PEACE SONGS FOR CHOIR

- 10 choral selections from the musical "Twimfina" -



Words and Music by Secretary Michael

Illustrations by Jennifer Stolzer Peace Songs for Choir (10 choral selections from the musical "Twimfina") Words and Music by Secretary Michael Illustrations by Jennifer Stolzer

Original Edition

For latest updates, free downloads of the "Twimfina" musical, or to hear reference recordings of these songs, please visit: www.twimfina.com

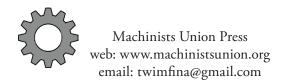
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Contents

Overview4
Nonviolence / One by One11
Animals of the Planet Earth
Live, Let Live35
The World is Our Family36
Keep Us Open, Keep Us Free40
Brick after Brick
Jeeno Casino 53
Peace Machine58
Peace to You from Language Number Two68
Come Live With Us74

Overview by Secretary Michael

I hope that these songs are fun to sing and bring your singers a sense of community and purpose. All artists need that. Choirs do important work in spreading peace. Please post your performances online to spread it even farther. Don't be mislead by the children in the illustrations. These are not "kiddie" songs. They are songs for intelligent people who understand the larger world.

The ten songs in this collection are quite different from each other because they each have a different job to do in the Twimfina musical. But unconventional as they might be, none of the songs are difficult to sing. Being a choir person myself with a limited vocal range, I always make sure of that. The following notes and background information about each song might be useful.

Nonviolence / One by One (Page 11)



The above illustration shows Twimfina teaching her students how to "disgunsemble" a handgun, after which they will all scatter the little pieces so that they can never again be found and reassembled. During this scene, Twimfina teaches them to sing these two songs. They are "piggyback" songs. The songs can be sung separately, or on top of each other.

The guitar accompaniment is just a suggestion. If a different chord voicing or pattern sounds better, then follow your better judgement.

There are three "singings" that happen. The first group sings the "Nonviolence Takes a Long, Long Time" song. Then the second group sings the "One by One, Destroy Each Gun" song. Finally they both sing their songs at the same time.

These songs are for mixed voices, so please sing in whatever octave is most comfortable.

Animals of the Planet Earth (Page 14)



"We are the animals of the planet earth." When choir directors see the bizarre score to this song, they probably just skip it. Maybe I would too. To my knowledge it has never been performed. But I am absolutely sure that it is doable - and joyfully doable. Different groups of singers will have to learn different animal sounds, but that's not an impossible task. Clear instructions for each animal sound are given in the score.

As shown in the illustration above, Twimfina sought shelter in a barn on her long journey to Enemia. It was the night before she finally reached the Enemian border. Here you can see all the animals that joined her in song - even the buzzing bees. (Thank you, Jennifer Stolzer, for putting such detail into your illustrations.) By the way, the buzzing bees are no longer in the score. I don't remember removing them, but somehow they've managed to fly away.

I've included a piano rendition of the song. Although it wasn't written as an accompaniment, it could serve that purpose if you feel it adds to the festivity and doesn't hide any animal sounds.

Live, Let Live (Page 35)

I love this gentle little "machine" of a song (in fact I'm writing an entire book of such mechanical songs). In the musical, the Teachers' Commune (in St. Louis) sang this peaceful song before eating lunch. But it was a peace before a storm because moments later they would learn that Twimfina had run off to be with her pen-pal boyfriend in Enemia.

It is written in 3-part harmony for Upper, Middle, and Lower voices. If the tenors sing the middle voice with the altos, they should read the notes as if they were written in tenor clef and sing in that comfortable range. This slow song just floats in the air.

The World is Our Family (Page 36)



When Twimfina crosses the border into Enemia, she sings "The World Is My Family, I'm Not Afraid" (the acronym spells "Twimfina"). It's the title song of the musical, and so I certainly wanted to include it into this collection of "Peace Songs for Choir". Although it's a peace song (as is just about every song I've ever written in my life), it's not a choral song. So I arranged it for SATB and renamed it "The World is Our Family". Even though the song now has the unpronounceable acronym "Twiofwna", it still rejoices in an important idea worth singing about.

Keep Us Open, Keep Us Free (Page 40)

Like the earlier "Live, Let Live", this is a simple, peaceful little "machine". It is written in 3-part harmony. As before, if the tenors share the middle voice with the altos, they should read the notes as if they were written in tenor clef and sing in that comfortable range.

This song is sung twice in the musical. Early in the play, Twimfina sings it with her parents. Later in the play she sings it with her new family, Guru and Ace.

Brick after Brick (Page 43)



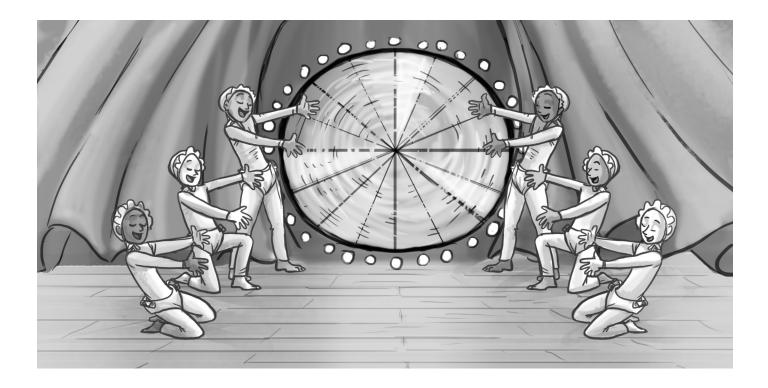
This song occurs early in the musical (Segment 3). It is operatic in the sense that there is no dialogue during the scene - only singing. Guru has just graduated from a teaching program, but he feels defeated because the area's only school did not want to hire him. Guru, who is wheelchair-bound, feels that no more doors are open to him.

Meanwhile, Guru's ever-supportive father (Baba) has begun to dig a foundation around their garden. He is going to build his son a school of his own: "Garden School". Guru thinks this is a ridiculous idea. But as he watches from a distance and sees his father working so hard, and sees other teachers and townspeople coming to help, he begins to realize that this hair-brained idea might actually work.

This song calls for two soloists (Baba and Guru), plus a group of male teachers (divided into tenor and bass), plus a group of women factory workers (divided into soprano and alto). The music is in 3-part harmony, so after the women factory workers arrive, the altos should join the tenors on the middle voice (each singing in their own comfortable octaves).

I've added a piano accompaniment (page 50) that can be used for rehearsals and even for performances if you feel that it helps move things along. The appearance of this 3-page condensed accompaniment will be off-putting at first. It's a type of shorthand. Boxed letters represent entire passages that need to be played. If you make photocopies of the 3 pages and then tape them together, you'll be able to avoid endless page turns.

Jeeno Casino (Page 53)



"Sheer luck determines who we turn out to be". That's the theme that underlies almost everything that I write about. The Jeeno Casino ("jeen" meaning "gene") puts this idea front and center. The song emphasizes that those of us who are "more lucky" have a duty to protect those of us who are "less lucky".

The Jeeno Casino song has three verses, each followed by a refrain. The verses are circus-like and are in 2-part harmony. The refrain is slower, deeper, richer and in 3-part harmony.

As the above illustration from the musical shows, this song is sung by the Jeeno Casino staff, dressed as babies. During each refrain, a large "Wheel of Fortune" spins on the wall behind them.

Peace Machine (Page 58)



Like "Animals of the Planet Earth", the "Peace Machine" has lots of moving parts. Although it is written in 6-part harmony and sung in 10 different languages, it is quite easy. And since it is so mechanically constructed, we are calling it the "Peace Machine" instead of "One World, One Song" (as it is titled in the Twimfina musical).

The illustration above shows Twimfina singing this song with an international group of students at the San Francisco Youth Hostel. But she'll only be there a short time because that night she is to meet somebody down at the Port of San Francisco as she continues her long journey to Enemia.

Peace to You from Language Number Two (Page 68)



This song celebrates bilingualism and the importance of language.

