

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

for
SABar chorus
with piano

by
Steven Paxton

also available for:
SATB and SSA choir

lyrics by members of
The Derwentio Choir
Allestree, Derbyshire
UK



CREATIVE SPIRIT

IN 2023 *THE DERVENTIO CHOIR* IN ALLESTREE, DERBYSHIRE UK invited composers to create a new work in celebration of the choir's 30th anniversary. The text to be set was created collaboratively by the Derventio choir members themselves. My composition did not win the competition, but the choir generously gave composers permission to use the poem in their own published compositions. It is certainly a poem that will *strike a chord* with many singers, especially those in long-standing community choruses.

Steven Paxton
San Marcos, Texas

How can I keep from singing!

In friendship, harmony and tone
For many years we've sung and grown.
Each part, though singing separate lines,
To glorious unity combines.
Though seasons come and seasons go,
Our voices sing — Fortissimo!

Our choir's life flows in endless song,
In heartfelt words and rhythm strong.
In songs of protest, songs that calm,
Songs that spread that healing balm.
Though seasons come and seasons go,
Our voices sing — Fortissimo!

We sing of lovers' hopes and dreams,
We sing of wild cascading streams,
We sing of joy, we sing of sorrow,
We sing the promise of tomorrow.
Though seasons come and seasons go,
Our heart sings out — Fortissimo!

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HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

lyrics by members of the DERVENTIO CHOIR

STEVEN PAXTON

Moderato
mf **rit.**

SOPRANO
In friend-ship, har-mo - ny and tone

ALTO
In friend-ship, har-mo - ny and tone, — har - mo - ny and

BARITONE
In friend-ship, har-mo - ny and tone, — har - mo - ny and

Moderato
rehearsal only **rit.**

PIANO
mf

5 **a tempo**
mp *cresc. poco a poco*

For man - y years we've sung and

mp *cresc. poco a poco*

tone, For man - y years we've sung and grown. —

mp *cresc. poco a poco*

For man - y years we've sung and grown. Each part, though

5 **a tempo**

mp *cresc. poco a poco*

9 *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*

grown. Each part, though sing - ing

mf *cresc. poco a poco*

Each part, though sing - ing, sing - ing sep - a - rate lines, Each part, though

mf *cresc. poco a poco*

sing - ing — sep - a - rate lines, Each part, though sing - ing

9

13 *f* *ff*

sep - a - rate lines, sep - a - rate lines,

f *ff*

sing - ing sep - a - rate lines, Each part, though sing - ing sep - a - rate lines, —

f *ff*

sep - a - rate, sep - a - rate lines,

13

Allegro moderato (♩. = c. 86)

17 (3 + 2) *f* ♩ = ♩

To glo-ri-ous u-ni-ty com-bines.

To glo-ri-ous u-ni-ty com-bines.

To glo-ri-ous u-ni-ty com-bines.

Allegro moderato (♩. = c. 86)

17 (3 + 2) ♩ = ♩

mf

21

To glo-ri-ous u-ni-ty com-bines.

To glo-ri-ous u-ni-ty com-bines.

To glo-ri-ous u-ni-ty com-bines.

21

mp sub.

26 *mf*

Though sea - sons come and sea - sons

mf

Though sea - sons come and sea - sons

mf

Though sea - sons come and sea - sons

30

go, Our_ voic - es sing— For - tis - si -

go, Our voic - es sing— For - tis - si -

go, Our voic - es sing— For - tis - si -

30

34 *ff* (2 + 3) *mp legato*

- mo! _____ Our choir's life

- mo! _____ Our choir's life

- mo! _____ Our choir's life

34 (2 + 3) *p sub.*

39

flows in end - less song, In heart - felt

flows in end - less song, In heart - felt

flows in end - less song. In heart - felt

39

44

words and rhy - thm strong. — In songs of pro -

words and rhy - thm strong. — In songs of pro -

words and rhy - thm strong. — In songs of pro -

44

49

- test, songs — that calm, — Songs that

- test, songs — that calm, — Songs that

- test, songs — that calm, — Songs that

49

54 *mf* *mp*

spread that heal - ing balm.

spread that heal - ing balm.

spread that heal - ing balm.

54

59 *mp*

— Though sea - sons come and

— Though sea - sons come and

— Though sea - sons come and

59

64

sea - sons go, _____ Our — voi - ces

sea - sons go, _____ Our — voi - ces

sea - sons go, _____ Our voi - ces

64

Detailed description: This system contains the vocal and piano parts for measures 64 through 68. It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'sea - sons go, _____ Our — voi - ces'. The piano part includes a watermark 'FOR PUPILS USE ONLY'.

