

Commissioned by the Yuba Gardens School Choir, Olivehurst, California - Becky Stewart, Director.

Songs for the People

Three-Part Mixed or SAB Choir with Piano

Duration: ca. 4:00

Text by
FRANCES HARPER*

Music and Additional Text by
JACOB NARVERUD

Steady, with hope and determination (♩ = 72)

Piano introduction in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The right hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment, marked *p legato*. The left hand is silent. A *8va* marking is above the staff. The piece ends with a *Red.* and an asterisk.

Vocal parts for three voices. Part 1 (Soprano) and Part 2 (Alto) both begin with a rest followed by a melodic line starting on a whole note, marked *p*. The lyrics "Woah," are written below the notes. Part 3 (Bass) is silent. The parts are marked with *Red.* and an asterisk.

Piano accompaniment for the vocal parts. It features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, marked *mp*. The piece ends with a *Red.* and an asterisk.

*FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER (1825-1911) was an American abolitionist, suffragist, poet, temperance activist, teacher, public speaker, and writer. Born free in Baltimore, Maryland, Harper had a long and prolific literary career, publishing her first book of poetry at the age of twenty. Harper founded, supported, and held high office in several national progressive organizations. She was inducted into the National Abolition Hall of Fame in 2018.

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5

mp
woah.

mp
woah.

mp
Woah.

loco

mf

cont. pedal, sim. Ped.

7

A

mp

Let me make songs for the peo - ple, _____

mp

* Ped. * Ped. *



9

songs for the old and young; _____ Songs to stir_ like a bat-tle - cry_ where -

Ped. * *Ped.* * *cont. pedal, sim.*

11

mp

Let me make songs for the chil - dren, _____ be -

ev-er they_ are sung. _____



13

fore their foot-steps stray, sweet tunes of love and kind-ness, to

sweet tunes of love and kind-ness, to

15

guide them on their way... Our world, so worn and weary, needs

guide them on their way... Our world, so worn and weary, needs

Our world, so worn and weary, needs

mf **B**

mf

mf

mf

mf

Ped. * *Ped.* *



17

mu - sic, pure and strong, to hush the deaf - 'ning an - guish of

mu - sic, pure and strong, to hush the deaf - 'ning an - guish of

mu - sic, pure and strong, to hush the deaf - 'ning an - guish of

Ped. * Ped. * cont. pedal, sim.

19

sor - row, pain and wrong. Mu - sic to soothe its sor - row, 'till

sor - row, pain and wrong. Mu - sic to soothe its sor - row, 'till

sor - row, pain and wrong. Mu - sic to soothe its sor - row, 'till

mp

mp

mp

mp

cont. pedal, sim.



21 *mf*

war and crime_ shall cease; ___ And the hearts of all_ grow ten - der ___ to em -

mf

war and crime_ shall cease; ___ And the hearts of all_ grow ten - der ___ to em -

mf

war and crime_ shall cease; ___ And the hearts of all_ grow ten - der ___ to em -

23 *mp* *p*

brace the world_ with peace. ___ *Woah,* ___

mp *p*

brace the world_ with peace. ___ *Woah,* ___

mp

brace the world_ with peace. ___

8va

mp

Red. * Red. * Red. * Red. *

*Part 3: Either or both pitches may be sung at divisi splits throughout.



25

mp *mp* *mp*

woah. woah. Woah.