In the musical, this song is sung on a split stage. On one half of the stage, Baba is teaching the Enemian language in a modern St. Louis high school (Mendel Science High). On the other half of the stage, Twimfina is teaching English in a poor Enemian school with a dirt floor. Though thousands of miles apart, both teachers are teaching the same lesson at the same time. The students are asking the same questions at the same time. And at the end they're all singing the same song at the same time.

"Peace to You from Language Number Two" is sung in 2-part harmony. The younger Enemian students sing the upper voice while the older St. Louis students sing the lower voice.

Come Live With Us (Page 74)

This final song is very short (only two pages), but it's sung very slowly in rich 4-part harmony.

In the musical, this song is sung acapella at the end of the show after everything is over - even after the curtain calls. Everybody involved in the production (including the ushers, stage hands, pianist, janitors - everybody) climbs on stage and sings it by memory with one outstretched arm. When the song is over there is silence. The stage goes black, the house lights are turned on, and everybody goes home.

NOTE: Men should sing in comfortable lower octave (as if written in tenor clef). In the musical, Twimfina teaches this song to her young students as they "disgunsemble" an old gun that Twimfina had purchased from Walter.

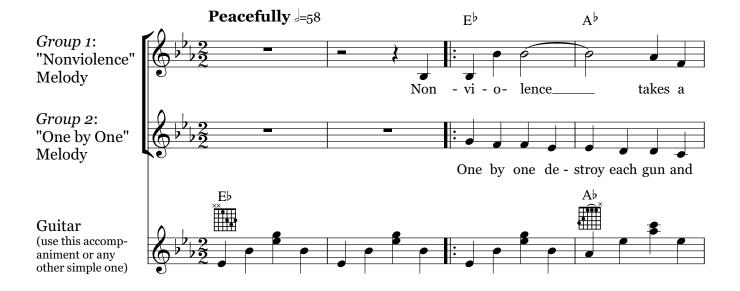
Nonviolence / One by One

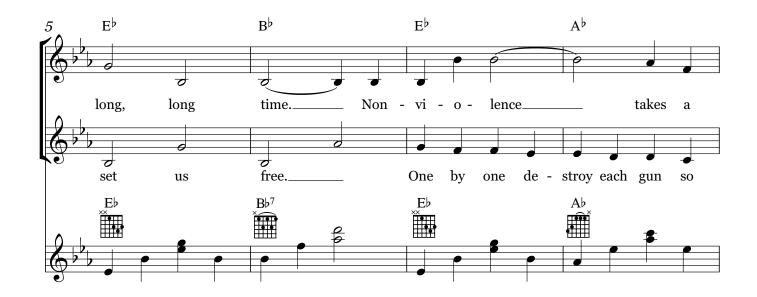
(For 2 Groups of Mixed Voices with Guitar Accompaniment)

Secretary Michael

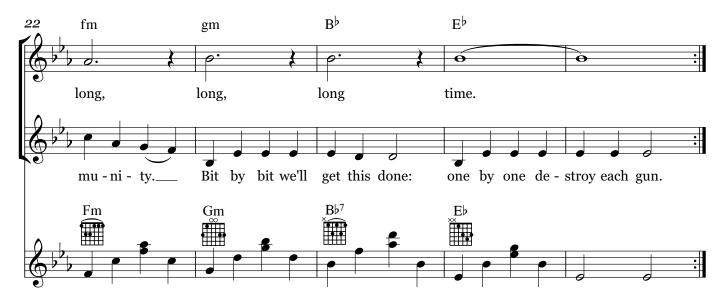
MAP:

- 1. Group 1 sings "Nonviolence" melody alone;
- 2. Then Group 2 sings "One by One" melody alone;
- 3. Finally, both groups sing their melodies simultaneously;









Sung 3 times: once by Group 1, once by Group 2, then once by both groups together

Animals of the Planet Earth

(For an animal choir, from the musical "Twimfina")

Secretary Michael

Voices:



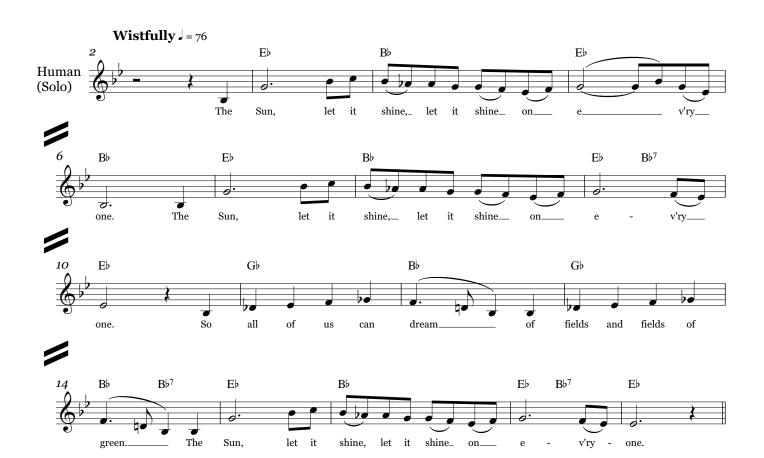
This song comes from the musical "Twimfina", a story about a young woman who runs off to be with her pen-pal boyfriend in Enemia, an embargoed, outlawed country. Traveling on foot, Twimfina is a day away from reaching Enemia's border. A bit delirious after eating some moldy rye bread, she has to spend a stormy night in a barn. There are animals asleep in the barn, and they're a bit grumpy when she disturbs them. Here is the dialogue that may be used to introduce the music as Twimfina enters the barn with her backpack:

Twimfina: "Hello animals!" (a sheep replies with an unenthusiastic bleat, as if saying "whatever")
"I hope you don't mind me staying in here with you tonight." (a cow has the same unenthusiastic response)
"I may have to stay here tomorrow night too if I can't get across their "border". (a hen gives an "oh, really?" cackle)
"Yea. Silly borders." (a pig and donkey give a short chuckle)
"By the way, my name's Twimfina. What're yours?"

The animals answer as Twimfina translates into English (Quack-Quack) "Duck?"
(Snort-Snort) "Pig?"
(Brawk-Brawk) "Hen?"
(Chirp-Chirp) "Bird?"
(Baaa) "Sheep?"
(Hee-Haw) "Donkey?"
(Peep-Peep-Peep) "Chick?"
(Moo) "Cow?"

"I'm happy to meet all of you." [clap of thunder is heard] "Wow, what a dreary night. But at least we're all still alive." (sheep and cow agree in depressed resignation).

Twimfina begins to sing amidst the melancholy:









S₁



























Animals of the Planet Earth

(instrumental backup to use if needed)



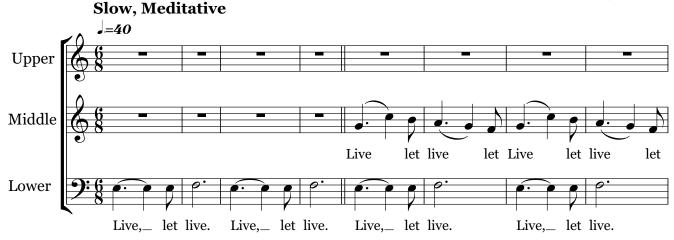


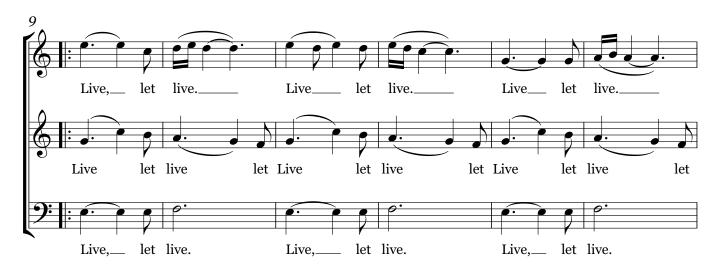


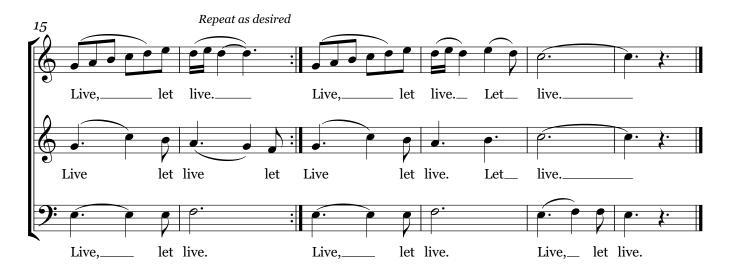
Live, Let Live

(From the musical "Twimfina")

