

### 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

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## 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.

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#### **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)















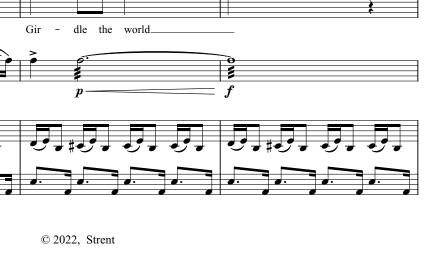








Pno.











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Sammy Strent (b. 2002)







