

VOICE
for LIFE

SONGBOOK
SAMPLE BOOKLET

RS  M

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How to use the *Voice for Life* Songbook

The *Voice for Life* Songbook has been compiled in line with the *Voice for Life* philosophy, to give singers the opportunity to:

- enjoy using their voices
- learn to use their voices well
- experience a range of musical styles
- sing both accompanied and a cappella
- develop their musical skills and understanding

The Songbook contains a range of material compiled with young people and singers at beginner and intermediate levels in mind. With traditional church music, gospel and jazz, and songs from around the world, this volume will appeal to singers of all ages, and provide your choir with the opportunity to explore a range of musical styles.

The majority of songs in this collection can be sung by everyone, and are designed to help you develop the confidence of your singers as you progress through the book:

Warm-up songs, rounds and canons

These are short songs which are ideal for use at the start of a rehearsal as part of a warm-up. Some are 'call and response' songs, others are short action songs or rounds which include optional ostinato parts. You will find that most of these songs can be taught by rote without using the music.

Unison songs

A selection of songs for unison voices, some of which are written in a simple verse-chorus structure, and others are more developed.

Unison with descant

The majority of songs in this section have been designed to be flexible, so the descant is often optional, depending on the capability of your choir and the resources available to you.

Two parts and more

The songs in this section range from short songs with ostinato accompaniment to help develop part-singing (up to four parts), to longer songs and anthems.

The vocal parts in this Songbook are photocopyable so you can provide the singers in your choir with the music. (This permission to photocopy applies only to the purchaser's own choir or group. Any pages which may be photocopied are clearly marked 'You may photocopy this page' at the bottom of the relevant pages). Do not feel that your singers must always use the music though: they will have a far greater freedom of movement, will have a greater sense of ensemble and will be able to watch you conducting more closely if they can also learn to sing from memory.

A demonstration of each song is included on the accompanying CD. This is intended for those who would like guidance on how a particular song should sound, and also for those who are not confident at reading music, so they can listen to their part and learn it. There is an additional CD available from RSCM Music Direct which contains piano accompaniments of each song in the book for you to use in rehearsals if you do not have a pianist.

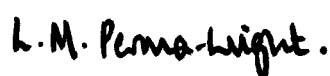
The training notes which accompany each piece provide ideas about how you might introduce the song to your singers in rehearsals, ideas for a creative performance, and how you can use the song to develop your singers' voices and musical understanding. Less experienced choir trainers may like to follow the training notes in detail, whereas those who are more experienced may prefer to simply dip into the notes for ideas.

To help you in the task of developing your singers' voices as well as their musical skills and understanding, the *Voice for Life Singer's Workbooks* and *Choir Trainer's Book* are a useful backup resource. These contain a variety of teaching aids such as theory games and exercises, photocopyable worksheets, vocal exercises, and plenty of guidance about how to introduce each new concept or idea to your singers as well as practical advice on running your choir.

We hope you enjoy singing the repertoire in this book as you rehearse, perform and develop your singers' confidence and musical skills.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Esther Jones
Co-Director of *Voice for Life*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L.M. Perona-Wright', with a period at the end.

Leah Perona-Wright
Co-Director of *Voice for Life*

I. Amen, say Amen

Music: Ken Burton

Fast jazz feel

VOICE

PIANO

F7 LEADER **B^b7 GROUP** **F7 LEADER** **GROUP**

*Clap your hands (†Clap your hands) Clap your hands (Clap your hands)

* the group leader can choose any action † the group sings and does the action

3 **B^b LEADER** **Bdim GROUP** **F LEADER** **D7 GROUP** **LEADER**

Clap your hands (Clap your hands) Clap your hands (Clap your hands) and

5 **G7** **C¹¹** **F7** **B^b** **Bdim** **F** **F** **B^b** **Bdim** **F**

ev' - ry - one say 'A-men!' **EVERYBODY** A - MEN! A - MEN!

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) features a voice part with lyrics and piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the voice and piano parts. The third system (measures 9-12) includes the lyrics 'ev' - ry - one say 'A-men!' and 'EVERYBODY A - MEN! A - MEN!'. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and a steady bass line. Performance instructions include 'Fast jazz feel' and specific actions for the leader and group.

2. Hallelu, hallelu

Music: Traditional
arranged by Esther Jones

Lively $\text{♩} = 100$

VOICE

PIANO

Hal - le

5

1.

lu, hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu - jah, Praise ye the Lord. Hal - le -

1.

8

2.

Lord. Praise ye the Lord, hal - le - lu - jah, Praise ye the

2.

12

Lord, hal - le - lu - jah, Praise ye the Lord, hal - le - lu - jah, Praise ye the Lord.

13. Sing with me

Words & music: Ken Burton

Strong, gospel feel

VOICE 1
Sing a — song of love, sing a song of peace. Let the

VOICE 2
I can hear you and me

VOICE 3
(may be sung an octave lower)
Ev-ery-bo-dy, join the new song! Let it re-sound and ring!

PIANO

4

song ring on, and ha - tred cease! With your heart and voice, set your

sing to - ge - ther in har - mo - ny. Sing - - ing loud,

Ev-ery bo-dy, join the new song, let the whole world sing! E-cho-ing o'er hills and val-leys,

15. Now thank we all our God

Words: Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)
translated Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Music: Joanna Marsh

Lively

PIANO *f*

4 VOICE 1 *f* Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voi - ces, VOICE 2 *f* who

7 *mp* who from our mo ther's arms has blessed
won drous things has done, in whom the world re - joi - ces;

10 *mp* us on our way
with count less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.

26. Unfinished story

Words & music: Philip Godfrey

Allegro moderato **TUTTI *mf***

VOICES

PIANO (or ORGAN) *mf legato*

It was a

5 night in De-cem-ber, cold De-cem-ber when a light came in-to our world; a

9 light sent from up a - bove us. one night Beth - le-hem be-held. But is that

13 night in De-cem-ber all we re-mem-ber of the light hea - ven chose to send? An

29. For Mary, Mother of our Lord

Words: J R Peacey

Music: Simon Lole

Andante

VOICE S *mp*
For Ma - ry, Mo - ther

KEYBOARD *mp*

7 *mf*
of our Lord, God's ho - ly name be prais'd; who first the

13 *mf*
Son of God a - dor'd, as on her

17 *mp*
child she gazed.

37. This little light of mine

Words & music: Spiritual
arranged Robert Isaacs

VOICE 2

Light shine! — Let it shine! — Light

6 shine! — Let it shine! — Light shine! —

11 Let it shine, — shine, shine, shine! —

17 VOICE 1
This lit-tle light of mine, — I'm gon-na let it shine. This lit-tle light of mine,
VOICE 2
Light shine! — Let it shine! — Light

22 I'm gon-na let it shine, This lit-tle light of mine, —
shine! — Let it shine! — Light shine! —

27 I'm gon na let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!
Let it shine, — shine, shine, shine, shine! —

33 SOLO
1. Hide it un - der a bush el? Hide it un - der a
TUTTI
NO! I'm gon-na let it shine!

38 bush -el? Hide it un - der a bush -el? No, I'd
No, I'm gon-na let it shine!