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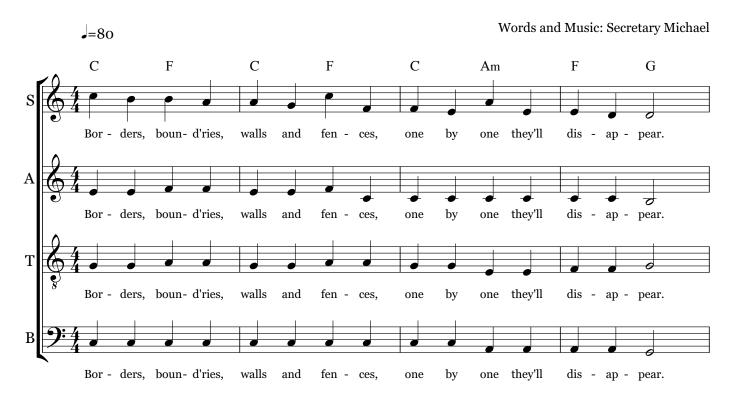


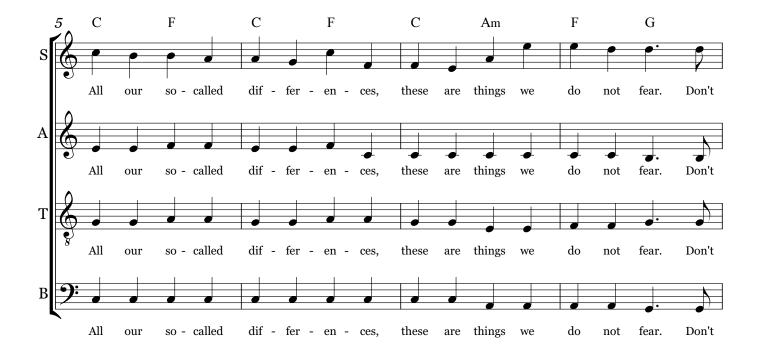


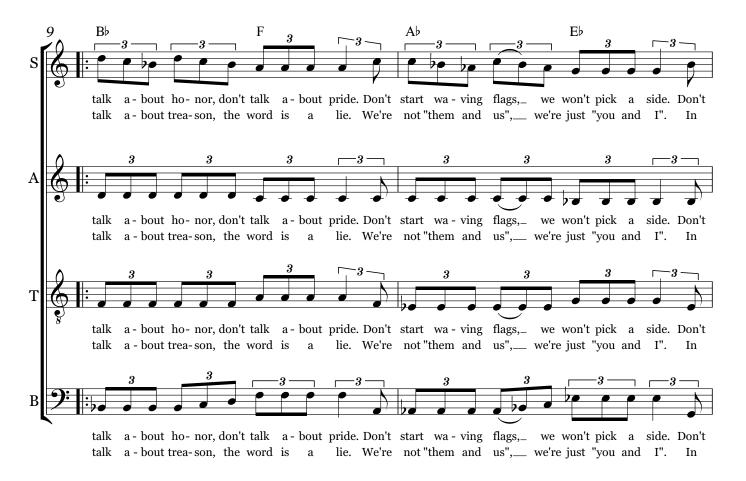


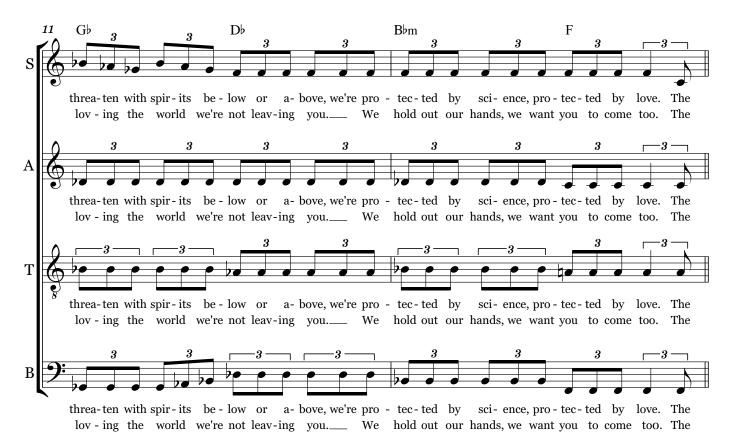
The World is Our Family

(Song from the musical "Twimfina", arranged for SATB)



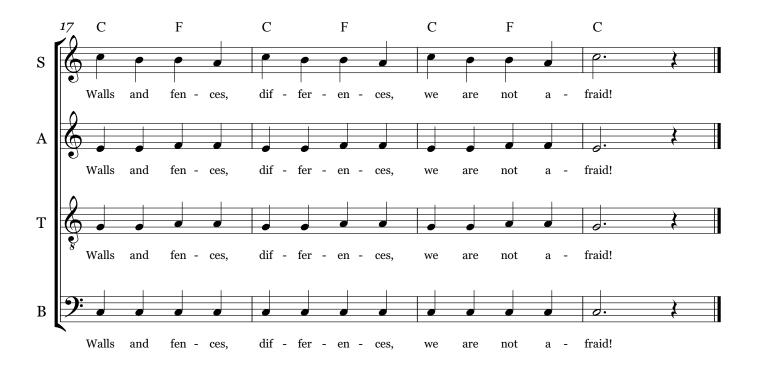






REFRAIN





NOTE: Early in the musical, this song is sung by Twimfina with her parents; later it is sung by Twimfina with Guru and Ace. Chorally, if the tenors are sharing the middle voice with the altos, they should read as if in tenor clef.

Keep Us Open



Keep the world our

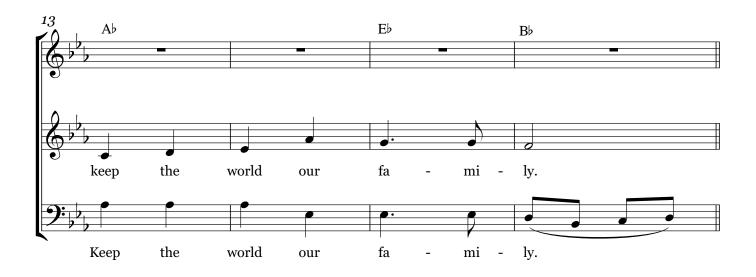
fa - mi - ly.

