



## Learning Diversity Through Music

### **It Can Be Fun To Learn What's Important**

**Philip Pelletier**, an award-winning writer, composer, and producer, highlights unforgettable life lessons about cultural diversity through a charming multi-media entertainment – *One Night in Frogtown* - presented with style, wit, and humor, and applauded by children, parents and teachers. Proceeds from the award-winning book/CD go to support Frogtown's "*Diversity Through Music*" programs in Northwest schools and communities.

### **The Arts Can Work Together to Create a Metaphor of Cultural Diversity**

Like *Gulliver's Travels*, Pelletier's new musical storybook develops meaning on many different levels without compromising its sheer joy and entertainment value. Tad, our saxophone playing hero, sets out to discover sources of far-away music that only he can hear. Tad encounters blues, classical, and rap frogs who enjoy playing music with the tadpole but are unable to appreciate or tolerate any music different from their own. After several melodious misadventures Tad decides that it's ok to be alone.

But don't be afraid  
to sing your song  
when it comes from inside  
it won't be wrong  
Just listen to your heart  
feel it getting strong

As Tad discovers his inner strength, other frogs join in with his saxophone. Many tough cross-cultural issues are met head on and resolved by understanding, respect and acceptance. Drama, music, and visual art all come together to create thought provoking metaphorical layers of meaning.

### **The Roots Of Frogtown**

The origins of this project can be traced to the 1992 Los Angeles riots. Pelletier was working on a film in Hollywood and was trapped inside a studio building, surrounded by smoke and gunfire. "We had to stay away from the windows and keep the shades drawn," he says. Crouched behind the blinds, he watched the city burn for days. Even today he is haunted by those memories and emotions. *One Night In Frogtown* represents Pelletier's response to humanity's apparent inability to contemplate its own commonalities and appreciate its differences. He has created an engaging adventure story and a groovy soundtrack that work magic together, but are each strong enough to stand on their own artistic merits. Pelletier recalls, "When I showed *Frogtown* to Curtis (Salgado), he echoed other performers with his enthusiastic response, 'Of course I'll do it. The world needs this!'"

### **Performers Really Believe in the Message**

The real live cast of *One Night In Frogtown* includes performers who normally speak totally different musical languages. How did Pelletier pull them all together? "As soon as I showed them what *Frogtown* was about, everyone wanted to be on the team," he explains. "I think the themes resonate with a lot of people in our post 9/11 world. Creating a message of cultural understanding was something that everyone wanted to be a part of. Plus it's not every day that you get to show up at a professional sound studio and record frog noises."

For more information about *One Night In Frogtown*, please contact One World at  
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Check out the Frogtown website at: [www.frogtowncentral.com](http://www.frogtowncentral.com)