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Songwriter Pens International Anthem



At a time when the dishevelled world we live in is falling apart at an alarming rate, singer/songwriter Matthew Levine decided to write and record an anthem for the world. Entitled *A House Divided*, it is a global call to

action and is a timely complement to the barrage of news items reflecting war and other social dysfunctions. Levine feels it is important to have an international anthem to help galvanize our hearts so we can focus on our global relationships.

“I chose a traditional musical form that has shown the test of time—the anthem—and added a bridge, which is a more modern invention. I purposely avoided philosophizing and chose images that are more participatory and universal in almost every belief system.”

A House Divided is a 122-track rock anthem with orchestra, choir, and ethnic instruments. The album of the same name also contains *A Home That Forever Will Stand*, sung by Traci Harris. It is a gospel piece for people of all beliefs and has received

a grand prize and two first place awards in international competitions.

The album of the same name features eleven songs commenting on environmental, social, and spiritual themes from the Sting-like *The Mother Tongue*, the Joni Mitchellesque *The Man Upstairs*,

to the jazzy, cinematic *Beautiful* featuring the spoken word of an angelic 5-year-old. The album can be heard at AnthemfortheWorld.com.

Debatably the most radio-friendly piece on the album is *On The Fence*. Los Angeles producer G Tom Mac’s first words in response to his initial listening of it was “It’s f****g brilliant!” About compatibility issues in a couple’s relationship, *On The Fence*, suggests *The Beatles* mixed with contemporary folk-pop.

Trained in classical and jazz, composer/singer/songwriter Matthew Levine has published music of different genres over the years; his latest a cappella choral piece, *O Son of Spirit*, is distributed by Hal Leonard on the Pavane label. *A House Divided* is a collection that reflects issues closest to his heart.

“Around the world
as we assemble
in every mosque and
church and temple,
we intone our
dedication
to become one
congregation.”

—M. Levine, *A House Divided*



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