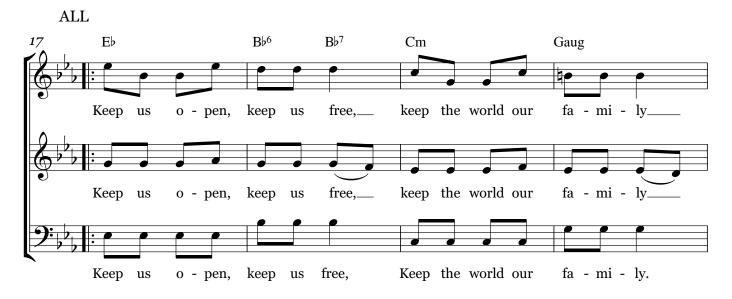
free,

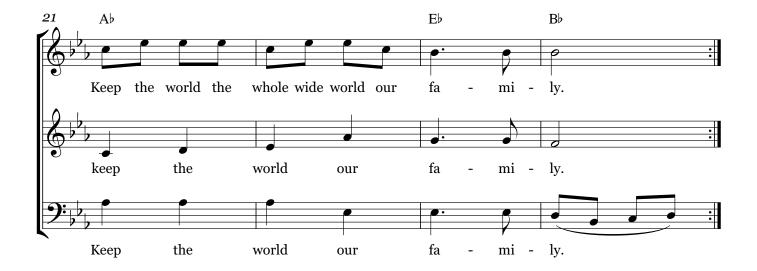
Keep us

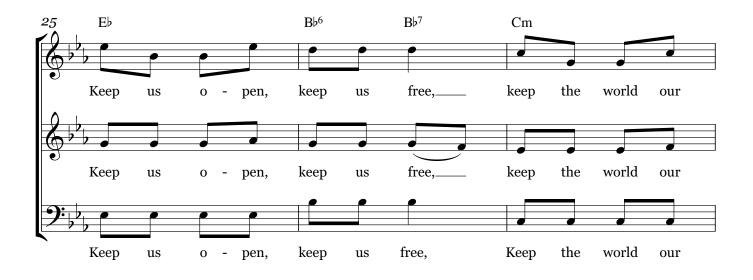
o - pen,

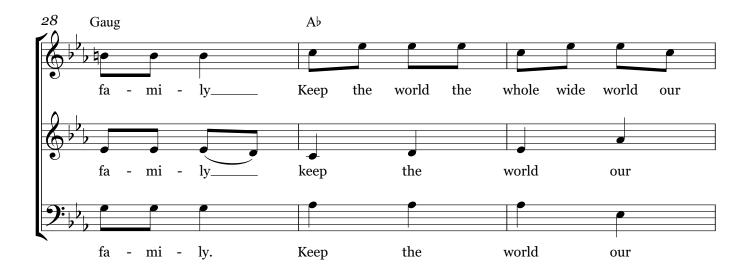
keep

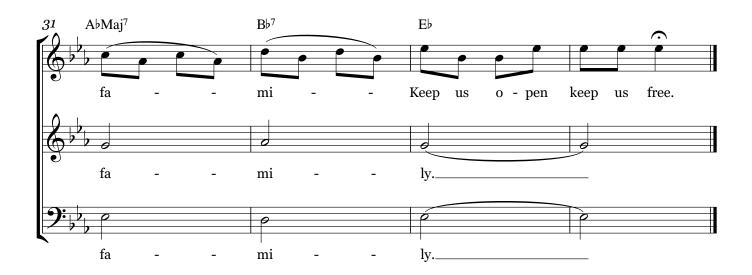












Note:

This song calls for two soloists (Baba and Guru), plus a group of male teachers (divided into tenor and bass), plus a group of women factory workers (divided into soprano and alto). The music is in 3-part harmony, so after the women factory workers arrive, the altos should join the tenors on the middle voice (each singing in their own comfortable octaves).

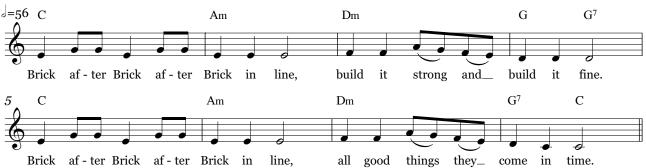
This opera-like scene has no words, only singing. It happens early in the play, before Twimfina arrives. Guru had been refused a teaching position at the only school and felt defeated. His father Baba grabbed a shovel and started building Guru his own school over their garden plot. Guru initially thought this was a ridiculous idea. But as he sat in his wheelchair and watched his father working so hard, and then saw other teachers and townspeople come to help, he began to have hope.

Brick after Brick

(From the musical "Twimfina")

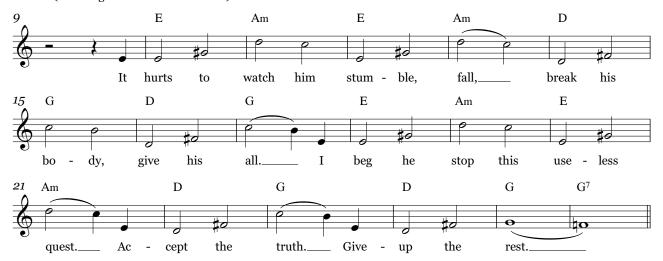
Secretary Michael

BABA (Guru's father), cheerfully sings while laying bricks:

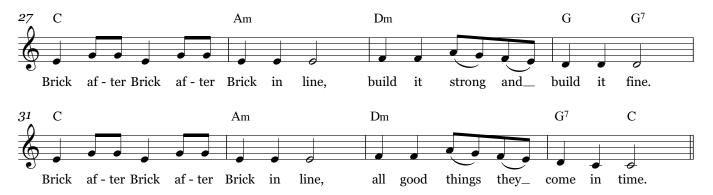


(in the musical, Baba slips and a load of bricks crashes to the ground; there's no need to replicate this event in a choral concert)

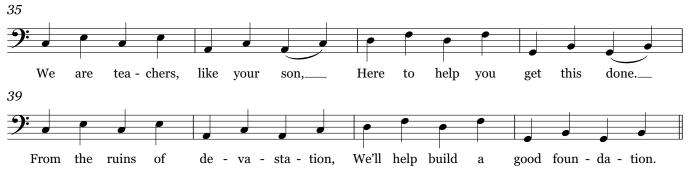
GURU (watching from afar in wheelchair):

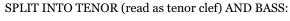


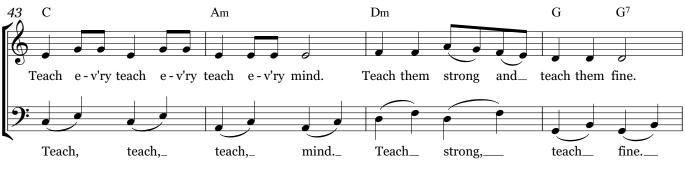
BABA RESUMES:

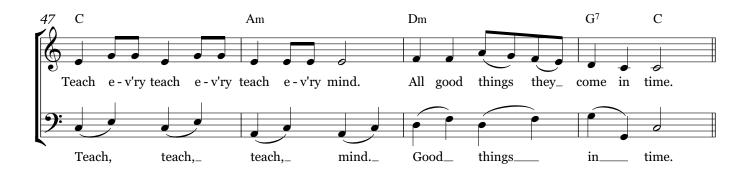


GROUP OF MALE TEACHERS ARRIVE:



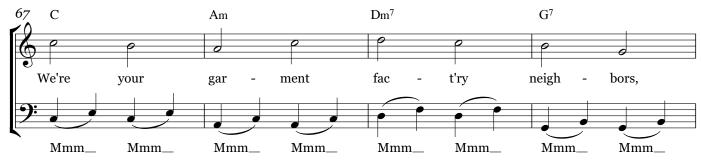




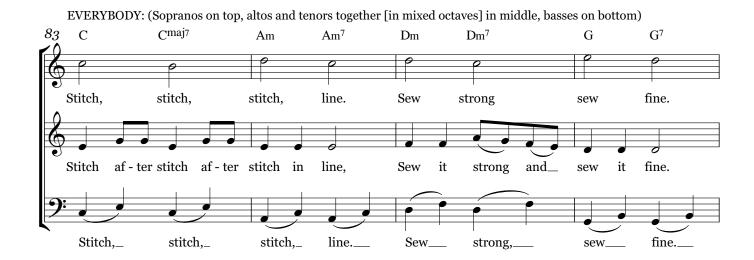




GROUP OF WOMEN GARMENT FACTORY WORKERS ARRIVE; MEN TEACHERS HUM SUPPORTIVE BASSLINE:







