The Comfort Of Voices Songbook



This songbook is to be used freely and shared widely. It was born out of the Comfort Of Voices 2022 gathering of choir and song leaders who provide choir and singing leadership for the benefit of Scottish communities. This free resource forms part of an ongoing practical response to the challenges we face as individual song leaders, and we hope it helps meet some of our collective development needs.

Thank you to the songbook's generous contributors who are song leading practitioners, songwriters or composers living and working in Scotland, and all of whom have generously gifted their work, knowledge and skills.

The songs are gathered into four groups:

- 1. Canons and rounds
- 2.Cyclical songs
- 3. Songs not in English
- 4.Longer form songs

It has been curated and edited by some of Scotland's most highly regarded singing and choir practitioners: Ali Burns, Katy Lavinia Cooper and Stephen Deazley.

The songs and songbook are shareable under Creative Commons license: CC BY-NC-SA 4.0: Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International. This license requires that users give credit to the creator. It allows users to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, for non-commercial purposes only. If others modify or adapt the material, they must license the modified material under identical terms.

sing.lovemusic.org.uk

Love Singing is a community engagement initiative by **Love Music** Promoting & supporting creative, healthy singing communities





LOTTERY FUNDED

Contents

Canons and rounds

I Believe That One Fine Day This Room And This Singing Whistle O The Wren February, September, May Rounds Bat, Fox, Beavers Twa Pennies

Cyclical songs

In Dangerous Times
Cattle Call
Peace Of The Running Wave
Sing All My Troubles Away

Songs not in English

Bai ù oh hò Pique La Baleine Faca Sibh Màiri Nigh'n Alasdair Gille Beag Ò Tiri Vamwe

Longer-form songs

We Are Here
Colours We Bring To You
Why We Sing
I Thought I Had No Voice
Come Away In
Travel These Ways

submitted by

Ali Burns Ali Burns Adelaide Carlow Katy Lavinia Cooper Emily Doolitte Mandy Ketchin

submitted by

Ali Burns Katy Lavinia Cooper Mary McCann Irene Watt

submitted by

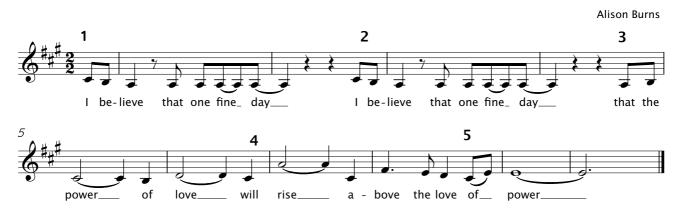
Nicola Black Harry Campbell Mary Ann Kennedy Robyn Stapleton Penny Stone

submitted by

Stephen Deazley Corrina Hewat Chris Hutchings Scott Murray Karine Polwart Karine Polwart



I Believe That One Fine Day



I riffed off the Jimi Hendrix quote, 'When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace' to write this funky 5 part round. It also makes a great base for improvisation.

Submitted by Ali Burns – aliburns.co.uk

This Room And This Singing





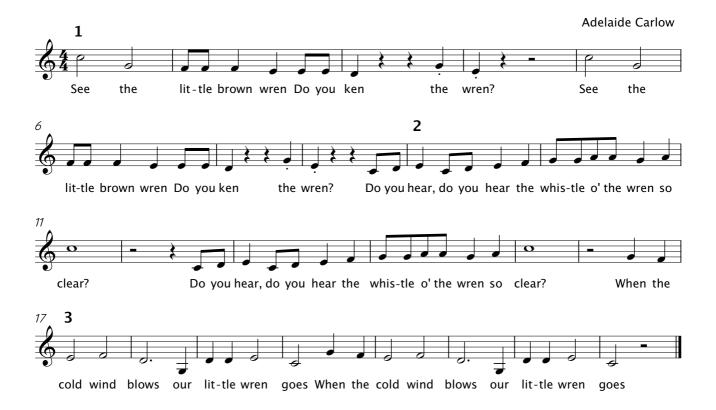


I wrote the words for this 5-part round during a particularly wonderful residential singing week and then added the tune later. It has a big spread of notes and while it's lovely as a round it also sings well with just the ostinato backing and the tune in unison.

