

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

A Gospel Setting

SATB, accompanied

Music by
GREG GILPIN

TEXT ADAPTED FROM QUAKER SONG

BriLee Music
Part-by-Part



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

Ranges:



Language: English

Use: General

Time: Approx. 2:50

*Difficulty: Moderate

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.

How Can I Keep from Singing?

3

(A Gospel Setting)

for SATB Voices and Solo Voice with Keyboard*

Text adapted from
Quaker Song

GREG GILPIN

With joy! ♩ = 116

f Hand claps on beats 2 and 4.

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Keyboard

With joy! ♩ = 116

mp *f* **

4

how can I keep _ from sing - ing? No storm can shake my in -

how can I keep _ from sing - ing? No storm can shake my in -

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

** Measures 2–10 may be performed *a cappella*, or the keyboardist may ad lib., as desired.

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- most calm, _ how can I keep _ from sing - ing?

- most calm, _ how can I keep _ from sing - ing?

10

how can I keep _ from sing - ing?

how can I keep _ from sing - ing?

ad lib. as desired

p *f*

13

end hand claps

17 Solo
mp

What, though the tem-pest a - round me roars, I know the truth it live -

20

eth. What, though the dark-ness a - round me close,

23

songs in the night it give - eth. I hear the real, though far -

mp

Oo

mp

Oo

____ off hymn, that hails a new cre - a - tion. ____ It sounds an ech-o ____ in ____

Oo

Oo



30

____ my soul, - a - bove earth's la - man - ta - tion. end solo

cresc.

cresc.

Oh

cresc.

Oh

cresc.



33 *mf*

My life flows on in end - less song, - how can I keep - from sing -

My life flows on in end - less song, - how can I keep - from sing -

36

ing? No storm can shake my in - most calm, -

- - ing? No storm can shake my in - most calm, -

39

how can I keep - from sing - ing? How can I keep - from sing - ing?

how can I keep - from sing - ing? How can I keep - from sing - ing?

Hand claps on beats 2 and 4.

43

mf

To the Rock, — I'm cling - ing.

How can I —

Strong!

Oh, to the Rock!

Oh, to the Rock!

Strong!
unis.

Oh, to the Rock!

Oh, to the Rock!

46

— stop sing - ing?

I'm cling - ing to the Rock - now.

Oh, to the rock!

Oh, to the rock!

49

end solo

Hear me sing - - ing!

Oh, to the Rock!

Oh, to the Rock!

p

for on-screen use or print only

51

f

My life flows on in end - less song, - how can I keep - from sing -

f

My life flows on in end - less song, - how can I keep - from sing -

f

for on-screen use or print only

ing? No storm can shake my in - most calm, -

ing? No storm can shake my in - most calm, -

how can I keep _ from sing - ing? My life flows on in end -

how can I keep _ from sing - ing? My life flows on in end -

- less song, _ how can I keep _ from sing - ing?

- less song, _ how can I keep _ from sing - - ing?

63

No storm can shake my in - most calm, - how can I keep - from sing -

No storm can shake my in - most calm, - how can I keep - from sing -

66

ing? How can I keep - from sing - ing? end hand claps

- ing? How can I keep - from sing - ing?

69 *grad. rit.*

How can I keep - from sing - - ing?

How can I keep - from sing - - ing?

grad. rit.

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