fine.__

sew___



Stitch,_

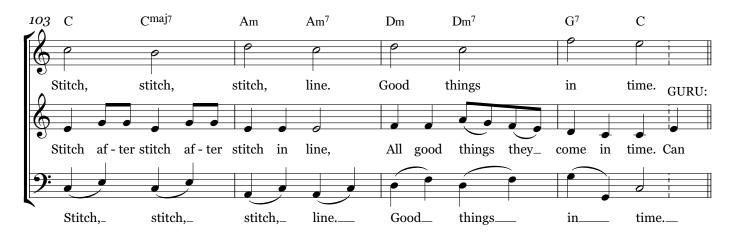
stitch,_

stitch,_

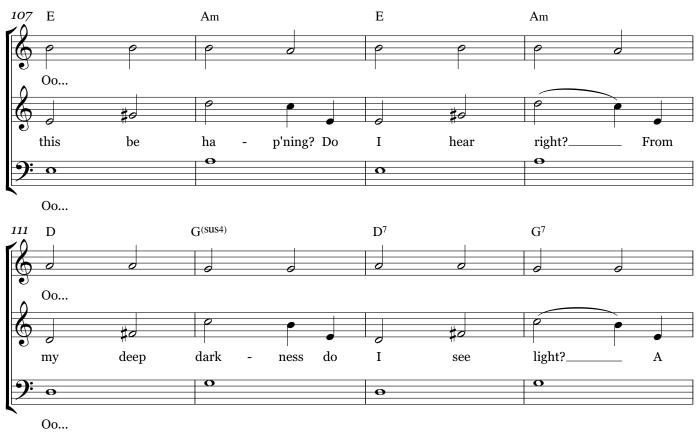
line.___

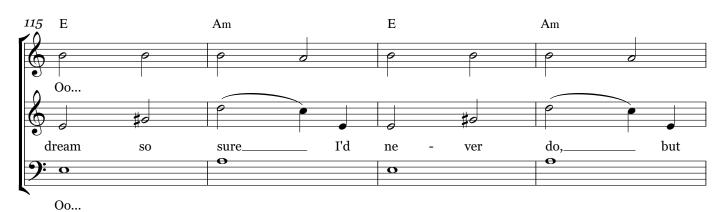
Sew___

strong,___



GURU SINGS MIDDLE VOICE ALONE WHILE OTHERS VOCALIZE SUPPORTIVELY:





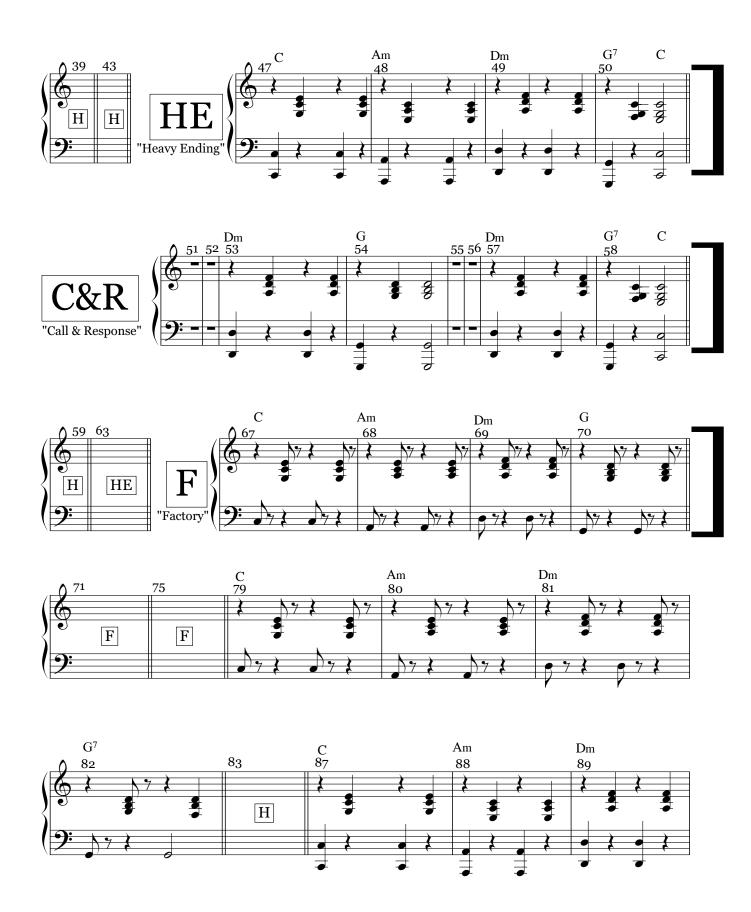


Brick after Brick

(Optional/Rehearsal Piano - Condensed)

Secretary Michael







NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS:

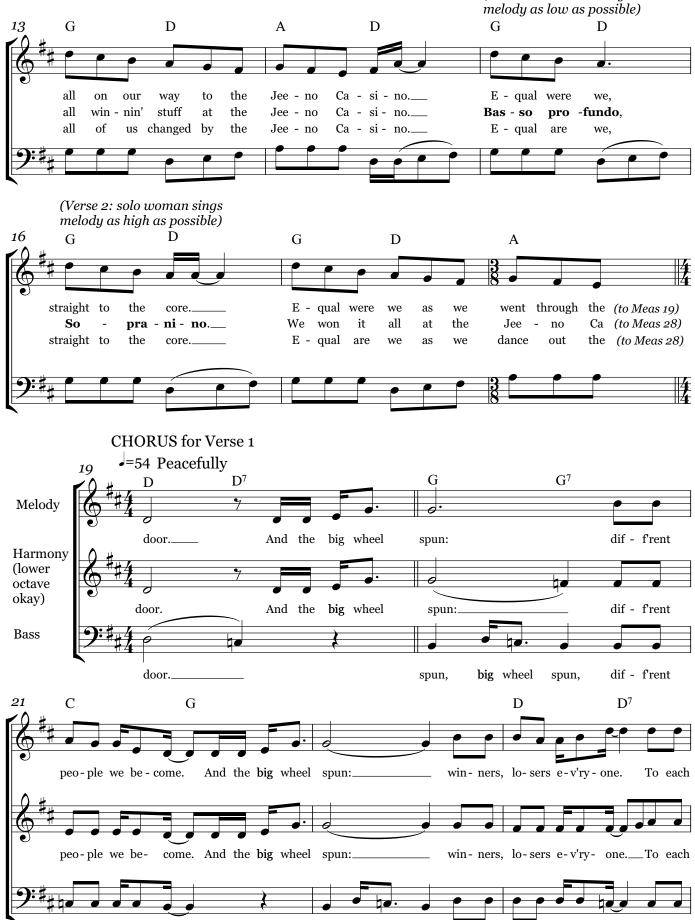
- tape together photocopies of all 3 pages to avoid page turns;
- a large boxed letter signifies the beginning of a section;
- a large closing bracket signifies the end of a section;
- a small boxed letter identifies the section that is to be played;
- Meas. 9 (Baba slips and bricks fall) can be skipped for choral concert
- Measure numbers correspond to the vocal score;
- Song is meant to be acappella, so don't use piano in performance unless it sounds better;

NOTE: In the musical, this 3-part harmony song is sung by the casino's staff, dressed as babies. During the refrain, a large "Wheel of Fortune" spins on the wall behind them. The verses have a light circuslike flavor to them, but the refrain is slower and serious.



