



CHORAL SERIES

Sammy Strent

Songs for the People

Text by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper
Music by Sammy Strent

for SATB Choir with Piano and Cello

**This score was distributed at
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convention in 2023. To
purchase scores, please visit
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WWW.SAMMYSTRENT.COM

Songs for the People

for SATB Choir with Piano and Cello

Approximate duration: 5 minutes

PERFORMANCE NOTES :

- The moment of pause indicated by the caesura in measure 82 is meant to symbolize a moment of reflection. The conductor may take liberties with the length of this pause.

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper was the first African-American woman whose literary works were published in the United States. Born in 1825, Harper dedicated much of her life and career contributing to the abolitionist and suffrage movements, as well as writing several consequential poems, short stories, and books. Many of her works addressed political and cultural topics, and in “Songs for the People”, she underscores the importance of music and art in uplifting a broken society. Frances Ellen Watkins Harper is remembered for her fierce contributions to both political and literary movements in American history.

Songs for the People

Let me make the songs for the people,
Songs for the old and young;
Songs to stir like a battle-cry
Wherever they are sung.

Not for the clashing of sabres,
For carnage nor for strife;
But songs to thrill the hearts of men
With more abundant life.

Let me make the songs for the weary,
Amid life's fever and fret,
Till hearts shall relax their tension,
And careworn brows forget.

Let me sing for little children,
Before their footsteps stray,
Sweet anthems of love and duty,
To float o'er life's highway.

I would sing for the poor and aged,
When shadows dim their sight;
Of the bright and restful mansions,
Where there shall be no night.

Our world, so worn and weary,
Needs music, pure and strong,
To hush the jangle and discords
Of sorrow, pain, and wrong.

Music to soothe all its sorrow,
Till war and crime shall cease;
And the hearts of men grown tender
Girdle the world with peace.

-Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

Premiered by the Walt Whitman High School Chamber Choir on April 28th, 2022

Text by
Frances Ellen Watkins Harper
(1825-1911)

Songs for the People

Music by
Sammy Strent
(b. 2002)

$\text{♩} = 90$ Delicately but with Power

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Cello

Piano

pp *f* *p* *f*

Pedal Legato *mp* *sim.* *f*

5

S.

A.

T.

B.

C.

Pno.

p *pp* *f*

sub.

mp

9 **A**

S.

A.

T. *Proudly*
f
3
Let me make songs for the peo-ple, _____ Songs for the old and young;

B. *Proudly*
f
3
Let me make songs for the peo-ple, _____ Songs for the old and young;

C.

Pno. *f* *mp* *f*

13

S.

A.

T. *p* *f*
Songs to stir like a bat-tle-cry Where - ev - er they are sung.

B. *p* *f*
Songs to stir like a bat-tle-cry Where - ev - er they are sung.

C. *p* *f* *p* *f*

Pno. *p* *f* *p* *f*

17 **B** *f* *mp*

S. clash clash-ing clash sab-res, For car-nage nor for strife; But

A. clash clash-ing sab-res, For car-nage nor for strife; But

T. *f* 3 *mp*
Not for the clash-ing of sab - res, nor for strife;

B. *f* 3 *mp*
Not for the clash-ing of sab - res, nor for strife;

C. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

21

S. songs to thrill the hearts of men With more a - bun - dant

A. songs to thrill the hearts of men With more a - bun - dant

T. hearts of men with more a - bun - dant

B. hearts of men with more a - bun - dant

C. *f*

Pno. *f*

24 *mf* C *f* 3

S. life. Let me make songs for the wea-ry, _____

A. life. Let me make songs for the wea-ry, _____ A-mid life's fe-ver and

T. life. _____ songs for the wea-ry, _____

B. life. _____ songs for the wea-ry, _____

C. _____

Pno. *mp* *p*

28 *p*

S. _____ And care-worn brows for -

A. fret, _____ And care-worn brows for -

T. Till hearts shall re-lax their ten-sion, _____ care-worn brows for -

B. fe - ver and fret, Till hearts shall re-lax their ten-sion, _____ care-worn brows for -

C. _____

Pno. *f* *mp*

D

32

S. *f* get.

A. *f* get.

T. *f* get.

B. *f* get.

C. *f* *sim.*

Pno. *f* *mp* *mf*

37

S. *mp* *p* Be - fore their foot - steps sway, *f*

A. *mp* *p* Let me sing for lit - tle chil - dren Sweet *f*

T. *mp* *p* Let me sing for lit - tle chil - dren Sweet *f*

B. *mp* Be - fore their foot - steps sway, *f*

C. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

41

S. *pp* To float life's high -

A. *pp* an-thems of love and du - ty, To float o' er life's high -

T. *pp* an-thems of love and du - ty, To float o' er life's high -

B. *pp* To float life's high -

C. *f* *p*

Pno. *f* *pp*

44

S. *f* way.

A. *f* way.

T. *f* way.

B. *f* way.

C. *f* *pizz.*

Pno. *f* *Gently* *mf* *mp*

47

S.

A. *Opt. Solo*

 I would sing for the poor and aged, When shadows dim their sight; Of the bright and rest-ful

T.

B.

C.

Pno.

50

S.

A. *End Solo*

 man-sions, Where there shall be no night.

T.

B.

C.
 arco
 mp

Pno.
 p

54

S.

A.

T.

B.

C.

Pno.

58

ff G ♩ = 72, With Conviction

S. Our world, so worn and wea-ry, Needs

A. Our world, so worn and wea-ry, Needs

T. Our world, so worn and wea-ry, Needs

B. Our world, so worn and wea-ry, Needs

C.

