

Why Us?

The song I wrote, "Why Us," is my way of expressing the pain that was felt by many in the holocaust. The question "Why us?" expresses resistance of the victims to what they were put through.

The first 3 stanzas are about a man who survived the concentration camps yet is the only one of his family to survive. I wanted to display the anguish that people in this situation felt through these verses. I was inspired by the lists of people who died in the exhibit at the holocaust centre.

Stanzas 4, 5 and 6 were inspired by Friedl Dicker-Brandeis. She helped orphaned children to forget what the "horrors" of what was happening around them through art. The images of the paintings from the exhibit also inspired some of these thoughts. The last stanzas reflect upon resistance from the victims and are inspired by the section of the exhibit dedicated to resistance. I wanted to create a powerful message to encourage resisting injustice today.

Why Us

His eyes, murky,
Held the depth of his past,
No mother, no brother,
He is the last,

The blackness surrounds him,
Fear, anguish and pain,
Bent over, broken,
Clinging onto what remains

"Why me?" he whispers,
"Why me?" he cries,
Who had the right,
to take what was mine?

She painted all that she saw,
It allowed her to be free,
Kept in chains, she still remains,
But free emotionally

The paint saw all the tears,
Of eleven million dead,
Brought to life the numbers,
And helped them to forget

The horrors, the horrors,
"Why us?" they cry

Who had the right,
To take the life of a child?

“Why us?” they cry
“Why us?” they weep
Who could kill,
A child and his dreams?

Jewish, Germans, Gypsies,
Slavs, opponents and more,
Children, black or white,
Suffered for no cause.

“Why us?” they cry,
“Why us?” they resist
Who could call
such evil “justice”?
But still they exist,
Through pain and held fists,
The people alive,
Through memory and spirit,
They questioned the wrong,
And fought for the right
To be free

“Why them?” we cry
“Why them?” can you see,
How the action of doing nothing
Can destroy humanity?

“Why us?” they cry.