

Remembering Quincy Jones with "We Are the World" (1985)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AjkUyX0rVw>

Quincy Delight Jones Jr. (March 14, 1933 – November 3, 2024) was an American record producer, songwriter, composer, arranger, and film and television producer.^[1] Over the course of his career he received **several accolades** [rewards, expressions of praise] including 28 **Grammy Awards**, ... [Wikipedia]

Jones **came to prominence** [became known] in the 1950s as a jazz arranger and conductor before producing pop hit records for **Lesley Gore** in the early 1960s (including "**It's My Party**") and serving as an arranger and conductor for several collaborations between the jazz artists **Frank Sinatra** and **Count Basie**. Jones produced three of the most successful albums by pop star **Michael Jackson**: *Off the Wall* (1979), *Thriller* (1982), and *Bad* (1987). In 1985, Jones produced and conducted the charity song "**We Are the World**", which raised funds for victims of **famine** in Ethiopia.^[3]

The song was written very quickly by **Lionel Richie** and Michael Jackson, who wanted it to be easy to sing, memorable and **anthemic** [i.e. sound like an anthem, a song of praise]. Quincy Jones was responsible for organising the production and for orchestrating the recording: in the video we can see him conducting. More than 45 top American artists participated. Today the song may seem dated, perhaps even a bit hypocritical. But it also remains a joyous and unforgettable hymn to hope.

There comes a time
When we **heed** [pay attention to] a certain call
When the world must come together as one
There are people dying
Oh, and it's time to **lend a hand** [help] to life
The greatest **gift** [something given, a present] of all

We can't go on
Pretending day-by-day
That someone, somewhere will soon make a change
We're all a part of God's great big family
And the truth, you know, love is all we need

We are the world
We are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me

Oh, send them your heart
So they know that someone cares
And their lives will be stronger and free
As God has shown us by turning stones to bread
And so we all must lend a helping hand

We are the world
We are the children

We are the ones who make a brighter day, so
let's start giving Oh, there's a choice we're
making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me

When you're **down and out** [when you are
completely lost, in the streets], there seems no
hope at all
But if you just believe there's no way we can fall
Well, well, well, well let us realize
Oh, that a change can only come
When we stand together as one, yeah, yeah, yeah
[...]
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a brighter day
Just you and me, come on now, let me hear you

We are the world (we are the world)
We are the children (we are the children)
We are the ones who'll make a brighter day
So let's start giving (so let's start giving)
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me,
yeah
[...]

How many artists do you recognise in the song?

Soloists (in order of appearance): Lionel Richie; Stevie Wonder; Paul Simon; Kenny Rogers; James Ingram; Tina Turner; Billy Joel; Michael Jackson; Diana Ross; Dionne Warwick; Willie Nelson; Al Jarreau; Bruce Springsteen; Kenny Loggins; Steve Perry; Daryl Hall; Huey Lewis; Cyndi Lauper; Kim Carnes; Bob Dylan; Ray Charles. **Chorus (alphabetically):** Dan Aykroyd; Harry Belafonte; Lindsey Buckingham; Mario Cipollina (of Huey Lewis and the News); Johnny Colla (of Huey Lewis and the News); Sheila E.; Bob Geldof; Bill Gibson (of Huey Lewis and the News); Chris Hayes (of Huey Lewis and the News); Sean Hopper (of Huey Lewis and the News); Jackie Jackson; La Toya Jackson; Marlon Jackson; Randy Jackson; Tito Jackson; Waylon Jennings; Bette Midler; John Oates; Jeffrey Osborne; Anita Pointer (of the Pointer Sisters); June Pointer (of the Pointer Sisters); Ruth Pointer (of the Pointer Sisters); Smokey Robinson.