

Songs for the People
John Bergquist

FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER (1825-1911)

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.

SONGS FOR THE PEOPLE

Poetry by FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER

Music by JOHN BERGQUIST

rit. $\text{♩} = 78$ A^\flat $\text{B}^\flat 7$ $\text{B}^\flat/\text{E}^\flat$ $\text{E}^\flat 7$ $\text{B}^\flat 7/\text{E}^\flat$

Treble Solo

Piano

mf *mf*

Let me

a tempo

4 A^\flat $\text{B}^\flat \text{m}$ $\text{E}^\flat 7$ $\text{A}^\flat (\text{sus}_3)$ A^\flat Am/G

Tr. Solo

Pno.

make the songs for the peo-ple Songs for the old and young;

8 Cm Fm $\text{B}^\flat \text{m}$ $\text{B}^\flat \text{m}/\text{D}^\flat$ $\text{E}^\flat 7$ $\text{A}^\flat (\text{sus})$ A^\flat/G Fm

Tr. Solo

Pno.

Songs to stir like a bat-tle cry wher - e-ver they are sung.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). It consists of three systems. The first system is an instrumental introduction for Treble Solo and Piano. The second system begins with the vocal line (Tr. Solo) and piano accompaniment (Pno.), starting at measure 4. The third system continues the vocal and piano parts, starting at measure 8. The lyrics are: 'make the songs for the peo-ple Songs for the old and young; Songs to stir like a bat-tle cry wher - e-ver they are sung.' The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (mf), articulation (accents), and performance instructions (rit., a tempo). Chord symbols are provided above the vocal line.

12 $B\flat m$ $E\flat 7/D\flat$ $A\flat/C$ $F m$ $B\flat(sus)$ $B\flat$ $E\flat(sus)$ $E\flat 7$ $A\flat 7/E\flat$

Tr. Solo
 Not for the clash-ing of sa-bres, for carn-age nor for strife; But

Pno.

16 $D\flat$ $F 7/C$ $B\flat m$ F $B\flat m$ $A\flat(sus)/C$ $A\flat/D\flat$ $E\flat(sus)$ $E\flat 7$

Tr. Solo
 songs to thrill the hearts of men with more a bun-dant life.

Pno.

20 $A\flat/C$ $E\flat(sus)$ $E\flat 7$ $A\flat$ $A\flat/G$

Tr. Solo
f Mu-sic to soothe all its sor-row, Till war and crime shall cease;

Pno.
f

24 $A\flat/C$ $F m$ $B\flat m(sus)$ $E\flat(sus)$ $E\flat 7$ $A\flat$

Tr. Solo
 And the hearts of men grown ten-der Gir-dle the world with peace.

Pno.
espress.

28 A^b Cm G

Tr. Solo

Pno.

Let me

32 Cm $Gm^{(sus)}$ D^7 C° Gm/B^b D°/A^b C^7/G Fm

Tr. Solo

Pno.

make the songs for the weary, — a - mid life's fever and fret, Till

mf

poco *poco* *poco*

36 C B^bm B^b/D^b E^b $A^b^{(sus)}/C$ A^b/C

Tr. Solo

Pno.

hearts_ shall re-lax their_ tension, and care-worn brows for - get. Let me

dolce

40 C $F^{(sus)}/C$ $G^{(sus)}$ D^7 Em

Tr. Solo

Pno.

sing for lit - tle chil dren, - Be - fore their foot-steps stray, Sweet an -

44 Am C^ø7/A^b C/G Fm/A^b Fm B^b A^b/D^b E^b A^b/E^b E^b7

Tr. Solo
-thems of love and du-ty To float o'er life's high-way. I would

Pno.

48 *mf* A^b B^bm A^b(sus) A^b Am/G

Tr. Solo
mf sing for the poor and a - ged, When sha-dows dim their sight; Of the

Pno.

52 C^m F^m B^bm A^b/C B^bm/D^b E^b7 A^b(sus) A^b/G F^m F^m/C

Tr. Solo
bright and rest - ful mansions Where there shall be no night.

Pno.

56 B^bm E^b7/D^b A^b/C F^m(sus) B^b(sus) B^b E^b(sus) E^b7 A^b7/E^b

Tr. Solo
mp Our world so worn and wea ry needs mu sic pure and strong, To

espress.

Pno.
mp