

OKAY!

We have a major problem – Your graduation is going to be broadcast on KOLO, but I just found out this morning at my Choir Directors Zoom meeting that they will not allow ANY copyrighted music – they are not going to take the chance, in our very litigious society, that they won't get sued. So, we either have to live with no music in our big graduation video, or we have to write our own. Damonte Ranch is doing that today.

I can go either way with this – we can just sing what we're doing and have our own little video, or I'm up for writing something new. And THAT can go two ways as well – you can help me with the lyrics and trust me to write the melody and the arrangement, or you can help with the melody, too, but that will be more involved. Chord changes cannot be copyrighted, just lyrics and melody.

So what do you want to do, VoMo? I have included lyrics to 9 very popular graduation songs, most of which I have taught and conducted in my 20 years of teaching. You can look at them and pick a few lines you think are important, tell me, and I can rewrite them to not violate copyright; you can come up with your own; you can comb the internet for your favorite bands and see what they said and report back to me; or we can just stick with “I Lived” and not have any music in the official KOLO video at all. Let me know, and soon. Lyrics are on the following pages.

Live Like We're Dying

Kris Allen

Sometimes we fall down and can't get back up
We're hiding behind skin that's too tough
How come we don't say I love you enough
'Til it's too late, it's not too late

Our hearts are hungry for the food that won't come
And we could make a feast from these crumbs
And we're all staring down the barrel of a gun
So if your life flashed before you, what would you wish you would've done

CHORUS:

Yeah, we gotta start
Looking at the hands of the time we've been given here
This is all we got then we gotta start thinkin' it
Every second counts on a clock that's tickin'
Gotta live like we're dying
We only got 86,400 seconds in a day
To turn it all around or to throw it all away
Gotta tell 'em that we love 'em while we got the chance to say,
Gotta live like we're dying

Well if your plane fell out of the skies
Who would you call with your last goodbye
Should be so careful who we left out of our lives
So when we long for absolution, there'll be no one on the line

CHORUS

Like we're dying oh
Like we're dying
Like we're dying oh
Like we're dying

You never know a good thing until it's gone
You never see a crash until it's head on
Why we think we're right when we're dead wrong,
You never know a good thing 'til it's gone

CHORUS 2X

Graduation (Friends Forever) - Vitamin C

And so we talked all night about the rest of our lives
Where we're gonna be when we turn twenty five
I keep thinking times will never change
Keep on thinking things will always be the same
But when we leave this year, we won't be coming back
No more hanging out 'cause we're on a different track
And if you got something that you need to say
You better say it right now 'cause you don't have another day

Cause we're moving on and we can't slow down
These memories are playing like a film without sound
And I keep thinking of that night in June
I didn't know much of love, but it came too soon
And there was me and you. and then we got real cool
Stay at home talking on the telephone with me
We'd get so excited, we'd get so scared
Laughing at ourselves thinking life's not fair (and this is how it feels)

CHORUS:

As we go on, we remember
All the times we had together
And as our lives change, come whatever
We will still be friends forever

So if we get the big jobs and we make the big money
When we look back now, will our jokes still be funny?
Will we still remember everything we learned in school
Still be trying to break every single rule?
Will little brainy Bobby be the stockbroker man?
Can Heather find a job that won't interfere with her tan?
I keep, I keep thinking that it's not goodbye
Keep on thinking it's a time to fly (and this is how it feels)

CHORUS 2X

Will we think about tomorrow like we think about now?
Can we survive it out there? Can we make it somehow (somehow)?
I guess I thought that this would never end
And suddenly it's like we're women and men
Will the past be a shadow that will follow us 'round?
Will these memories fade when I leave this town
I keep, I keep thinking that it's not goodbye
Keep on thinking it's a time to fly

CHORUS 4X

I Hope You Dance

Lee Ann Womack

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder
You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger
May you never take one single breath for granted
God forbid love ever leave you empty handed
I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance

I hope you dance
I hope you dance

I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance
Never settle for the path of least resistance
Livin' might mean takin' chances, but they're worth takin'
Lovin' might be a mistake, but it's worth makin'
Don't let some Hellbent heart leave you bitter
When you come close to sellin' out, reconsider
Give the heavens above more than just a passing glance
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance

I hope you dance
 (Time is a wheel in constant motion always)
I hope you dance
 (Rolling us along)
I hope you dance
 (Tell me who wants to look back on their years and wonder)
I hope you dance
 (Where those years have gone?)

