

## **A Song of Solidarity**

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I hear the soft whisper of rain outside my window. *Rain?* It hasn't rained since December... It was 78 degrees and sunny a few hours ago... I'm in the desert...

The window is open and I stick my head and torso through to feel the cool drops on my face. But it isn't rain. It's a voice. Or many voices. Hundreds, maybe thousands of voices. And they're not whispering but raising up, crying out, shouting down to the street and up to the sky and out to the world. They're whooping! They're hollering! They're lauding and applauding! They're whistling and they're cheering and they're shouting with passion. I join in, one of thousands of strangers, banging my hand against the metal window frame, adding my racket to the ruckus peeling out over the city.

It's a celebration! We're celebrating! Celebrating everyone out there who is fighting this virus. Celebrating each other for closing ourselves in with no escape for weeks on end. We're congratulating ourselves for getting through this, reminding one another that we can get through this. We're acknowledging neighbors, acclaiming strangers, and proclaiming that this heart-wrenching, mind-numbing social isolation will come to an end. We are DEFYING this pandemic. Together.

I'll never meet these people but we will always share this moment. Because in this moment, we're affirming to the world that we are one. And in the cacophony of voices hailing out across the city, we are promising each other: *you are not alone.*

Watch a video of Spain's Viral Applause: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZ70-M4eQ6c&feature=youtu.be&list=TLPQMTYwMzIwMjDM9HLtTIQMzA>