Submitted by Ali Burns - aliburns.co.uk

Whistle O' The Wren



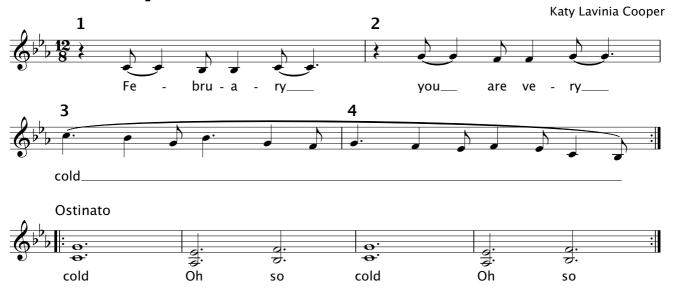


This chirpy little round has a sombre ending because although these sweet, powerful song-makers give us so much joy they also struggle to survive our cold Scottish winters. In the Big Freeze of 2009, wren numbers fell by 40%.

Submitted by Adelaide Carlow



February

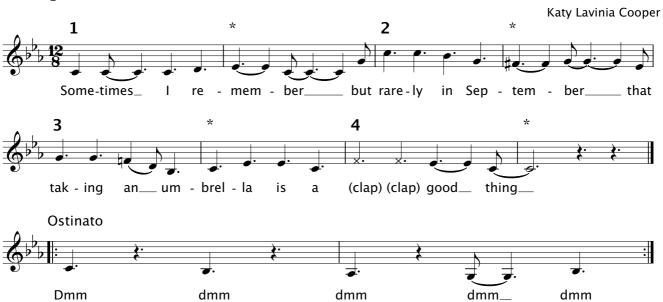


Two rounds written for Glasgow Madrigirls ongoing 'A Round a Month' project. Both rounds are great for use in warmups, particularly on weather-appropriate days, and *September* is easily adapted for use in other months with similar names (and weather patterns!).

The rounds can also be sung together, with half the choir singing *February* and half singing *September* (in parts or as partner songs).

Submitted by Katy Lavinia Cooper - katylaviniacooper.weebly.com

September

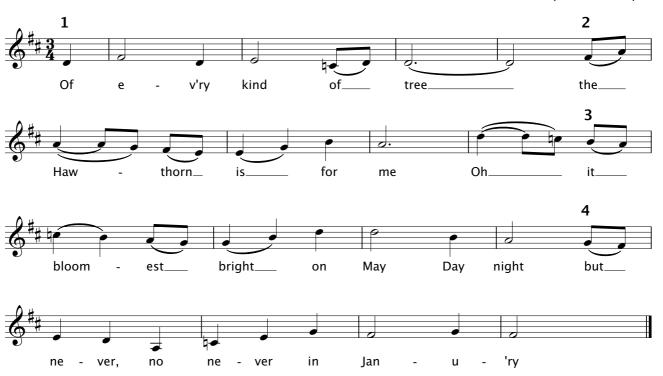


September will also work with 8 eight parts (with additional entries * at each bar).



May

Katy Lavinia Cooper

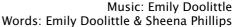


In 2021, when we were still emerging from the restrictions of Covid, the white flowers on the hawthorn trees had a particularly good year. It seemed like they were welcoming us back to the world. The round has quite a large range but is very satisfying to sing.

Submitted by Katy Lavinia Cooper - katylaviniacooper.weebly.com



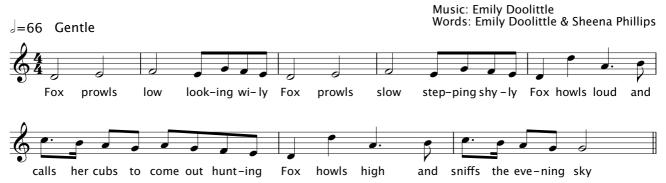
Bat





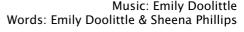
Start slowly, then gradually get faster and faster until you can nop longer continue.

