

*Instructions for performing **I've Got Some Singing to Do!** with members of the chorus providing some percussion accompaniment:*

*There should be two players:
tambourine
sandpaper blocks*

[Sandpaper blocks are just as they sound, two blocks of wood covered with sandpaper, rubbed together in a joyous manner. Ask any percussionist for help in finding or making these.]

Although the players could read off of the formal percussion part (and the first player plays whatever is marked for tambourine or maracas on tambourine), it would be far more effective and relaxing (in spirit with this song) to have the players simply hold their instruments and play when cued by the conductor (no reading from a part). With this in mind, the choral octavo has been marked with red to show the conductor when the percussion plays.

Basically, the tambourine plays various tremoli (such as mm. 2, 4) and lead-ins to "O Lord," (such as mm. 31-2). In places like the downbeat of m. 32, the tambourine ends the tremolo with a tap of the tambourine with the fist.

The sandpaper blocks play only even quarter notes. These come with the refrains ("O Lord, I've got some singing to do"). The patterns are always the same – 6 mm. of quarters and then a bit of finishing up (as marked in the score).

The conductor can guide the players with appropriate hand gestures, such as shaking the hand (tambourine tremolo), fist into palm (for the taps) and a steady up-and-down motion for the sandpaper blocks.

In this way, the members of the chorus who are playing percussion can simply relax and follow the conductor. This ought to work fine!

Good luck to you –

Gwyneth Walker

Commissioned by David and Johanna Publow for the 50th Anniversary of the Manchester Choral Society, Dan Perkins, Music Director

I've Got Some Singing to Do!

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Piano,
or optional Brass Quintet, Percussion and Piano, or optional Orchestra

Gwyneth Walker

Traditional American text
G. W., alt.

Slowly, grandly ♩ = 80
as an introduction

Jaunty, unrushed ♩ = 120
swing eighths

S
A

T
B

unis. p (quiet hum in the background)

mm

unis. p (quiet hum in the background)

mf

with pedal

*Bracketed passages in the piano are to be omitted when performing the Brass version.

Note-setting and format by Gwyneth Walker Music Productions.

28

S on the sev - enth we of - fer praise_ to the earth so green, and the

A on the sev - enth we of - fer praise_ to the earth so green, and the

T to the earth so green, and the

B to the earth so green, and the

p *cresc.*

31

S sky so blue- O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do!_

A sky so blue- O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do!_

T sky so blue- O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do!_

B sky so blue- O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do!_

poco rit. *(cresc.)* *div.* *amb* *a tempo* *unis. f* *f* *a tempo*

sand paper blocks

34 **C** *(f)*

S A *(f)* Lord, O Lord,

T B *(f)* O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do. — O Lord, I've got some

C *(f)* *with pedal* *RH*

37 *(f)*

S A O Lord, — Don't

T B sing - ing to do. — O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do. —

RH

40 *(rest)*

S A take me, Lord, — don't take me, Lord, too soon! —

T B don't take me, Lord, — don't take me, Lord, too soon! —

58

S
O Lord, Don't

A
O Lord, Don't

T
sing-ing to do. O Lord, I've got some sing-ing to do.

B
sing-ing to do. O Lord, I've got some sing-ing to do.

RH

61

(rest)

S
take me, Lord, don't take me, Lord, too soon! *unis.*

A
take me, Lord, don't take me, Lord, too soon,

T
don't take me, Lord, don't take me, Lord, too soon,

B
don't take me, Lord, don't take me, Lord, too soon!

10

72

tand. 

p *f*

S through, _____

p *f*

A through, _____

T *f* O Lord, _____

warms my way the whole day through— Lord, I've got some

B *f* O Lord, I've got some

warms my way the whole day through— O Lord, I've got some



75

G *Sandpaper*

(Tutti) unis. *f*

S O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do. —

(Tutti) unis. *f*

A O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do. —

T *(f)* sing-ing to do! — O Lord, O —

B *(f)* sing-ing to do! — O Lord, O —

G *RH*



78

S O Lord, I've got some sing-ing to do. O Lord, I've got some

A O Lord, I've got some sing-ing to do. O Lord, I've got some

T Lord, O Lord,

B Lord, O Lord,

RH

81

S sing-ing to do. don't take me Lord, don't take me, Lord, too

A sing-ing to do. don't take me Lord, don't take me, Lord, too

T *unis.* Don't take me, Lord, don't take me, Lord, too

B Don't take me, Lord, don't take me, Lord, too

RH

85 [H] With energy

S
A
soon! _____

T
B
soon! _____

[H] With energy
RH
(f)
with pedal

89 *Exclaim enthusiastically (not on pitch)*

S
A
Don't! Don't! Don't! Don't!

Exclaim enthusiastically (not on pitch)

T
B
Don't! Don't! Don't! Don't!

RH

93 [I]

S
A
Don't! Don't! Don't! Don't!

T
B
Don't! Don't! Don't! Don't!

