

**The 2021 Humanity's Child  
Music Video Project**

**An Educational Experience for  
Aspiring Musical Theater and Video Performers**

**Students Currently Attending  
Secondary or College Level Programs  
and Their Chosen Adult Sponsor**

**HUMANITY'S CHILD** is a Musical with an Off-Broadway track record and ambitious plans for the future. Due to current COVID constraints, our live production plans are on hold until the industry opens up again. In the meantime, we are fully active in the virtual sphere producing ZOOM performances and mentored educational programs.

**The 2021 Humanity's Child Music Video Project** is sponsored by [The Peaceful Educator](#), a 501c3 Non-Profit Educational Foundation. It offers opportunities for **students ages 14 to 20**, currently attending secondary or college level programs that include the performing arts, to participate in the development of an actual "Broadway Musical" under the guidance of Composer/Educator, Dr. John McDonnell Tierney, PhD. And, it offers opportunities for invited **adult sponsors** (chosen by the students from among trusted parents, caregivers, teachers and others) to serve as supporters, cheerleaders, and when necessary, managers helping to keep young people on track and on task.

Begin by visiting the **HUMANITY'S CHILD WEBSITE**. Learn about us and our show. Decide if this is something you'd like to part of. If so, listen to the show on **SOUNDCLOUD**. This will allow you to gain a feel for the production values and messaging. If you share our values and mission and would like to audition for the program, please read on.

## **PROJECT STRUCTURE**

### **A 4-6 WEEK MENTORSHIP**

This project is based on cognitive apprentice models where an Apprentice/Protégé works with a Master/Mentor on the authentic activities of a particular domain, in this case Musical Theater.

This is a 4-6 week Mentorship with Dr. John McDonnell Tierney, PhD, and may be begun at any time thru December 31<sup>st</sup> (based on Dr. T's availability). Once begun, Protégés must meet on-going benchmarks for progress and complete the project within the allotted timeframe.

Applications may be submitted at any time; however slots are filled as qualified applicants are accepted. You are encouraged to apply as early as possible. This is not a competition; it is more a "first come/first served" situation.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no fees for participation in this project. We do, however, upon acceptance require a \$100.00 deposit as a token of good faith by applicants and their sponsors. This deposit is refunded in full at the completion of the student's project. Participants who withdraw within the first 14 days may request a full refund after which the deposit becomes non-refundable.

## **ACADEMIC CREDIT and INDEPENDENT STUDY**

[The Peaceful Educator](#), sponsor of The 2021 Humanity's Child Music Video Project, is a private non-profit Foundation and, as such, **does not award academic credit** for participation in sponsored projects. That said, we encourage participants to negotiate with their school officials for **independent study credits** that may be applicable to completing a diploma or degree program. See [Guidelines](#) for additional information.

## **A THREE-WAY PARTNERSHIP**

This is then, a **three way partnership** involving the student, the adult sponsor and Dr. Tierney serving as a lead mentor to project participants. The responsibilities of each are as follows:

**PARTICIPANT** Follow the Project Guidelines (below) and complete the project having met established criteria (below).

**SPONSOR** Monitor the progress of the participant helping to keep on task, to meet established benchmarks and timelines, to access needed resources and technologies, to offer guidance where sponsors have expertise, and, in general, to support participants.

**LEAD MENTOR** "Dr. T." Humanity's Child Composer/Playwright John McDonnell Tierney, aka "Dr.T.," has mentored literally hundreds of aspiring performers throughout his more than fifty-years in practice. If you are selected to participate in this project, it's important that you understand up front what "working with Dr.T." involves. You might think of this as kind of an apprenticeship where you get to participate in the authentic work of professional musical theater while at the same time doing so under the guidance of a mentor and in the relative safety of an on-line relationship.

**FULL DISCLOSURE:** While I begin every relationship believing that "my kids" will actually do what they say they will do, decades of experience have taught me that I am often disappointed. And so, please understand that once we commence work, if you do not meet benchmarks and timelines, you would regretfully be dropped from the project. Dr.T. gives his time willingly, but only to young people who are equally willing and able to see the project through.

**COPYRIGHT NOTICE:** Be advised that the copyright for the music and any video product it appears in is held by and remains exclusively with the composer. That said, you will retain the right to use the video for your own purposes and professional development. You may not, however, sell videos containing these copyrighted songs.

## A TWO-PART APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit an Audition Video

Complete an Application Form

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Visit our [SONGS PAGE](#) to read the notes and download songs that you think you might like to perform. Listen to the song(s) you've downloaded and sing along to be sure it's in your key and you can handle the vocal requirements. If you feel very confident about your ability to do justice, visit our [TRACKS PAGE](#) where you can download the sheet music and accompaniment tracks.

