

Notes from the Music Department:

In John L. Bell's book, **The Singing Thing**, he discusses why we sing. Why?

...Because we can.

...To create identity.

New this week: ...To express emotion.

..... "When most people are asked why they sing, they respond subjectively. "I sing because I feel happy." or "I sing because it makes me feel good." Singing has undoubtedly something to do with the emotions, and whether singing makes us feel or feeling makes us sing is a chicken-and-egg argument. Sometimes we launch into a song because of the mood we are in and sometimes the very act of singing can lift us from carelessness to courage. The reflection or expression of emotion is, however, not just to do with the positive sides of our nature. We also sing or croon to muse over the troubled side of life, its disappointments, frustrations and pain." .....

"Woyaya" is the title song of a 1971 album by Osibisa, an Afro-pop group of Ghanaian and Caribbean musicians. You have previously heard both our choir and Danika sharing this meaningful song. I chose it for today because it seems to be the perfect vehicle for expressing our feelings about our future as a nation during these tumultuous days. While not the official translation, our "let it be" would serve as a fine explanation for the word, "Woyaya."

## **Woyaya**

We are going, Heaven knows where we are going,  
We'll know we're there.

We will get there, Heaven knows how we will get there,  
We know we will.

It will be hard we know, and the road will be muddy and rough,  
But we'll get there, Heaven knows how we will get there,  
We know we will.

Woyaya, Woyaya, Woyaya, Woyaya.