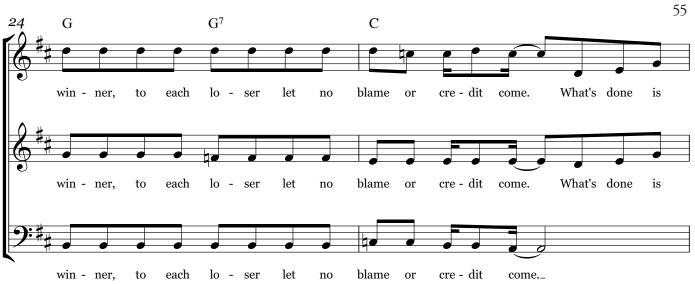
peo-ple we be-

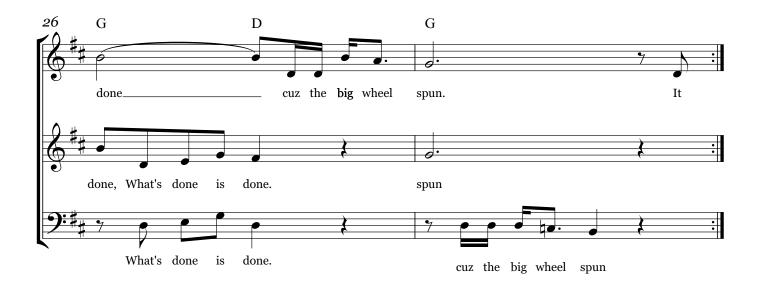
come.

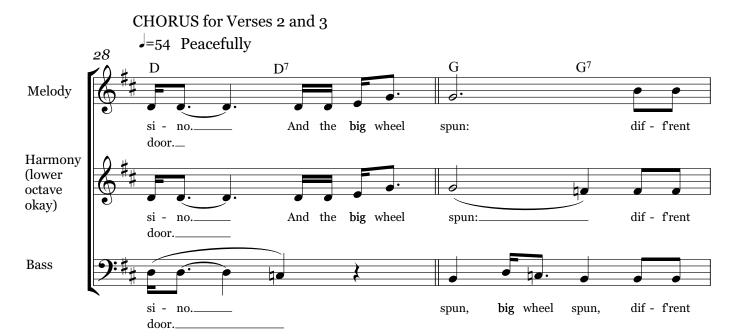


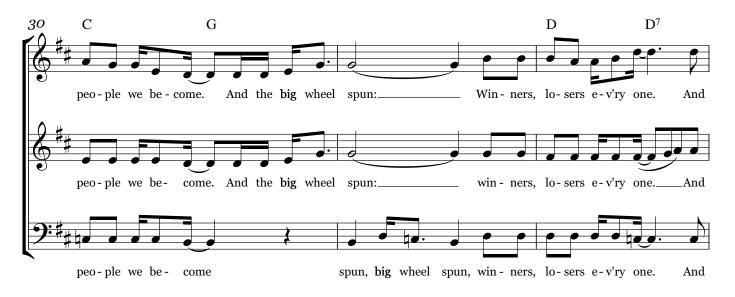
spun, big wheel spun, win-ners, lo-sers e-v'ry- one.