Fox



Voices can come in 4, 2, or 1 bar apart. A recommended arrangement is for the voices to come in closer and closer together as the round progresses.

Beavers



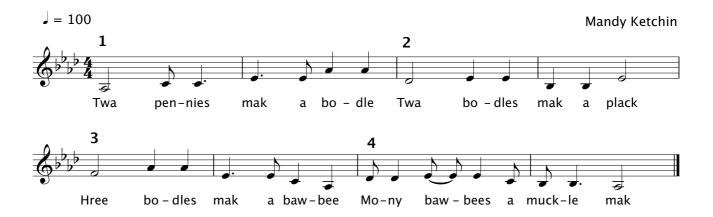


Beav-ers hide in the cat tailsslip-ping and slid-ing throughthe riv-er slap-ping the wat-er with flat tails

These three rounds come from a set of five that were initially written for use in Canadian composer R. Murray Schafer's collaborative project *And Wolf Shall Inherit the Moon*, which takes place every year in the wilderness in Ontario. The complete set of 5 is available from Canasg Music (canasg.com). Submitted by Emily Doolittle – emilydoolittle.com

Twa Pennies





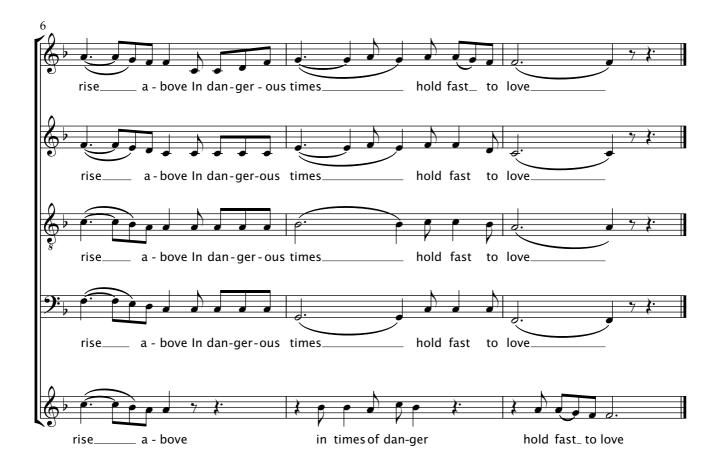
This simple round for 2, 3, or 4 voices was inspired by a page in my Scots dictionary about our old currency. The relative values of coins were set out in a table, and as I read it, the words naturally fell into a springy rhythm that just called out loud for a song.

Submitted by Mandy Ketchin



In Dangerous Times





I was moved to write this at a time I felt the world was in a dangerously unstable place and knew that having a strong community to sing with would help to pull me, and presumably others, through. Sadly, it continues to feel relevant. You can make a simplified 2 part version with the soprano part (tune) along with the call part 'In times of danger'.

Submitted by Ali Burns - aliburns.co.uk

Cattle Call



Borders of Perth and Fife about 1870. Sung by Mrs Mellis and noted down by Miss Gilchrist.



Cattle Call was arranged for Glasgow Madrigirls. I came across this call (which is in a major key in its original version) when developing a project with Madrigirls exploring work songs. Cattle Call is a great concert opener and we've also used it in workshops to explore singing out of time/improvisation.

Submitted by Katy Lavinia Cooper - katylaviniacooper.weebly.com



Performance suggestion Section A

- 1. First time through, is sung freely by a solo singer
- 2. From the second time, other singers may join the soloist, beginning to sing at their own speed, and at any point after the soloist has started. The soloist should wait until all singers have completed each line before beginning the next one.
- 3. Repeat 2 as desired!

