



CHORAL SERIES

Sammy Strent

Songs for the People

Text by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper
Music by Sammy Strent

for TTBB Choir with Piano and Cello

**This score was distributed at
the ACDA national
convention in 2023. To
purchase scores, please visit
sammystrent.com**

WWW.SAMMYSTRENT.COM

Songs for the People

for TTBB 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.
- This score contains minor revisions from the original premiere recording.

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 at the Frost School of Music on October 25th, 2022

Songs for the People

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper
(1825-1911)

Sammy Strent
(b. 2002)

$\text{♩} = 90$ Driving, and with power

Tenor 1
Tenor 2
Baritone
Bass
Cello
Piano

4

T1.
T2.
Br.
B.
C.
Pno.

A Proudly

8

T1. *f* 3 Let me make songs for the peo - ple, _____ Songs for the old and

T2. *f* 3 Let me make songs for the peo - ple, _____ Songs for the old and

Br. *f* 3 Let me make songs for the peo - ple, _____ Songs for the old and

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

C. *f* Let me make songs for the peo - ple, _____ Songs for the old and

Pno. *f* *mp*

12

T1. young; Songs to stir like a bat - tle-cry Where - ev - er they are *p*

T2. young; Songs to stir like a bat - tle-cry Where - ev - er they are *p*

Br. young; Where - ev - er they are *p*

B. young; Where - ev - er they are *p*

C. *p* *f* *p*

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

B

16 *f*

T1. sung. clash clash-ing clash sab-res,

T2. *f* Not for the clash-ing of sab-res, For car-nage nor for

Br. *f* sung. clash clash-ing sab-res, For car-nage nor for

B. *f* Not for the clash-ing of sab-res,

C. *f*

Pno. *f*

20 *mp*

T1. nor for strife; hearts of men with

T2. *mp* strife; But songs to thrill the hearts of men With

Br. *mp* strife; But songs to thrill the hearts of men With

B. *mp* nor for strife; hearts of men with

C. *mp*

Pno. *mp* *f*

23 *f* C *mf*

T1. more a - bun - dant life. songs

T2. more a - bun - dant life. *mf* 3 Let me make songs for the

Br. more a - bun - dant life. *mf* 3 Let me make songs for the

B. more a - bun - dant life. *mf* songs

C. *p*

Pno. *f* *mp*

26 *p* *f*

T1. for the wea-ry, Till hearts shall re-lax their

T2. wea-ry, Till hearts shall re-lax their

Br. wea-ry, A-mid life's *f* 3 fe-ver and fret,

B. for the wea-ry, *p* *f* fe - ver and fret, Till hearts shall re-lax their

C. *p*

Pno. *f* *f* *mp*

30

T1. *p* ten - sion, *f* care - worn brows for - get.

T2. *p* ten - sion, *f* care - worn brows for - get.

Br. *p* And care - worn brows for - get. *f*

B. *p* ten - sion, *f* And care - worn brows for - get.

C. *p* *f*

Pno. *f*

33 **D**

T1. *mp* Let me sing for lit-tle

T2. *mp* Let me sing for lit-tle

Br.

B.

C. *mp* *mf* *sim.*

Pno. *mp* *mf* *mp*

38

T1. *p* child - ren _____ *f* Sweet an-thems of love and

T2. *p* child - ren _____ *mel. f* Sweet an-thems of love and

Br. *mp* Be - fore their foot - steps sway, *f* Sweet an-thems of love and

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

C. _____ *f*

Pno. _____ *f*

42

T1. *sub. pp* du - ty, To float o' er life's high - way. *f* E

T2. *pp* du - ty, float life's high - way. _____ *f* *Slight Decay*

Br. *pp* du - ty, float o' er life's high - way. *f*

B. *sub. pp* To float life's high - way. *f*

C. _____ *p* _____ *f*

Pno. _____ *pp* _____ *f* _____ *Gently mp*

46

T1.

T2.

Br. *Opt. Solo*

I would sing for the poor and aged, When sha-dows dim their sight,

B.

C. *pizz.*

mf

Pno.

49

T1.

T2.

Br. *End Solo*

Of the bright and rest-ful man - sions, Where there shall be no night.

B.

C.

Pno.

F Driving

53

T1.

T2.

Br.

B.

C.

Pno.

57

T1. Our

T2. Our

Br. Our

B. Our

C.

Pno.

♩ = 72, With Conviction!

G

Poco rit...

sub. p

T1. world, so worn and weary, Needs music pure and strong, To hush the jangle and discords Of sorrow, pain, and

T2. world, so worn and weary, Needs music pure and strong, To hush the jangle and discords Of sorrow, pain, and

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

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

C. *sub. p*

Pno. *sub. p*

H

fp *f*

T1. wrong. Music to soothe all its sorrow, Till war and crimes shall

T2. wrong. Music to soothe all its sorrow, Till war and crimes shall

Br. wrong. Music to soothe all its sorrow, Till war and crimes shall

B. wrong. Music to soothe all its sorrow, Till war and crimes shall

C. *Molto espressivo*

Pno. *fp* *f*

72

T1. cease; And the hearts of men grow ten - der Gir - dle the world

T2. cease; And the hearts of men grow ten - der Gir - dle the world

Br. 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

T1. *mf* Gir - dle the world *f*

T2. *mf* Gir - dle the world *f*

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

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

C. *f* *p* *f*

Pno.

79 *sub. p* *ff*
T1. Gir - dle the world the world with Gir - dle the world with peace.

sub. p *ff*
T2. Gir - dle the world the world with Gir - dle the world with peace.

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

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

p *ff* *fff*
C.

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

82 *p* **I** ♩ = 60, Slower

T1. with peace. with

T2. with peace. with

Br. with peace. with

B. with peace. with

C. with peace. with

Pno. *p* Let ring---

85

T1. peace. with

T2. peace. with

Br. peace. with

B. peace. with

C. peace. with

Pno.

87

T1. *pp*
peace.

T2. *pp*
peace.

Br. *pp*
peace.

B. *pp*
peace.

C. *pp*

Pno

3

Songs for the People

Sammy Strent
(b. 2002)

♩ = 90 Driving, and with power

pp < *f* > *p* < *f* *p* *sub.* > *pp* < *f*

9 **A**

15 **B**

21 **C**

29 **D**

34 *mf* *sim.*

38 *f*

43 **E**

p *f*

2

46 *pizz.*

mf

53 **F** *arco*

mp *mf* *f³* *Stately*

59 **G** ♩ = 72, With Conviction!

ff *fp <*

69 **H** *Molto espressivo*

f

75

p *f* *p* *ff*

81 **I** ♩ = 60, Slower

fff *p* *pp*