

Martin J. Wimmer

SONGS FOR
THE PEOPLE

SATB & Piano



VMS151
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Composer's Notes

Songs for the People is an SATB setting of a poem by the African-American poet, novelist and teacher, Frances E.W. Harper (1825-1911). Harper's parents were freed slaves and Harper devoted much of her life to the abolitionist movement and to what she called "a brighter day" - civil rights for African-Americans and women. Her poem "Songs for the People" illustrates her message of positive social change and foreshadows the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. My setting of *Songs for the People* reflects the rugged, sturdy, yet tender "Americana style" of her day. It was commissioned by the Freudig Singers of Western New York in 2008 in honor of the ensemble's 25th anniversary in 2009. They premiered the work at their gala 25th anniversary concert. (Duration: 3:30)

About the Composer

Martin J. Wimmer is a veteran public school music teacher in the Depew Union Free School District outside of Buffalo, New York where he has taught chorus, band and general music since 1993. An active member of the Erie County Music Educators Association, "Marty" has served as Chairman of All-County Elementary Chorus three times. His choral work *Peace* was a finalist in the 2007 Ithaca College Choral Composition Competition and First Prize Winner in the Unitarian-Universalist Musicians Network Competition in 2010. *Peace* is published by Imagine Music Publishing and has been performed numerous times across North America. Other new choral works by Martin J. Wimmer include *Christmas Eve Lullaby*, *Through Music* and *Let's Get Ready!* His new band works include *March of the Shadows*, *A Bright Morning*, *Creepy Carnival*, *Seventies Song*, and *Bach's Music Box*. His new collection of intermediate piano pieces is entitled, *Eight Characteristic Pieces for Piano*.

Martin J. Wimmer earned his bachelor's degree in music education at Syracuse University where he studied choral conducting with Barbara Tagg and composition with Brian Israel. He earned his master's degree in musicology at SUNY at Buffalo where he had further composition study with Roland E. Martin. To learn more about Martin J. Wimmer, visit his website, www.martinjwimmermusic.com.

Commissioned by the Freudig Singers of Western New York
in celebration of the ensemble's 25th anniversary in 2009.

Songs for the People

Frances E. W. Harper

Martin J. Wimmer

Fervent ♩ = 69

PIANO *mf*

(All Men or Solo)

5 *mf*

B. Let me make the songs for the peo - ple, Songs for the old and young;

Pno.

9

B. Songs to stir like a bat - tle - cry Wher - ev - er they are

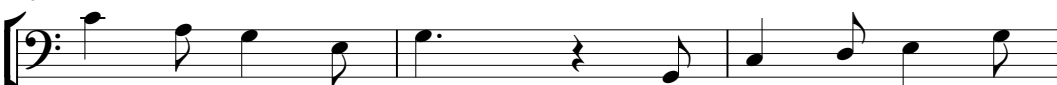
Pno.

12


B. sung. Not for the clash - ing of sab - res, For

Pno.

15

B. 

car - nage nor for strife; But songs to thrill the

Pno. 

18

B. 


hearts of men With more a - bun - dant life.

Pno. 


21

Pno. 

25 *mf*

S. 

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

A. *mf* 

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

Pno. 