**PART I- THE VIDEO:** Practice singing your chosen song until you feel good about your performance. Ask your sponsor (or another person) to video-record you singing the song using the accompaniment tracks. Send the completed video via [WeTransfer.com](http://WeTransfer.com) to Dr. Tierney at: [drjckmct@gmail.com](mailto:drjckmct@gmail.com).

**PART II- THE APPLICATION:** Download, read, and understand the PROJECT GUIDELINES. If you are very confident you can "do the job," [FILL OUT THIS FORM](#) providing: contact information; a brief bio; the song you will be recording; the technology and software you use; the names of anyone else in the video or helping you produce it; and, a brief statement regarding your thoughts on our show and our mission.

**UNDER AGE 18?** If you are under the age of 18, your parent or legal guardian has sent me an email acknowledging that they know you are working with me on-line and that they will be aware of our email communications. (This is about your safety.)

## **GUIDELINES & NOTES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **PREVIOUSLY**

You have been invited to participate in the Humanity's Child Music Video Project. You have listened to our whole show, and you have chosen a song for your video. If you are under the age of 18, your parent or legal guardian has sent me an email acknowledging that they know you are working with me on-line and that they will be aware of our email communications. (This is about your safety.)

#### **COMMUNICATION & EMAIL**

Generally, whenever I email you, I'll like to receive your replies within two days max, one is professional. Always reply to my emails, even if you just say "got it," I need to know you are there. As for me, my office hours are 5:00 am to Noon EST M-F and I reply to your email usually with a few minutes, if not with an hour. When I receive your email after 12:00, I will reply by the next business day at the latest, probably sooner.

#### **RESOURCES**

I have provided a variety of resources on our website including links to: Free Software, Tutorials, Gear, Tracks & Score, and the most recent updates to these Guidelines. [\[Click here and select from tabs.\]](#)

## **PROCEED BY ACCOMPLISHING THE FOLLOWING**

### **PRE-PRODUCTION INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Download Vocal Score and Practice Tracks for your chosen song here:  
<https://www.humanityschild.com/music-video-project/tracks-scores/>
2. Practice your song until you know it well.
3. Make a simple video with your smart phone of you singing. Be sure the tracks are not too loud; I need to hear you sing. When you are ready, send me a clip and I'll respond. Keep in mind, my goal is to make you better; not to feed your ego. So, be prepared for honest (but always kind) critiques. We will work on your vocals as needed until I judge that you are ready to begin production.

### **PLEASE WATCH THIS TUTORIAL ON PRE-PRODUCTION:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12e6LSxBXyE>

## **PRODUCTION INSTRUCTIONS**

Which is more important: excellent video performance, or excellent musical performance? In my view, it has to be musical performance. If the vocal tracks are not solid, if the music tracks are not well produced, it does not matter at all how great the video is. So, that's where you begin, with a solid music track.

### **THE MUSIC TRACK**

The music track consists of two elements: vocal and instrumental. You provide the singing; we provide the band. So, the first thing you need to do is get a really good vocal recording. How you do that depends on what technology you have available and how skilled you are.

Generally, you want to get as clean a vocal take as possible. Listen to the tracks "in the cans" (headphones) and watch out for bleed (the Mic. picks up the band). Also, be aware of background noise...appliances, lighting buzz, animals, traffic outside, other people. You want to create as acoustically isolated a context as possible.

### **PLEASE WATCH THIS TUTORIAL ON RECORDING WITH A SMART PHONE**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSAuB38CI\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSAuB38CI_w)**

When you are happy with your vocal track, the next step is to mix it with the band. Again, I can help you with that if needed. When you have a solid music track, share it with me and I will comment. I may ask you to work it a bit more. When I think you are ready, I will encourage you to go on to the video piece.

## THE VIDEO PIECE

Begin by sketching a storyboard and sharing it with me (Jack). Include description of the settings (where you will film) you have in mind. I will respond with comments. Once we've settled on a storyboard, you ready to begin capturing clips.

As with audio recording, backgrounds are extremely important, they situate the video in a context, or they eliminate context completely. So, be sure your backgrounds make sense and do not include any visual distractions.

When you are shooting your video, you will need to hear your own tracks and lip-sync or even sing along out-loud. You are only concerned with capturing good video; whatever audio you pick up will be replaced.

Once you have enough video clips, you'll need to assemble them. This is where editing comes in. It involves incorporating your music track and video into an editing app. I can help you with that if needed.

### PLEASE WATCH THIS TUTORIAL ON EDITING:

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

When you have completed the assembly process, you will submit it for my review. As with the audio recording process, when you have a solid video, share it with me and I will comment. I may ask you to work it a bit more. When I think you are ready, I will encourage you to go on to the finishing stage: adding titles, credits, etc. When done, submit the final product for distribution to our and your networks, etc.

*Congrats!*

*You did it!*