# Srilee Music

# HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

**A Gospel Setting** 

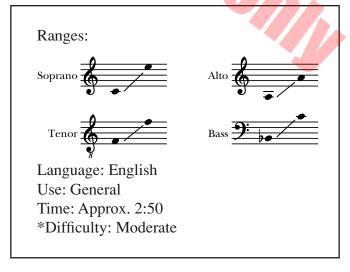
SATB, accompanied

Music by GREG GILPIN

TEXT ADAPTED FROM QUAKER SONG



Free MP3 rehearsal and accompaniments Go to: www.BriLeeMusic.com



### **Performance Notes**

The Quakers, also known as Friends, are a non-violent, peace-loving religious group. They have spawned several well-known songs of which the most beloved is this one. The tune is based on a pentatonic scale (do, re, mi, sol, la or scale degrees 1, 2, 3, 5, 6) consisting of five tones. Should you choose, you could extract this melody and accompany it with xylophones and metalophones, using only those tones found in the pentatonic scale.

The text is powerful, with a sense of integral strength and hope pervading throughout. It reflects one of the main purposes in life: to rise above the problems and sorrows of this earth and find an inner calm and peacefulness. No matter how uncertain life is, there is a constant "song" throughout, if we only seek to "hear" it and to "sing" it. It echoes through our soul and gives us purpose in life.

The first verse should be sung calmly, yet with a sense of hope and inner strength. Although marked mezzo piano, don't be weak about it. Good breath support will help keep the tone vibrant and healthy sounding. The accompaniment gives only harmonic assistance, so you have to sustain a sense of movement to the line. The second verse accompaniment consists of moving broken chords which will propel you (or pull you) through the music. Crescendo into each musical phrase. Use more dynamics in this verse. The third verse, a repetition of the first verse text, should be sung with confidence and conviction.

Be expressive. Pick key words throughout and give them special attention: storm, calm, echo, tempest, roars, love, etc. Throughout this song sing legato with a beautiful tone quality.

Lastly, discuss the words. What do they mean? How do they affect you? Performance of this song can result in a very moving musical experience.

WALL OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

### How Can I Keep from Singing?

(A Gospel Setting)

for SATB Voices and Solo Voice with Keyboard\*

Text adapted from Quaker Song

**GREG GILPIN** 





<sup>\*</sup> Also available for Two-part Treble Voices (BL765), Three-part Mixed Voices (BL152) and SSA Voices (BL704).

<sup>\*\*</sup> Measures 2–10 may be performed a cappella, or the keyboardist may ad lib., as desired.























## BriLee Music

### the Voice of Choral Music

BriLee Music, founded by the late Brian Busch in 1997, is the leader in publishing choral music written specifically for the developing middle school and junior high singer.

With writing guidelines carefully developed by Brian, teachers who buy from the BriLee catalog know they will always find the following in music written by BriLee composers:

Range appropriate – specifically for the adolescent changing voice Moderate in length

Interesting, appealing and varied texts

Accessible accompaniments

Writers for BriLee are among the most outstanding and respected in their field. The music is written, arranged and edited to meet a wide range of performance needs. The standard of musical excellence we present in each choral work is designed to meet the challenges faced by teachers and conductors all over the world who wish to offer quality, accessible repertoire to their ensembles.

BriLee Music Part-by-Part

### Free MP3 rehearsal and accompaniments Go to: www.BriLeeMusic.com

Part-by-Part resources were created to allow you, the busy choral director, more time to do the things you need to do to be successful in rehearsal and performance.

Download the following FREE resources and use them to help you TEACH your singers.



- Part-dominant recordings allow your singers to sing along with their part while hearing the other voices in the background.
- Full chorus recordings allow your singers to see and hear the music at the same time for greater insight.
- Professional accompaniments can be used for rehearsal or performance.





