

lead with love! You got-ta put one foot in front of the oth - er and

lead with love! One foot, one foot, one foot in

front of the oth-er, one, one foot, one foot, one foot,

lead with love, Put one foot in front of the oth - er and

front of the oth-er, one, one foot, one foot, one foot,

Solo f

I know you're scared And I'm scared, too

lead with love! I know that you're scared

lead with love! I know that you're scared

lead with love! I know that you're scared

67

But here I am Right next to you!

And I'm scared too. But here I am, yes,

And I'm scared too. But here I am, yes,

And I'm scared too. But here I am, yes,

legato

legato

legato

71

Solo tacet al fine

Right next to you! One foot, one foot, one foot in

Right next to you! You got-ta put one foot in front of the oth - er and

Right next to you! One foot, one foot, one foot in

75

front of the oth - er, one, one foot, one foot, one foot,

lead with love, Put one foot in front of the oth - er and

front of the oth - er, one, one foot, one foot, one foot,

mp

lead with love! One foot, one foot,
 lead with love! You got - ta put one foot in front of the oth -
 lead with love! One foot, one foot,

one foot in front of the oth - er, one, one foot, one foot,
 - er and lead with love, Put one foot in front of the oth -
 one foot in front of the oth - er, one, *mp* One foot, one foot,

one foot, lead with love, lead with love,
 - er and lead with love, and lead with love,
 one foot, lead with love, lead with love,

rit. **Slower**
 lead with love, lead with love!
 and lead with love, and lead with love!
 lead with love, lead with love!