Sections B and C

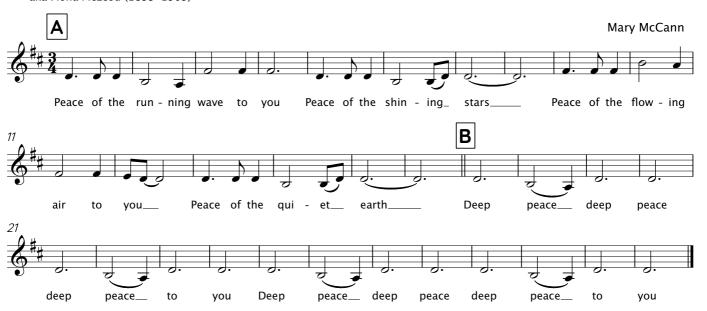
Sing these sections as many times as desired. Following the last time bar, it is effective to repeat A in unison.

Peace Of The Running Wave I



Two part round

Adapted from words by William Sharp aka Fiona McLeod (1855-1905)



This setting of a well-known text is simple and calming to sing. The A and B parts can be sung together in a two part round.

Submitted by Mary McCann

Peace Of The Running Wave II

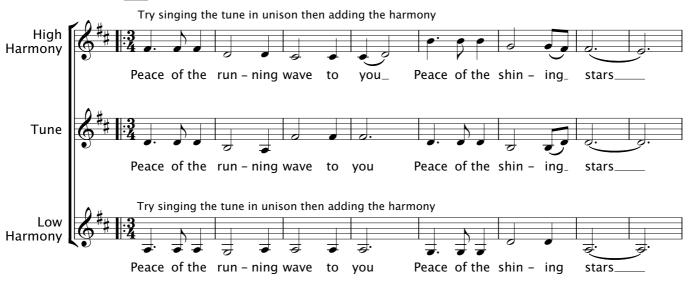


Three part arrangement

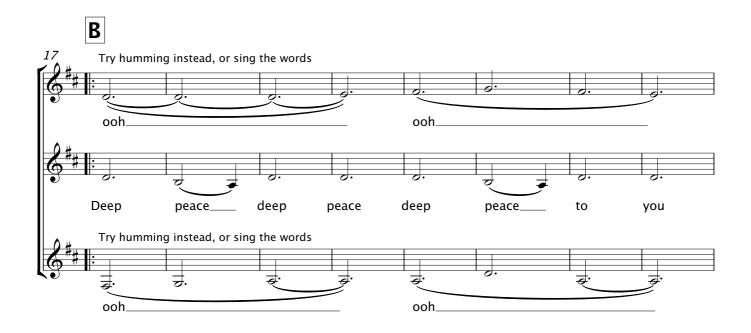
Adapted from words by William Sharp aka Fiona McLeod (1855-1905)

