Rainbow of Shades is a song that not only fits the theme of the WFOT Congress, Connected in Diversity, it is also a song to be shared by many in order to have impact. It was written in the context of a world that is becoming more and more intolerant, prejudiced, segregated, polarized, bigoted, violent. As occupational therapists we are driven by context, and as human beings we are commanded by our conscience, so these contextual developments are surely a deep concern to all of us. So this song celebrates diversity and its colorful enrichments in the first verse; whilst the second verse focusses on the human core in terms of needs and aspirations, which are the same the world over, with the strong message: We are One!

## **RAINBOW OF SHADES**

It's the color and the creed It's the language, the food we eat It's the customs and beliefs

The dress code, convictions and lifestyle we lead

It's abilities, gender, looks

It's our habits, our age and our books

Our perspectives, the way we cook

The art and the music and values and meanings we took

a rainbow of shades

an infinite number of ways

to live and to be

so strange and inspiring to see

a rainbow of shades

a vast celebration of ways

to think and to see

the You and the We

but beneath all those countless and colorful things

each one and all of us are precious unique human beings

We all need safety, shelter, food

We strive for purpose and for the good

We all struggle with the bad and the rough

We all need respect and acceptance and love

We want justice, create our goals

We all need deeds, and we all carry loads

We are curious and we want to know

We're social, need family, friends and others to grow

a rainbow of shades

an infinite number of ways

to live and to be

a wonderful variety

a rainbow of shades

a glittering treasure of rays

that fade in the sun

the colors start to run

entwined in time and space and all that we've done

welded together in joy, pain and hope

We are One