69

sing— _____ *f* For - tis - si - mo! _____

sing— _____ *f* For - tis - si - mo! _____

sing— _____ *f* For - tis - si - mo! _____

69

Detailed description: This system contains the vocal and piano parts for measures 69 through 73. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'sing— _____ *f* For - tis - si - mo! _____'. The piano part includes a watermark 'FOR PUPILS USE ONLY'.

74 *mf* **Tempo I°**

We sing of lov - er's hopes and dreams,

We sing of lov - er's hopes and dreams,

We sing of lov - er's hopes and dreams,

74 **Tempo I°**

mp *mf*

79 **rit.** *mp* **a tempo**

We sing of wild cas -

lov - er's hopes and dreams, We sing of wild cas - cad - ing,

lov - er's hopes and dreams, We sing of wild cas - cad - ing streams, of

79 **rit.** **a tempo**

mp

83

- cad - ing streams, We sing of joy, we
wild cas-cad-ing streams, We sing of wild cas-cad-ing streams, We sing of joy, we sing of
wild streams,

83

88 rit.

Allegro moderato

(3 + 2) *mf*

sing of sor - row, We sing the
sor - row, We sing the
We sing of sor - row. We sing the

88 rit.

Allegro moderato

(3 + 2)

93

f

prom-ise of to - mor - row.

f

prom-ise of to - mor - row.

f

prom-ise of to - mor - row.

93

f

mf dim.

98

mf

Though sea - sons come and sea - sons

mf

Though sea - sons come and sea - sons

mf

Though sea - sons come and sea - sons

98

mp

102

go, Our hearts sing out— For - tis - si -

go, Our hearts sing out— For - tis - si -

go, Our hearts sing out— For - tis - si -

102

mf

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal and piano accompaniment for measures 102 through 105. It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: "go, Our hearts sing out— For - tis - si -". The piano accompaniment includes dynamic markings such as *f* and *mf*. The music is in a key with one flat and a 3/8 time signature, with a 4/4 time signature change at the end of measure 105.

106 *cresc.* *ff* *poco allarg.* (2 + 3)

- mo!

- mo!

- mo!

106 *f* *ff* *poco allarg.* (2 + 3)

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal and piano accompaniment for measures 106 through 109. The vocal parts have lyrics: "- mo!". The piano accompaniment includes dynamic markings such as *cresc.*, *ff*, and *poco allarg.*. The music is in a key with one flat and a 3/8 time signature, with a 4/4 time signature change at the end of measure 109.

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

ONLINE AND PRINT PUBLICATIONS

CHORUS

MIXED CHOIR

Amy Beach (1543–1623)

Agnus Dei from Grand Mass in E-flat Major SATB, solos, pno or orch

Beethoven (1666–1727)

Kyrie from Mass in C Major SATB, opt. solos, pno or orch

Mass in C Major SATB, solos, pno or orch

Francisco López Capillas (1608–1674)

Missa Benedicta SATB unac

Sanctus and Benedictus from Missa Benedicta SATB unac

Karl Michael Komma (1913–2012)

Die Weihnachtsgeschichte nach Lukas SATB (double), solos, fl, ob, tpt, org, perc

Frances Meier

Pasque Flower in April SATB unac

Steven Paxton

Aeterna Christi munera SATB unac

Ave Maria SATB unac

Eye SATB, pno

Frè Timoniè SAB / TBB, pno, opt perc,

How Can I Keep From Singing SATB, pno

Lucis Creator Optime SATB unac

The Open Door SATB unac

Prophecy SATB divisi unac

The singer only sang SATB divisi unac

Three Hymns to the Son SATB unac

Three Marian Hymns SATB unac

Visions SATB, eng hn (or alto sax), cello, perc, or pno

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562–1621)

Psalm 1 SATB unac

Psalm 20 SATB unac

Psalm 90 SATB unac

Psalm 96 SATB unac

John Taverner (1490–1545)

In pace, in idipsum SATB unac

Weber, Joseph (1936–1999)

Cantata on the Oracle of Edom SSATTB, tenor duo, variable winds/stgs, or org

TREBLE CHOIR

William Byrd (1540–1623)

Sanctus and Benedictus from Mass for 3 Voices SSA unac

Johanna Kinkel (1810–1858)

Drei Duetten SA, pno

Steven Paxton

If I Had a Ribbon Bow SSA, pno

From the Garden of Kama SSA unac

Raindrop Song SSA, pno

Three Spring Songs SSA, pno

MUSIC OF UGANDA

Ga-ze SSA / 3-Part Mixed / TTB, pno, opt perc, opt inst

Konikoneco SATB / 3-Part Mixed / TTB, pno, opt perc, opt ins

MUSIC FOR CHOIR WITH OVERTONE SINGING

Stuart Hinds

Beauty SATB divisi, unac

Meeresstille SATB, solos, unac

Pacem SATB unac