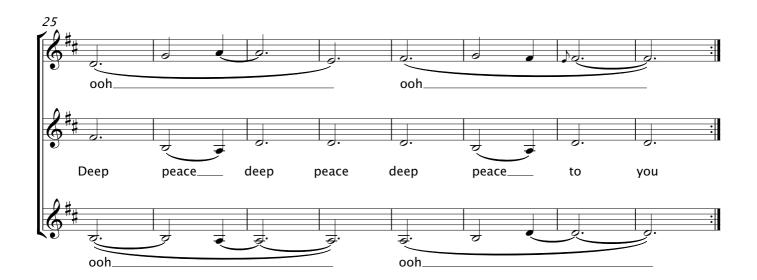
Mary McCann Arranged by Stephen Deazley







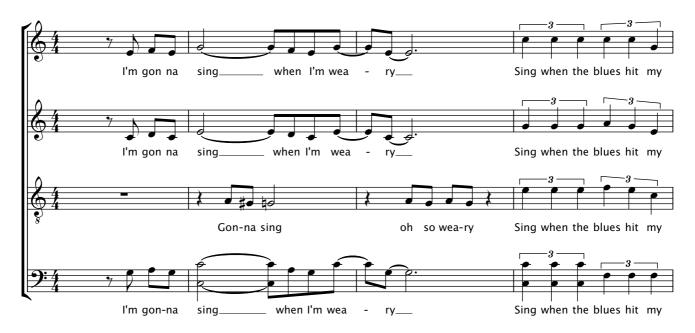




Sing All My Troubles Away



Irene Watt



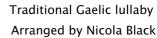


This song really sums up my philosophy on life. No matter how bad I'm feeling, I find a song helps. I wrote this on a day when I felt like punching the wall. I started humming this melody, then words came and then the harmonies. Sing it with a bit of a swing and enjoy the syncopation!

Submitted by Irene Watt

Bai ù oh hò











I arranged this for *Na Seinneadairean*, a small Gaelic singing group who enjoy singing in unison but wanted to try some simple harmonies with a few of their songs.

Submitted by Nicola Black

- 1. Cha bhi mise bhuat, x 3 Mach air uair no dhà.
- 2. Gheibh thu bainne bhuam, x 3 Chan ann fuar ach blàth.
- 3. Caidil thusa, luaidh, x 3 Is na gluais gu là.

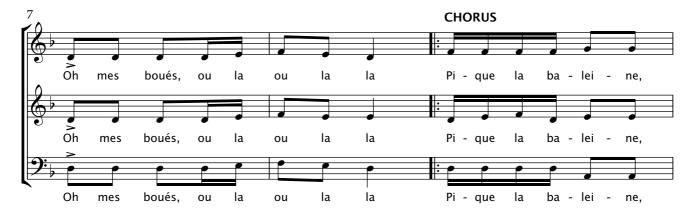
- 1. I will not leave you For more than an hour or two.
- 2. You'll get milk from me, It won't be cold but warm.
- 3. You sleep, my beloved, And stir not till daylight.

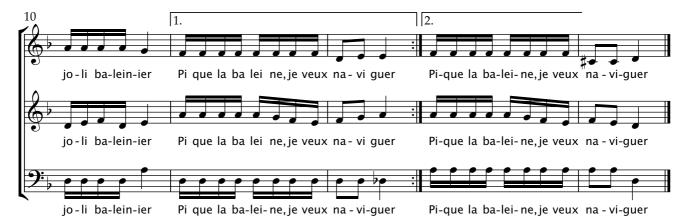
Pique la Baleine



Traditional Arranged by Harry Campbell







Although 'pique la baleine' means 'harpoon the whale', this is not a whaling song! It's about searching the seven seas for your love, drowning, and finding her at the bottom of the sea. No cetaceans are harmed in this song!

Submitted by Harry Campbell - https://harrycampbell.weebly.com

- 1 Pour retrouver ma douce amie
- 1 In search of my sweet love (oh my lads)
- 2 Oh! mille mers j'ai traversé
- 2 I crossed a thousand seas
- 4 Je l'ai r'trouvée quand j'm'ai noyé 4 I found her when I drowned
- 3 Des mers du nord aux mers du sud3 From the north seas to the south seas
- 5 Au fond d'la mer elle m'espérait
- 6 Tous deux ensemble on a pleuré
- 5 She was waiting for me at the bottom of the sea
- 7 En couple à elle j'm'suis couché
- 6 We cried together 7 I lay down beside her

Pique la baleine, joli baleinier Pique la baleine, je veux naviguer Harpoon the whale, Mister whaleman Harpoon the whale, I will skipper the boat



Faca Sibh Màiri Nigh'n Alasdair

Mary Ann Kennedy



Recordings: The Campbells of Greepe - 'No. 2 Greepe' Watercolour Music WMCD053 Archive: Calum Johnston, Tobar an Dualchais - SA1965.63.4 Submitted by Mary Ann Kennedy

Faca sibh Màiri, nigh'n Alasdair? Faca sibh Màiri, nigh'n Sheumais? Faca sibh Màiri, nigh'n Alasdair? Bidh iad a' mire ri chèile

Cruinn, geàrr, sgiobalta Cruinn, sgiobalta, gleusta Cruinn, geàrr, sgiobalta Bidh iad a' mire ri chèile Did you see Mary, Alasdair's daughter? Did you see Mary, James's daughter? Did you see Mary, Alasdair's daughter? They make merry together.