I Was Here

Lady Antebellum

You will notice me
I'll be leavin' my mark, like initials carved in an old oak tree
You wait and see
Maybe I'll write like Twain wrote
Maybe I'll paint like Van Gough
Cure the common cold
I don't know but I'm ready to start 'cause I know in my heart

CHORUS:

I wanna do something that matters
Say something different
Something that sets the whole world on it's ear
I wanna do somethin' better, with the time I've been given
And I wanna try to touch a few hearts in this life
And leave nothin' less than something that says I was here

I will prove you wrong
If you think im all talk, your in for a shock
'Cause this streams too strong, and before too long
Maybe I'll compose symphonies
Maybe I'll fight for world peace
'Cause I know it's my destiny
To leave more than a trace of myself in this place

CHORUS

And I know that I, I will do more than just pass through this life
I'll leave nothin' less than somethin' that says I was here

Wanna do somethin' that matters
Somethin' that says I was here
Wanna do somethin' that matters
Somethin' that says I was here, I was here

I Was Here

Beyoncé

I wanna leave my footprints on the sands of time
Know there was something that and something that I left behind
When I leave this world I'll leave no regrets
Leave something to remember so they won't forget

CHORUS:

I was here, I lived, I loved
I was here, I did, I've done everything that I wanted
And it was more than I thought it would be
I will leave my mark so everyone will know I was here

I wanna say I lived each day until I died
And know that I meant something in somebody's life
The hearts I have touched will be the proof that I leave
That I made a difference and this world will see

CHORUS 2X

I just want them to know
That I gave my all, did my best
Brought someone some happiness
Left this world a little better just because I was here

CHORUS

I was here, I lived, I loved,
I was here, I did, I've done
I was here, I lived, I loved,
I was here, I did, I've done
I was here

Little Wonders

Rob Thomas

Let it go
Let it roll right off your shoulder
Don't you know?
The hardest part is over
Let it in
Let your clarity define you
In the end
We will only just remember how it feels

CHORUS:

Our lives are made
In these small hours
These little wonders
These twists and turns of fate
Time falls away
But these small hours
These small hours still remain

Let it slide
Let your troubles fall behind you
Let it shine
'Til you feel it all around you
And I don't mind
If it's me you need to turn to
We'll get by
It's the heart that really matters in the end

CHORUS

All of my regret
Will wash away some how
But I cannot forget
The way I feel right now

CHORUS 2X

Go the Distance

Michael Bolton

I have often dreamed of a far-off place
Where a hero's welcome would be waiting for me
Where the crowds would cheer, when they see my face
And a voice keeps saying this is where I'm meant to be

I'll be there someday, I can go the distance
I will find my way if I can be strong
I know every mile would be worth my while
When I go the distance, I'll be right where I belong

Down an unknown road to embrace my fate
Though that road may wander, it will lead me to you
And a thousand years would be worth the wait
It might take a lifetime but somehow I'll see it through

And I won't look back, I can go the distance
And I'll stay on track, no I won't accept defeat
It's an uphill slope, but I won't lose hope,
'Till I go the distance and my journey is complete

But to look beyond the glory is the hardest part
For a hero's strength is measured by his heart

Like a shooting star, I will go the distance
I will search the world, I will face its harms
I don't care how far, I can go the distance
'Till I find my hero's welcome waiting in your arms

I will search the world, I will face its harms
'Till I find my hero's welcome waiting in your arms

Nothing More

The Alternate Routes

To be humble, to be kind
It is a giving of the peace in your mind
To a stranger, to a friend
To give in such a way that has no end

CHORUS:

We are love, we are one
We are how we treat each other when the day is done
We are peace, we are war
We are how we treat each other and nothing more

And to be bold, to be brave
It is the thinking that the heart can still be saved
And the darkness can come quick
The danger's in the anger and in the hanging on to it

CHORUS

And tell me what it is that you see
A world that's full of endless possibilities
And heroes don't look like they used to
They look like you do

CHORUS

We are how we treat each other and nothing more
We are how we treat each other

I Lived OneRepublic

I'd like to teach the world to sing

Hope when you take that jump
You don't fear the fall
Hope when the water rises
You built a wall
Hope when the crowd screams out
They're screaming your name
Hope if everybody runs
You choose to stay

Hope that you fall in love
And it hurts so bad (Yeah)
The only way you can know
You gave it all you had
And I hope that you don't suffer
But take the pain
Hope when the moment comes,
You'll say

CHORUS:

I, I did it all
I, I did it all
I owned every second that this world could give
I saw so many places, the things that I did
Yeah with every broken bone
I swear I lived

I'd like to teach the world to sing
In perfect harmony

Hope that you spend your days
But they all add up
And when that sun goes down
Hope you raise your cup
I wish that I could witness
All your joy and all your pain
But until my moment comes
I'll say

CHORUS

I'd like to teach the world to sing

Oh whoa oh oh oh oh oh

Oh whoa oh oh oh oh oh

Oh whoa oh oh oh oh oh

Oh whoa oh oh whoa oh

With every broken bone

I swear I lived

With every broken bone

I swear I

I'd like to teach the world to sing

In perfect harmony

A song of peace that echoes on

And never goes away

I'd like to teach the world to sing