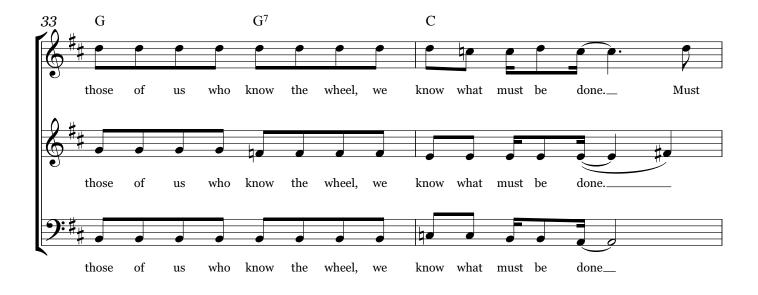
To each

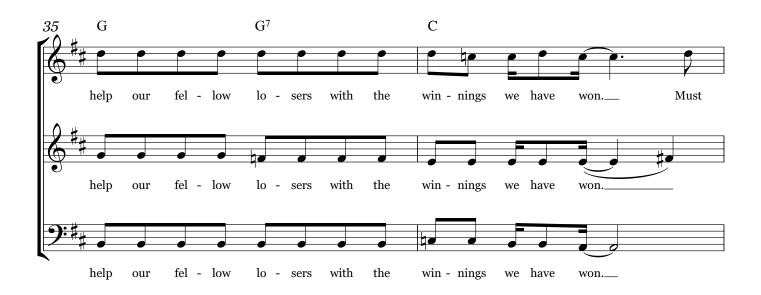


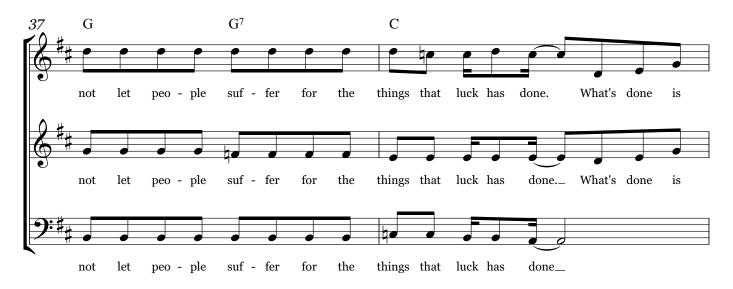


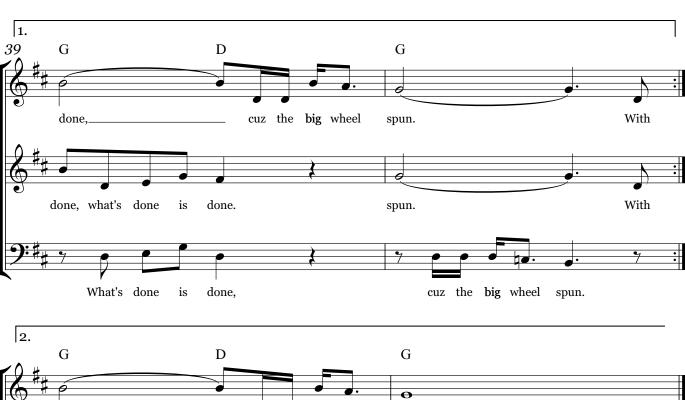


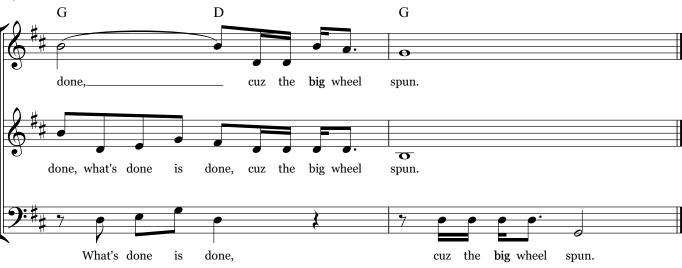








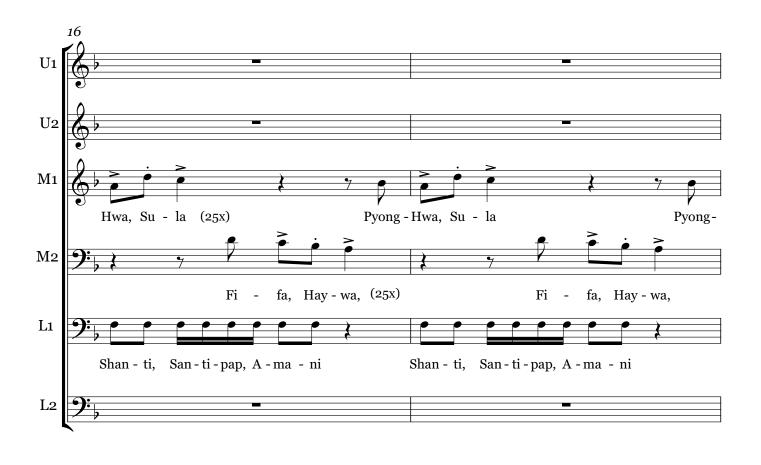


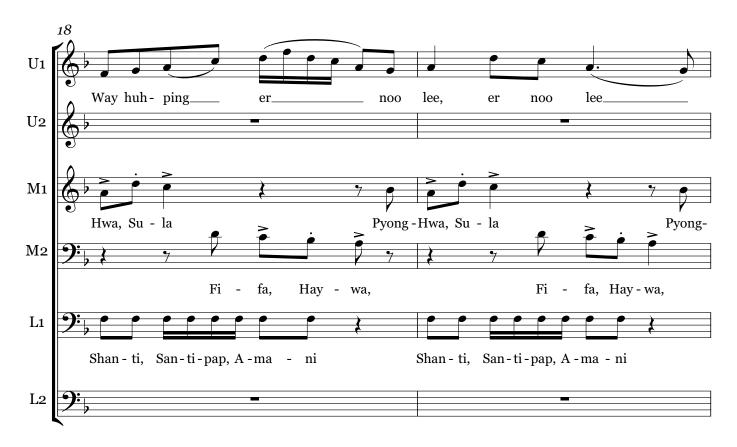


Peace Machine



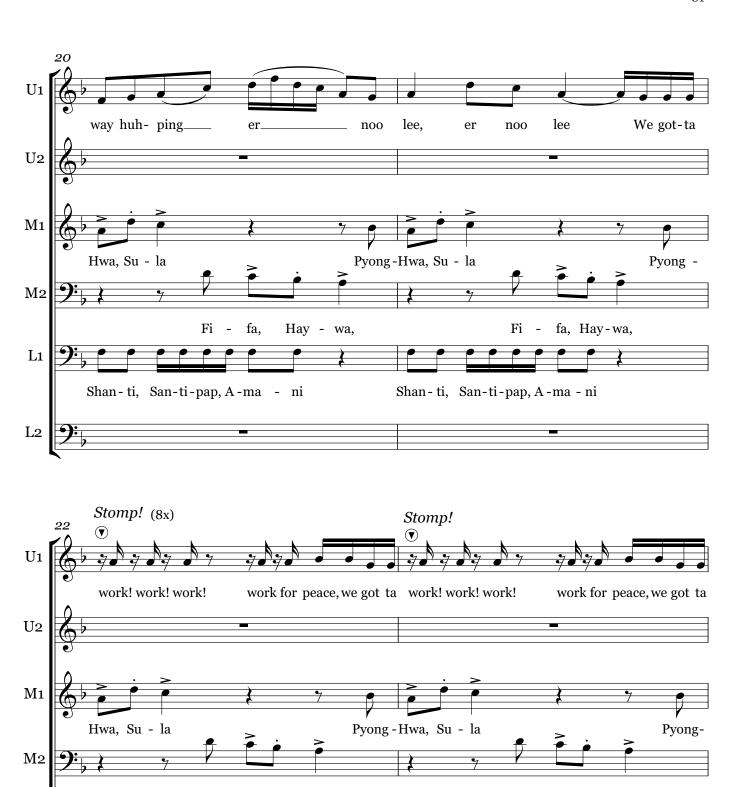






Fi - fa, Hay - wa,

Shan - ti, San-ti-pap, A-ma - ni



Fi -

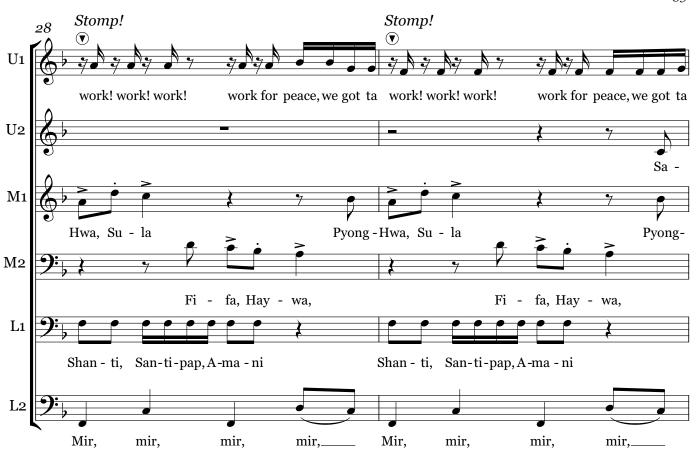
Shan - ti, San-ti-pap, A-ma - ni

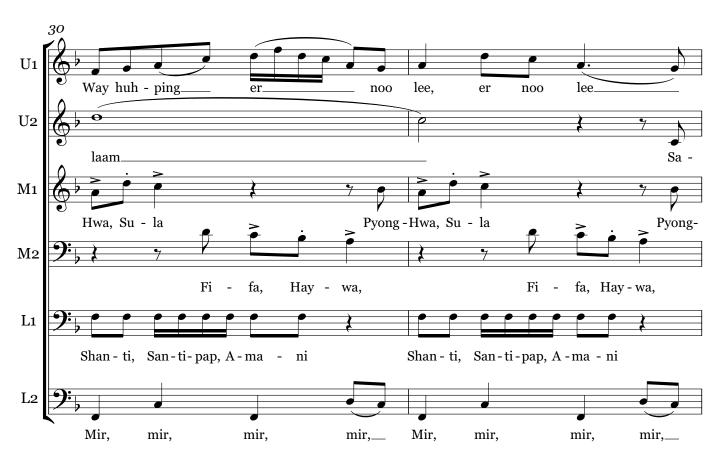
L1

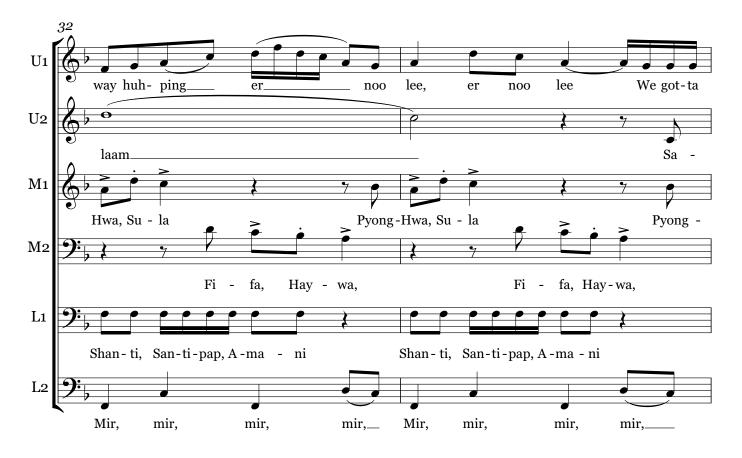
L2

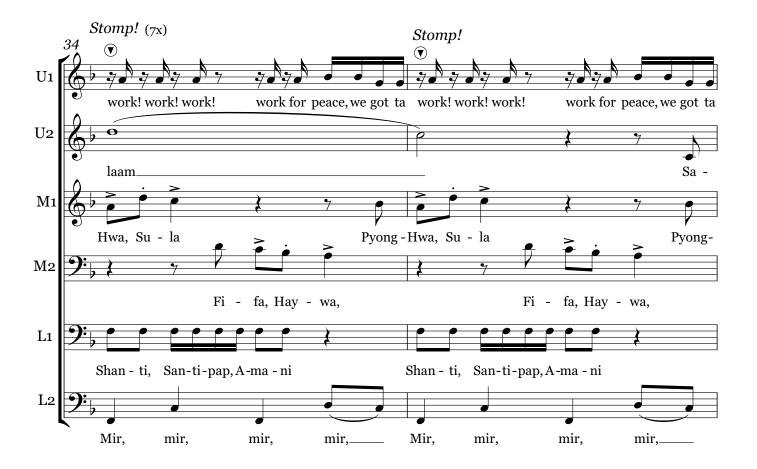
fa, Hay - wa,

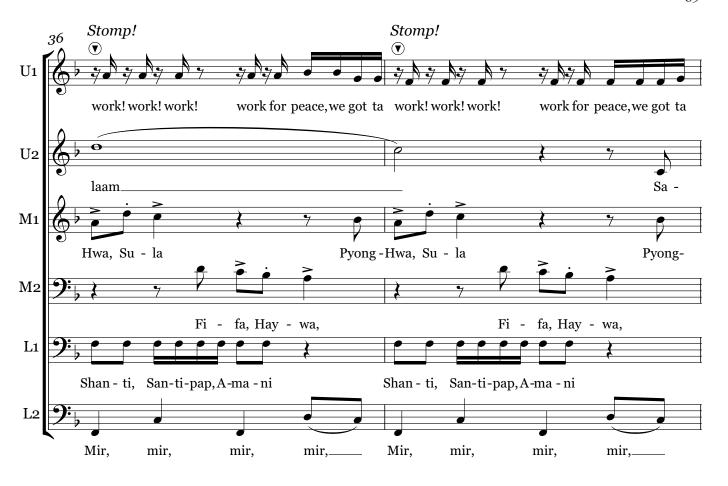


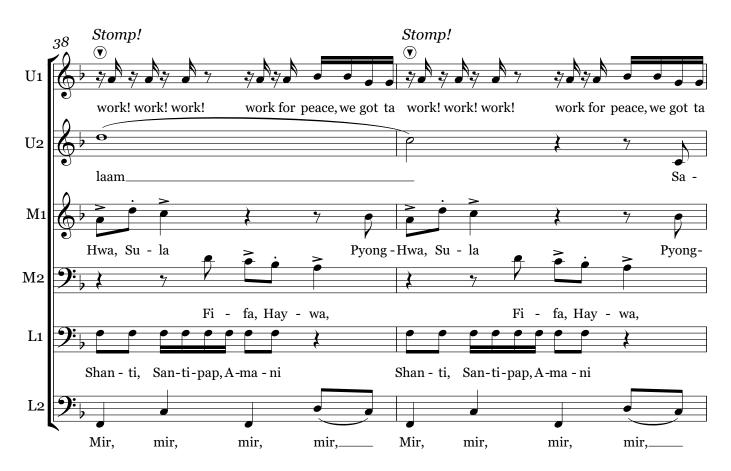
















The word 'PEACE' in different languages:

SHANTI (*Hindi*): India, Nepal, Bangladesh SANTIPAP (*Thai and Lao*): Thailand, Laos AMANI (*Swahili*): Tanzania, Kenya, Congo

PYONG-HWA (Korean): Korea

SULA (Persian and Pashto): Iran, Afghanistan

FIFA (Fon): Benin

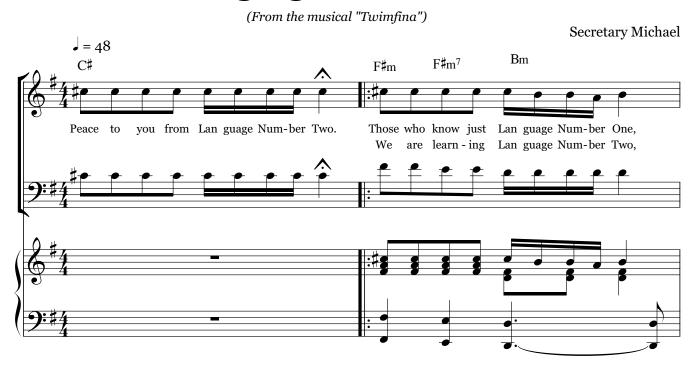
HEI-WA (*Japanese*): Japan MEER (*Russian*): Russia

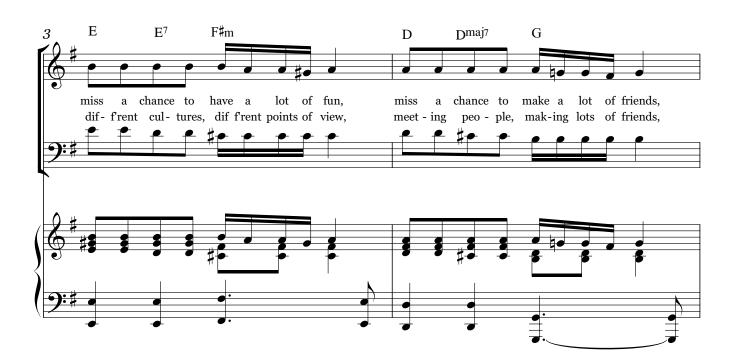
SALAAM (Arabic): Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Somalia, Syria, many others

HUH-PING (Mandarin): China ["WAY HUH-PING ER NOO LEE" = "Working hard for peace"]

NOTE: In the musical, this song is sung by two groups of students on a split stage (hence the 2-part harmony). The younger middle-school class (led by Twimfina) is singing from the country of Enemia. The older high school class (led by Baba) is singing from St. Louis. The song celebrates bilingualism.

Peace To You From Language Number Two



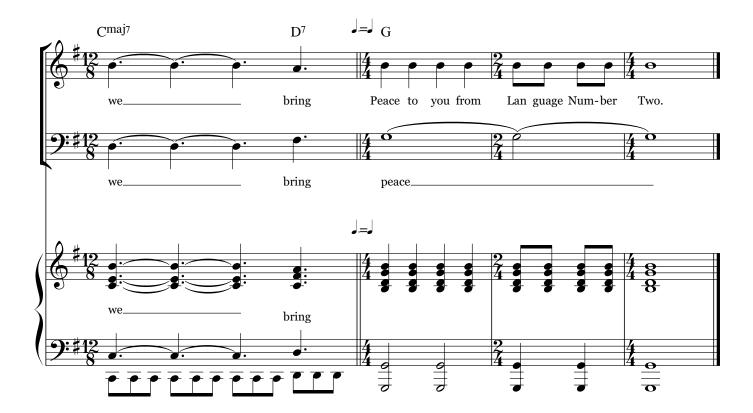












Note: in the musical, this song is sung acapella and very slowly after everything is over (even the curtain calls). It is sung with one outstretched hand by everybody involved in the production (including the stage hands and janitors). Afterwards all is quiet as the stage goes black and the house lights are turned on.

Come Live With Us





PERFORMANCE NOTE:

This is not one continuous legato piece, but rather a collection of phrases; feel free to breathe and even pause between phrases (separated by "commas").



"That's all, folks!"

- Twimfina Cast

Recent Works by Secretary Michael

Jo Puma - Wild Choir Music