Pno.

63 **Poco rit...** **A tempo** *sub.p*

S. mu - sic pure and strong, To hush the jan-gle and dis - cords Of sor - row, pain, and

A. mu - sic pure and strong, To hush the jan-gle and dis - cords Of sor - row, pain, and

T. mu - sic pure and strong, To hush the jan-gle and dis - cords Of sor - row, pain, and

B. mu - sic pure and strong, To hush the jan-gle and dis - cords Of sor - row, pain, and

C. - - - - -

Pno. - - - - -

68 **[H]** *fp* **f**

S. wrong. Mu - sic to soothe all its sor-row, Till war and crimes shall

A. wrong. Mu - sic to soothe all its sor-row, Till war and crimes shall

T. wrong. Mu - sic to soothe all its sor-row, Till war and crimes shall

B. wrong. Mu - sic to soothe all its sor-row, Till war and crimes shall

C. *Molto espressivo*

Pno. *fp* **f**

72

S. cease; And the hearts of men grow ten - der Gir - dle the world

A. cease; And the hearts of men grow ten - der Gir - dle the world

T. cease; And the hearts of men grow ten - der Gir - dle the world

B. cease; And the hearts of men grow ten - der Gir - dle the world

C. *p*

Pno. *p*

76

S. *mf* Gir - dle the world *f*

A. *mf* Gir - dle the world *f*

T. *mf* Gir - dle the world *f*

B. *mf* Gir - dle the world *f*

C. *f* *p* *f*

Pno.

79 *sub.p* *ff*

S. Gir - dle the world _____ the world with Gir - dle the world with peace. _____

A. *sub.p* *ff*
Gir - dle the world _____ with Gir - dle the world with peace. _____

T. *sub.p* *ff*
Gir - dle the world _____ the world with Gir - dle the world with peace. _____

B. *sub.p* *ff*
Gir - dle the world with Gir - dle the world with peace. _____

C. *p* *ff* *fff*

Pno. *sub.p* *fff*
6 6 6 6

82 *p* **I** ♩ = 60, Slower

S. with peace. with

A. with peace. with

T. with peace. with

B. with peace. with

C. with peace. with

Pno. *p* Let ring---

85

S. peace. with

A. peace. with

T. peace. with

B. peace. with

C. peace. with

Pno.

87

S. *pp*
peace...

A. *pp*
peace...

T. *pp*
peace...

B. *pp*
peace...

C. *pp*

Pno.

Songs for the People

Music by
Sammy Strent
(b. 2002)

♩ = 90 Delicately but with Power

Musical notation for measures 1-8. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are: 1: quarter rest; 2: half note G2; 3: half note F2; 4: quarter note E2; 5: quarter note D2; 6: half note C2; 7: half note B1; 8: half note A1. Dynamics: *pp* < *f* > *p* < *f* *sub. p* > *pp* < *f*

9 **A**

Musical notation for measures 9-14. Measure 9: quarter note G2 with accent. Measure 10: eighth notes G2, F2, E2, D2. Measure 11: quarter note C2. Measure 12: eighth notes B1, A1, G1, F1. Measure 13: eighth notes E1, D1, C1, B0. Measure 14: quarter note A1. Dynamics: *p* > *f*

15 **B**

Musical notation for measures 15-20. Measure 15: eighth notes G2, F2, E2, D2. Measure 16: eighth notes C2, B1, A1, G1. Measure 17: quarter note F1. Measure 18: quarter note E1. Measure 19: quarter note D1. Measure 20: quarter note C1. Dynamics: *p* > *f* *mp*

21 **C**

Musical notation for measures 21-28. Measure 21: eighth notes G2, F2, E2, D2. Measure 22: eighth notes C2, B1, A1, G1. Measure 23: eighth notes F1, E1, D1, C1. Measure 24: eighth notes B0, A0, G0, F0. Measure 25: quarter note E1. Measure 26: quarter note D1. Measure 27: quarter note C1. Measure 28: quarter note B0. Dynamics: *f* *p* *f*

29 **D**

Musical notation for measures 29-33. Measure 29: eighth notes G2, F2, E2, D2. Measure 30: eighth notes C2, B1, A1, G1. Measure 31: eighth notes F1, E1, D1, C1. Measure 32: eighth notes B0, A0, G0, F0. Measure 33: eighth notes E1, D1, C1, B0. Dynamics: *mp*

34 *sim.*

Musical notation for measures 34-37. Measure 34: eighth notes G2, F2, E2, D2. Measure 35: eighth notes C2, B1, A1, G1. Measure 36: eighth notes F1, E1, D1, C1. Measure 37: eighth notes B0, A0, G0, F0. Dynamics: *mf* *mp*

38

Musical notation for measures 38-42. Measure 38: eighth notes G2, F2, E2, D2. Measure 39: eighth notes C2, B1, A1, G1. Measure 40: eighth notes F1, E1, D1, C1. Measure 41: eighth notes B0, A0, G0, F0. Measure 42: quarter note G2 with accent. Dynamics: *f*

43 **E**

Musical notation for measures 43-46. Measure 43: half note G2. Measure 44: half note F2. Measure 45: quarter note E2. Measure 46: quarter rest. Dynamics: *p* > *f*

2

46 *pizz.*

mf

53 **F** *arco*

mp *mf* *Building Energy*

58 **G** ♩ = 72, *With Conviction*

f

63 **H** *Molto espressivo*

fp < f *f*

75

p *f* *p < f* *p* *ff*

81 **I** ♩ = 60, *Slower*

fff *p* *pp*