[I]
RH

103 **J** *even eighths*

S
sing a - bout the rain, the gen - tle rain_

A
sing a - bout the rain, the gen - tle rain_ falls up - on the moun - tain_

T
p gently
that falls up - on the moun - tain and

B
p gently
and

J *even eighths*

106

S
rit. and weeps for_ me_ the_ whole day_ through_

A
and weeps for_ me_ the_ whole day_ through_

T
on the plain, weeps the_ whole night through_

B
div. on_ the plain, *unis.* weeps the whole night through_

rit.

troub.

rit.

ped.

a tempo (♩ = 120) *swing eighths*

109

S *f* O Lord, _____ sing - ing to do! _____ K

A *f* O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do! _____ O Lord,

T *f* O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do! _____ O Lord,

B *f* O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do! _____ O Lord, I've got some

O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do! _____ O Lord, I've got some

a tempo (♩ = 120) *swing eighths*

f

K

112

S O Lord, O

A O Lord, O

T sing - ing to do. _____ O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do. _____

B sing - ing to do. _____ O Lord, I've got some sing - ing to do. _____

RH

115

(rest)

unis.

S Lord, _____ Don't take me, Lord,

A Lord, _____ Don't take me, Lord, _____

T O Lord, I've got some sing-ing to do. _____ don't

B O Lord, I've got some sing-ing to do. _____ don't

(RH)

118

S don't take me, Lord, too soon! _____

A don't take me, Lord, too soon! _____

T take me, Lord, don't take me, Lord, too soon! _____

B take me, Lord, don't take me, Lord, too soon! _____

non dim.

149

S *unis.* *rit. div.* **HUGE breath!* **Slowly**
 breath, breath, I will

A *unis.* *rit. div.* **HUGE breath!* I will

T *div.* *rit. div.* **HUGE breath!* *unis.* I will

B *div.* *unis.* **HUGE breath!* I will

rit. **Slowly**

Sandpaper

152 **P** *a tempo* ($\text{♩} = 120$)

S *unis.* sing! sing!

A sing! sing! sing!_

T sing! sing! sing!_

B sing! sing! sing!_

P *a tempo* ($\text{♩} = 120$)

with pedal

*Chorus takes a HUGE breath, to the delight of the audience.

156

rit. **Q** *Slower, even eighths*
, mf div.

S I'll sing a - bout the breeze that blows_ to me_ the

A I'll sing a - bout the breeze that blows_ to me_ the

T I'll sing a - bout the breeze that blows_ to me_ the

B I'll sing a - bout the breeze that blows_ to me_ the

rit. **Q** *Slower, even eighths*
for rehearsal only (cue-sized notes)

160

S *, unis.* *rit.* *tamb. #*
div.

S voi-ces of my friends where - ev - er they be, — for I know that they are sing - ing too—

A voi-ces of my friends where - ev - er they be, — for I know that they are sing - ing too—

T voi-ces of my friends where - ev - er they be, — for I know that they are sing - ing too—

B *div.*
 voi-ces of my friends where - ev - er they be, — for I know that they are sing - ing — too—

(for rehearsal only) *rit.*

a tempo (♩ = 120) *swing eighths*

Sandpaper

164

S *f* O Lord, sing - ing to do! — [R]

A *f* O Lord we've got some sing - ing to do! — O Lord,

T *div. f* O Lord, sing - ing to do! — *unis.*

B *unis. f* O Lord we've got some sing - ing to do! — O Lord, we've got some

O Lord we've got some sing - ing to do! — O Lord, we've got some

a tempo (♩ = 120) *swing eighths*

[R]

Play

with pedal

167

S O Lord, O

A O Lord, O

T sing - ing to do. — O Lord, we've got some sing - ing to do. —

B sing - ing to do. — O Lord, we've got some sing - ing to do. —

with pedal

170

(((((((((rest)

S Lord, Don't take me, Lord, unis.

A Lord, Don't take me, Lord, div.

T O Lord, we've got some sing-ing to do. No no no! don't div. unis.

B O Lord, we've got some sing-ing to do. No no no! don't div. unis.

LH

174

S no no no! don't take me, Lord, div. unis. div.

A no no no! don't take me, Lord, unis.

T take me, Lord, don't take me Lord, too *p sub.*

B take me, Lord, don't take me Lord, too *p sub.*

Both hands

p sub.

Sandpaper

178

p *cresc.* soon, ————

mf soon, ————

rit.

ff > *amb.*

too soon!

soon, ————

p *cresc.* soon, ————

to soon!

soon, ————

p *cresc.* soon, ————

soon, ————

too soon!

soon, ————

p *cresc.* soon, ————

soon, ————

too soon!

cresc.

rit.

ff *amb.*

amb.

amb.

6'20" / November 27, 2010 / Braintree Vermont

Commissioned by David and Johanna Publow for the 50th Anniversary of the Manchester Choral Society
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Program Notes

This new work is an adaptation of a traditional song, *Lord, I've Got Some Singing to Do!*

"O Lord, I've got some singing to do.
 Don't take me, Lord, too soon!"

As a celebratory expression, the music is set in swing rhythm, marked "joyfully." In this style, the chorus sings of the earth, the sun, the moon and the rain.

A middle section is inserted into this song. Starting with the familiar lyrics "Every time I feel the spirit," (with new music), the words are appropriately altered with the response, "I will sing!" And, indeed, "as long as I have joy and breath, I will sing!"

The song concludes with a final verse recognizing the musical experience shared with friends: "O Lord, we've got some singing to do!"

—Gwyneth Walker

Publisher's Notes

The full score and parts for the brass version (Catalog Nos. 7802–7803) and the full score and parts for the orchestral version (Catalog Nos. 7804–7805) are available for sale from the publisher.

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

For biographical information about the composer, please visit her Web site.

<<http://www.gwynethwalker.com>>

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