LISTEN TO EACH OTHER NOW

HONORING DR. JOSIE R. JOHNSON

by STUDENTS from
EMERSON SPANISH IMMERSION LEARNING CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LISTEN TO EACH OTHER NOW
Words & music by LARRY LONG.

Illustrations by EMERSON SILC Sr. Carrasco's 4th Grade students under the guidance of art teacher Sra. Mina Leierwood.

Dr. Josie R. Johnson interview by Sr. Coronado's 5th grade students under the guidance of music instructor Srta. Yina Ha.

Photograph of Dr. Josie R. Johnson by Larry Long.

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Funded in part through a ‘Mini-grant for Integrated Learning’ from the Office of Equity & Diversity, Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), and the West Metro Education Program (WMEP).
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LISTEN TO EACH OTHER NOW

HONORING DR. JOSIE R. JOHNSON
Emancipation, Slavery
Let me tell you what that means
My ancestors go back far
Always be proud of who you are
Separate churches, separate schools,
Could not swim in the public pool

White people only

School for white only
No Black people allowed

Until Dr. Martin Luther King
Made those bells of freedom ring
Don’t let no one reduce you to
Their level I’m telling you
Listen to each other now!
My great grandfather was a slave
Who I knew at an early age
It was not that long ago
When men like him were bought and sold
Though denied opportunity
My people strongly believed
In building schools, so we could learn
From each of them these words I heard
“Don’t let no one reduce you to
Their level I’m telling you.”
Listen to each other
Now is the time
Now is the time
Now is the time for love
Don’t get angry
Hold your head up high
Respect yourself
Though some may try
To pull you down
It can’t be done
From a proud people
We do come

Emancipation
Equal education
Opportunity

Equal employment
Job security

Equal housing,
Honor diversity
On this road of equity
Don’t let no one reduce you to
Their level I’m telling you
Listen to each other now!
 Couldn’t try on clothes in Department Stores
Nor rent costumes, though we could afford
Until Bayard Rustin and countless blacks
Gave us the courage to not step back
Like my father who studied law  
My Grandmother so very strong
Don’t let no one reduce you to Their level I’m telling you
Listen to each other now
ABOUT THIS BOOK:

LISTEN TO EACH OTHER NOW was produced through an educational and cultural program created by Smithsonian Folkways Recording artist Larry Long, entitled Elders’ Wisdom, Children’s Song.

Elders’ Wisdom, Children’s Song is a program of Community Celebration of Place, a non-profit organization, which works with communities through music, performance, art and oral history to bring together children, elders, and people of different backgrounds—economic, faith, racial and cultural—in order to build intergenerational and multicultural opportunities for all schools and communities to prosper.

Dr. Tony Seeger, Curator Emeritus of Smithsonian Folkways, writes, “When senior members of a community talk about their lives and work and children write songs with Larry Long about what they have learned from the elders, they create a remarkable celebration of humanity and hard work.”

To learn more about Elders’ Wisdom, Children’s Song: www.communitycelebration.org