Round, trim, nimble, Round, trim, ready, Round, trim, nimble, They make merry together.



Gille Beag ò

Traditional Gaelic Lullaby Arranged by Robyn Stapleton



I first heard this beautiful Gaelic lullaby on the Scottish Book Trust's Bookbug CD that was sent to me when my oldest daughter was born. I've enjoyed singing it with my children in the years since and teaching it to community singing groups. The beautiful melody and repeating phrases are soothing. it's suitable for all ages and singing abilities and its simpicity and repetition is good for those learning a Gaelic song for the first time.

Submitted by Robyn Stapleton - robynstapleton.net

Gille beag ò, gille lag ò Gille beag ò nan caorach thu Little boy o, weak boy o Little boy of the sheep

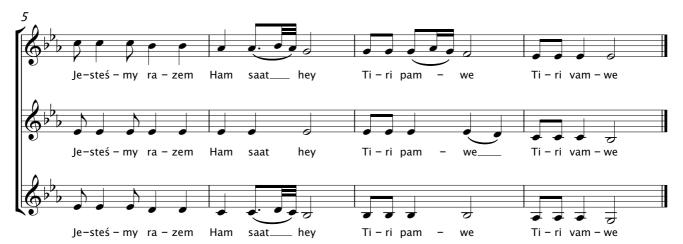
Gille nan caorachan Gille nan caorachan Gille nan caorachan -Gaolach thu Boy of the sheep Boy of the sheep Boy of the sheep My darling

Tiri Vamwe (We Are Together)



Maryhill Integration Network's Joyous Choir (with Penny Stone)





Tiri Vamwe was written by members of the Maryhill Integration Network's Joyous Choir over Zoom during the 2020 lockdown. The lyrics 'we are one' and 'we are together' show how connected we felt, despite being apart. Words were shared by singers who came to Scotland from Spain, Ghana, Pakistan, Poland and Zimbabwe, showing the beautiful diversity of Glasgow.

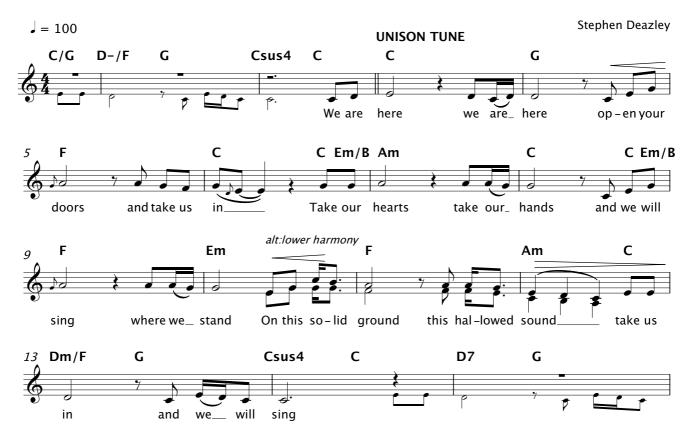
Submitted by Penny Stone - singlouderthanguns.com

Tiri pamwe. Tiri vamwe Ye nyinaa ye baako. Somos uno Jesteśmy razem. Ham saat hey Tiri pamwe. Tiri vamwe We are one: Tiri pamwe - Shona Ye nyinaa ye baako - Twi Somos uno - Spanish

