



THE DALAI LAMA

## LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Friends:

I am happy to give my support to Songmasters: The American Road. I believe that your project has great potential to benefit and influence American youth in a positive direction.

By giving a new focus to children's love of music and their affinity for contemporary recording artists, Songmasters can build a new bridge between teachers and students. Bringing the music and media industries into partnership with you will give strength to your work.

Your message that the road to a better world can start with the voice of one individual is important for everyone, not just our children. Each of us in our individual existence is so dependent on the help of others that we must foster a genuine sense of responsibility and sincere concern for each other's welfare. Your attempt to harness the power of the media and popular culture to carry this simple but powerful message of compassion to American youth is admirable.

Songmasters' work to help teachers and students explore the contemporary American tension between individual rights and social responsibility, in the context that all human beings equally need love and affection, will help children to reflect on the countless acts of compassion that have defined American democracy.

I wholeheartedly wish you success in your efforts.

March 5, 2001