

Songs for the People

SATB chorus

5 min

Music by Melissa Dunphy

Poetry by Francis Ellen Watkins Harper

2022



Commissioned by Seattle Pro Musica

Songs for the People

SATB chorus

Music by Melissa Dunphy
Poetry by Francis Ellen Watkins Harper

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 all
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 all grown tender
Girdle the world with peace.

—*Poems*, published 1895



Mormolyke
Press

103 Callowhill St., Philadelphia, PA 19123
(717) 214-6121 | www.mormolyke.com

Songs for the People

Poetry by Francis Ellen Watkins Harper (1895)

Music by Melissa Dunphy

Moderato ♩ = c.80

SOPRANO *p* Let me make the songs, — let me make the songs. **rit.** — — — — — **a tempo**

ALTO *p* Let me make the songs, — let me make the songs, make the songs. *p* Let me

TENOR *p* Let me make the songs, let me make the songs. — — — — — *p* Let me

BASS *p* Let me make the songs, let me make the songs, the songs. — — — — —

6

S. *p* Let me make the songs for the old — and the young;

A. make the songs for the peo-ple. songs for the old and the young; — — — — —

T. make the songs for the peo-ple. songs for the old and the young,

B. *mp* Let me make the

10 *mf*

S. *mf* songs to stir like a bat - tle cry wher - ev - er they are sung. Let me make the songs for the

A. *mf* songs to stir like a bat - tle cry wher - ev - er they are sung. Let me make the songs for the

T. *mf* songs to stir like a bat - tle cry wher - ev - er, wher - ev - er they are sung. Let me

B. *mf* songs to stir like a bat - tle cry wher - ev - er they are sung. Let me make the

15

S. old and young. Let me make the songs, songs to stir like a

A. peo - ple, songs for the old and the young; songs to stir like a

T. make the songs, songs for the old and the young; songs to stir like a

B. songs for the peo-ple, songs for the old and the young; songs to stir like a

19 *f* *p*

S. *f* bat-tle cry wher - ev - er they are sung. *p* Not for the clash-ing of sab - res, for

A. *f* bat - tle cry wher - ev - er they are sung. *p* Not for the clash-ing of sab - res, for

T. *f* bat - tle cry wher - ev - er they are sung. *p* Not for the clash-ing of sab - res, for

B. *f* bat - tle cry wher - ev - er they are sung. *p* Not for the clash - ing, the clash-ing of sab - res,

24

S. *f*
 car-nage nor_ for_ strife; but_ songs to thrill the hearts of all with more a-bun-dant

A. *f*
 car-nage nor for strife; but_ songs to thrill the hearts of all with more a - bun - dant

T. *f*
 car-nage nor_ for_ strife; but songs to thrill the hearts of all with more a - bun-dant

B. *f*
 nor for strife; but songs to thrill the hearts of all with more a - bun-dant

29

S. *mp*
 life. Let me make the songs for the wear - y, a - mid life's fev - er and

A. *mp*
 life. Let me make the songs for the wear - y, a - mid life's fev - er and

T. *mp*
 life. Let me make the songs for the wear - y, a - mid life's fev - er,

B. *mp*
 life. Let me make the songs for the wear - y, a - mid life's

33

S. *p*
 fret, till_ hearts shall re-lax their ten-sion, and care-worn brows for-get.

A. *p* *mp*
 fret, till_ hearts shall re-lax their ten-sion, and care-worn brows for-get. Let me

T. *mp*
 till hearts shall re - lax their ten - sion and care-worn brows. Let me sing,

B. *mp*
 fev-er and fret, re - lax their ten - sion and care-worn brows.

38

S. *mp* < *p*
 Let me sing, mm. _____

A. *p* *mf*
 sing, let me sing, mm. _____ Sweet _____

T. *mf*
 let me sing, let me sing _____ for lit - tle child - ren be - fore their foot - steps stray, sweet

B. *mf*
 Let me sing for lit - tle child - ren be - fore their foot - steps stray, sweet

43

S. *mf* *mp*
 Sweet an - thems of love to float. _____ I would sing for the poor and

A. *mp*
 an - thems of love and du - ty to float ov - er life's high - way. Sing for the poor and

T. *mp*
 an - thems of du - ty to float. _____ I would sing for the

B. *mp*
 an - thems of du - ty to float, to float ov - er life's high - way. I would

48

S. *mp*
 ag - ed when shad - ows dim their sight; of the bright and rest - ful man - sions where there shall be no

A. *mp*
 ag - ed when shad - ows dim their sight; of the bright and rest - ful man - sions where there shall be no

T. *mp*
 ag - ed when shad - ows dim their sight; of man - sions where there shall be no

B. *mp*
 sing when shad - ows dim their sight. _____ Where

54

S. *f* night, no night. Let me make the songs for the peo-ple, songs for the old and the

A. *f* night. Let me make the songs for the peo ple, songs for the old and the

T. *f* night, no night. Let me make, make the songs for the peo- ple.

B. *f* there shall be no night. Let me make, make the songs for the peo- ple. Let me

59

S. young; songs to stir like a bat - tle cry wher - ev - er they are

A. young; songs to stir like a bat - tle cry wher - ev - er they are

T. *f* Let me make the songs to stir like a bat - tle cry wher - ev - er they are

B. make, make the songs to stir like a bat - tle cry wher - ev - er they are

63

S. *mp* sung. Our world, so worn and wear-y needs mus-ic, pure and strong *p* to

A. *mp* Our world, so worn and wear-y needs mus-ic, pure and strong *p* to

T. *mp* sung. Our world, so worn and wear-y needs mus-ic, pure and strong to

B. *mp* sung Our world, wo wear - y needs mus-ic, pure and strong to

68

S. hush the jan - gle and dis - cords of sor - row, pain_ and wrong.

A. hush the jan - gle and dis - cords of sor - row, pain_ and wrong.

T. hush the jan - gle and dis - cords of sor - row, pain and wrong. *mf*

B. hush the dis - cords of sor-row and wrong. Let me

72 *mf* **rit.**

S. Let me make the songs, let me make the songs.

A. Let me make the songs, let me make the songs, make the songs.

T. Let me make the songs, let me make the songs, make the songs.

B. make, let me make the songs, the songs.

a tempo

77 *mp espress.*

S. Mus-ic to soothe all its sor-row, all its sor-row till war and_ crime,

A. *mp espress.* Mus-ic to soothe all its sor-row, its sor - row, till war and crime shall

T. *mp espress.* Mus-ic to soothe all its sor-row, its sor - row, till war and crime shall

B. *mp espress.* Mus-ic to soothe all its sor-row, its sor - row, till war and crime shall

83

S. till crime shall cease. and the hearts of all grown ten - der

A. cease, shall cease; and the hearts of all grown ten - der shall gir-dle the

T. 8 cease; and the hearts of all grown ten - der

B. cease; and the hearts of all grown ten - der shall gir-dle the

90

S. shall gir - dle the world, shall gir - dle the world

A. world, gir - dle the world, shall gir - dle the world

T. 8 shall gir - dle the world, shall gir - dle the world.

B. world, gir - dle the world, shall gir - dle the world.

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

95

S. — with peace.

A. — with peace.

T. 8 — Let me make the songs, make the songs.

B. — Let me make the songs.

rit.