Collection of 36 traditional "Sacred Harp" arrangements with new secular lyrics for our diverse society. This collection has removed the 3 barriers that have kept this music out of our schools: inappropriate lyrics, poor shape-note legibility, and nonstandard use of standard solfege names. Now we all have a chance to experience this exciting early American music. (Book available; free download not yet available)

Secular Hymnal

Collection of 144 favorite hymn tunes from around the world. The hymn tunes have been re-notated and given thoughtful egalitarian lyrics that promote peace. Many public schools use them for choral sight-reading practice. Available in both unison/guitar and SATB choir editions. Now we all have a chance to share in these musical treasures. (Books available; free downloads available;)

Twimfina

A peace-themed musical play for singing groups of all ages. The story is about a young woman named "Twimfina" (an acronym for "The World Is My Family, I'm Not Afraid") who runs off to a hostile country. It is scored for voice and piano. The play is divided into 21 segments, many of which can stand alone. This allows an acting group to perform individual segments instead of the entire 2.5 hour play. (Book available; free download available;)

Choral Dialectics

A "choral dialectic" is a 4-movement choral work (with or without instruments) in which a rational argument is battled-out musically. There's only one rule: every choral dialectic must use the following four titles for its four movements: "Credo" - "One Hand" - "Other Hand" - "Go and Do"

Secretary Michael has begun working on a series of 6 choral dialectics, some of which are available now; the rest will become available as they are completed in future years.

Aren't We the Lucky Ones

A book-length story about a group of college science students who share an understanding that people don't truly have a free will. There are no "good people" or "bad people", just lucky and unlucky ones. This insight carries with it the responsibility to protect the "unlucky" from the wrath of the "lucky". The students form a community in order to live out their ideals. (Book available - both paperback and digital).

Joy of Piggyback Songs

Dozens of fun, short choral works in which more than one melody is sung at the same time. Book (and free internet download) will become available after it is completed.

"Please help create public choirs that are free from religious and nationalistic content so that all singers feel welcome."