

Michal Dawson Connor



PETER, GO RING DEM BELLS

FOR SATB A CAPPELLA CHOIR
WITH BARITONE SOLO

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for SATB a cappella choir with baritone solo

An indomitable sense of hope, and unvarnished sorrow, permeate each line and melody of these unforgettable songs- forged in the anvil of abject misery and despair, aching for freedom's light.

Humiliated beyond all human reckoning, and given no respite from the daily drudgery of endless toil- these fiercely resilient souls somehow persevered, despite the harshest obstacles- leaving behind a true golden legacy of words and music to cherish. In his famous autobiography, Frederick Douglass wrote:

"Slaves sing most when they are most unhappy. The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart; and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by its tears."

I am deeply honored to present these musical footprints of my proud ancestors- and hope that by singing them, we pause to remember the undaunted courage and grit of the men and women who originally composed them.

— MICHAL DAWSON CONNOR

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Peter, Go Ring Dem Bells

for SATB a cappella Choir with Baritone Solo

Arranged by Michal Dawson Connor

Con giubilo (♩ = 66)

mf

Sop. Oh, Pe-ter, go ring dem bells. Pe-ter, go an' ring dem bells.

mf

Alto Pe-ter, go ring dem bells. Pe-ter, go an' ring dem bells.

mf

Ten. Pe-ter, go ring dem bells. Pe-ter, go an' ring dem bells.

mf

Bass Pe-ter, go ring dem bells. Oh, Pe-ter, go an' ring dem bells. Oh,

Con giubilo (♩ = 66)

Piano (for rehearsal only)

6

S. Pe ter, go ring dem bells. I heard from Hea ven to-day. I heard from Hea ven to

f

A. Pe ter, go ring dem bells. I heard from Hea ven to-day. I

f

T. Pe ter, go ring dem bells. I heard from Hea ven to-day. I

f

B. Pe ter, go ring dem bells. I heard from Hea ven to-day. I

11

S. day. I heard from Hea ven to-day. I thank God, and I

A. heard from Hea ven to-day, from Hea ven to-day, from Heaven. I thank God and I

T. heard from Hea ven to-day, from Hea ven to-day, from Heaven. I thank God and I

B. heard from Hea ven to-day, from Hea ven to-day, from Heaven. Thank God and I

15

Solo

S. I won-der where my
thank you too. I heard from Hea-ven to-day. *Hmm* Won - der where my

A. thank you too. Heard from Hea-ven to-day. *Hmm* Won - der where my

T. thank you too. I heard from Hea-ven to-day. *Hmm* Won - der where my

B. thank you too. Heard from Hea-ven to-day. *Hmm* Won - der where my

19

Solo

mo - ther has gone? Won - der where _____ my _____

S.

mo - ther's, won - der where? Won - der, won - der where my

A.

mo - ther's, won - der where? Won - der, won - der where my

T.

mo - ther's, won - der where? Won - der, won - der where my

B.

mo - ther's, won - der where? Won - der, won - der where my

21

Solo

mo-ther has gone? Won-der where _____ my mo-ther has gone? I

S.

mo - ther's gone up yonder? *Hmm* Won-der where my mo - ther's gone?

A.

mo - ther's gone up yonder? *Hmm* Won-der where my mo - ther's gone? I

T.

mo - ther's gone up yonder? *Hmm* Won der where my mo - ther's gone? I

B.

mo - ther's gone up yonder? *Hmm* Won-der where my mo - ther's gone? I

24

Solo

heard from Hea ven to - day.

f

subito p

Heard it from, heard it from Hea - ven.

Pe - ter, go ring dem bells.

Heard it from, heard it from Hea - ven.

Pe - ter, go ring dem bells.

Heard it from, heard it from Hea - ven...

Pe - ter, go ring dem bells.

Heard it from, heard it from Hea - ven.

Pe - ter, go ring dem bells. Oh,

28

Pe - ter, go an' ring dem bells.

Pe - ter, go ring dem bells. I

Pe - ter, go an' ring dem bells.

Pe - ter, go ring dem bells. I

Pe - ter, go an' ring dem bells.

Pe - ter, go ring dem bells. I

Pe - ter, go an' ring dem bells. Oh,

Pe - ter, go ring dem bells. I

32

S. *mf*
heard from Heaven to - day. I heard from Heaven to - day. I

A. *mf*
heard from Heaven to - day. I heard from Heaven to -

T. *mf*
heard from Heaven to - day. I heard from Heaven to -

B. *mf*
heard from Heaven to - day. I heard from Heaven to -

36

S. heard from Heaven to - day. I thank God, and I thank you too. I

A. day, from Heaven to - day, from Heaven. I thank God and I thank you too.

T. day, from Heaven to - day, from Heaven. I thank God and I thank you too. I

B. day, from Heaven to - day, from Heaven. Thank God and I thank you too.

40

S. *f* heard from Hea-ven to - day. *Hmm* *subito p* Heard from Hea-ven, I

A. *f* Heard from Hea-ven to - day. *Hmm* *subito p* Heard from Hea-ven, I

T. *f* Heard from Hea-ven to - day. *Hmm* *subito p* Heard from Hea-ven, I

B. *f* Heard from Hea-ven to - day. *Hmm* *subito p* Heard from Hea-ven, I

43

S. *cresc.* *allargando* *f* heard from Hea-ven, I heard from Hea-ven to - day!

A. *cresc.* *allargando* *f* heard from Hea-ven, I heard from Hea-ven to - day!

T. *cresc.* *allargando* *f* heard from Hea-ven, I heard from Hea-ven to - day!

B. *cresc.* *allargando* *f* heard from Hea-ven, I heard from Hea-ven to - day!