(8) *loco* *mf*

ped. * *ped.* * *cont. pedal, sim.*

27

mf *mf* *mf*

Let me make Let me make Let me make

mf

ped. *



C

songs for the bro - ken, _____

songs for the bro - ken, _____

songs for the bro - ken, _____

mf

no pedal

30

songs for the sad and worn; _____

songs for the sad and worn; _____

songs for the sad and worn; _____

Ped. *



31

Songs to heal — ev - ry ach - ing heart — when -

Songs to heal — ev - ry ach - ing heart — when -

Songs to heal — ev - ry ach - ing heart — when -

no pedal

32

ev - er they — are torn; — — — — — Let me make

ev - er they — are torn; — — — — — Let me make

ev - er they — are torn; — — — — — Let me make

*Ped. **



33

songs for the wear - y, a -

songs for the wear - y, a -

songs for the wear - y, a -

no pedal

34

mid life's fe - ver and fret, 'till

mid life's fe - ver and fret, 'till

mid life's fe - ver and fret, 'till

Ped. *



35

hearts then ease their ten - sion, and

hearts then ease their ten - sion, and

hearts then ease their ten - sion, and

no pedal

36

care-worn brows for - get. Our

care-worn brows for - get. Our

care-worn brows for - get. Our

f

f

f

Ped. *



D

world, so worn_ and wear - y, _____ needs mu - sic, pure and_ strong, to

world, so worn_ and wear - y, _____ needs mu - sic, pure and strong, to

world, so worn_ and wear - y, _____ needs mu - sic, pure and strong, to

f

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

39

hush the deaf - 'ning an - guish_____ of sor - row, pain_ and wrong.____

hush the deaf - 'ning an - guish_____ of sor - row, pain_ and wrong.____

hush the deaf - 'ning an - guish_____ of sor - row, pain_ and wrong.____

cont. pedal, sim.



41

mf *f*

Mu-sic to soothe its sor - row, 'till war and crime shall cease; And the

mf *f*

Mu-sic to soothe its sor - row, 'till war and crime shall cease; And the

mf *f*

Mu-sic to soothe its sor - row, 'till war and crime shall cease; And the

mf

cont. pedal, sim.

43

hearts of all grow ten - der to em - brace the world with peace.

hearts of all grow ten - der to em - brace the world with peace.

hearts of all grow ten - der to em - brace the world with peace.

f

*Ped. * Ped. **



45 *mf* **opt. Solo or Small Group *p legato***

mf *mf* *mf* *mp*

8va

Red. * *Red.* *

E

p **opt. Solo or Small Group *p legato***

Red. *



49 (all) *mp* <

Not

(all) *mp* <

bright and glo-'rious morn - ings, ___ and the break-ing of _ the night. ___ Not

(8)

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

51 *mf* <

for the clash - ing ar - mies, not for car-nage, nor for strife; _ But

mf <

for the clash - ing ar - mies, not for car-nage, nor for strife; _ But

mf <

But

loco

mp

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *



opt. Descant (Solo or Small Group, if desired)

53

legato mf

To fill the souls of all!

f
songs to fill the souls of all with a more a-bun - dant life! Our

f
songs to fill the souls of all with a more a-bun - dant life! Our

f
songs to fill the souls of all with a more a-bun - dant life! Our

mf

cont. pedal, sim.

F *f*
Our world, so wear - y, needs mu - sic

world, so worn and wear - y, needs mu - sic, pure and strong, to

world, so worn and wear - y, needs mu - sic, pure and strong, to

world, so worn and wear - y, needs mu - sic, pure and strong, to

f

Ped. **Ped.* **Ped.* **Ped.* *



57

to hush the sor - row, sor - row, pain and
hush the deaf -'ning an - guish of sor-row, pain and wrong.
hush the deaf -'ning an - guish of sor-row, pain and wrong.
hush the deaf -'ning an - guish of sor-row, pain and wrong.

cont. pedal, sim.
mf

59

wrong. To soothe its sor - row, 'till war and crime shall
Mu-sic to soothe its sor - row, 'till war and crime shall cease; And the
Mu-sic to soothe its sor - row, 'till war and crime shall cease; And the
Mu-sic to soothe its sor - row, 'till war and crime shall cease; And the

mf *f*
mf *f*
mf *f*
mf

cont. pedal, sim.



66 *f*
peace,
f
peace. *f* Woah,
f
peace. *f* Woah,
f
peace,
f

67 *ff*
em - brace the world with peace!
ff
em-brace the world with peace!
ff
em-brace the world with peace!
ff
em-brace the world with peace!
ff
8^{va}-7 loco
ff
8^{va}-7 loco