We are together: Tiri vamwe - Shona Jesteśmy razem - Polish Ham saat hey - Urdu

We Are Here



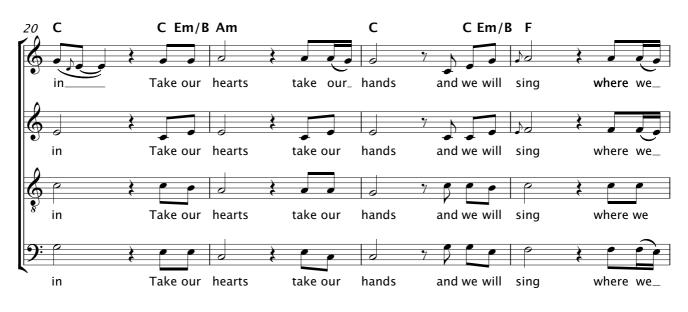


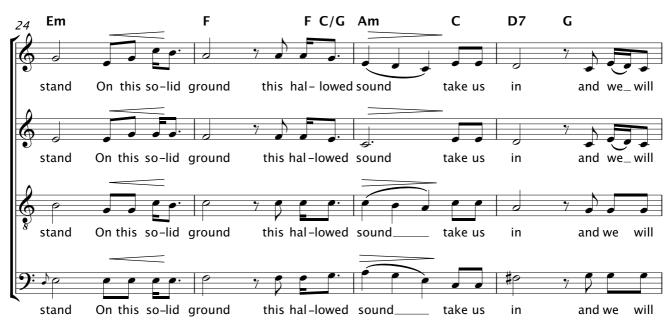


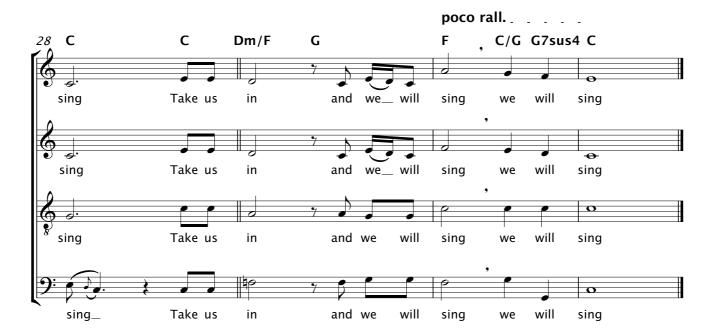
This was a little gift that bubbled up on the day I returned to the Usher Hall where my choir rehearses. It had been more than 18 months after the first lock down began. I wrote this that evening as a simple gospel-style anthem to the Usher Hall in celebration of the return of singing within its walls. It has only one verse repeated with a fuller, richer harmony.

 $Submitted\ by\ Stephen\ Deazley\ -\ lovemusic.org.uk/team/stephen-deazley$

2 We Are Here

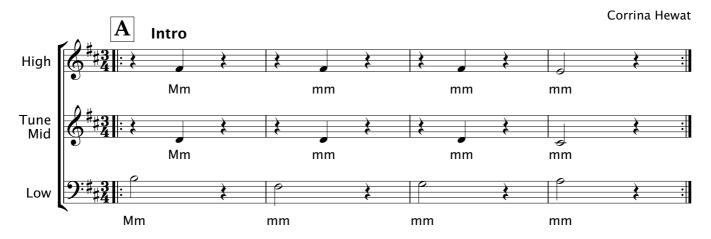


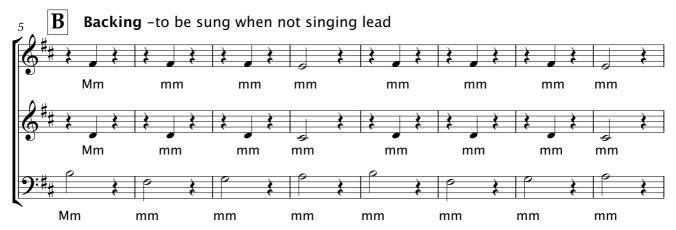




Colours We Bring (To You)









I think of this song as a gentle dance – a waltz with nature. It was written while sitting in the garden on a very quiet day and the lyrics are full of colour and the changing seasons. The lines can be sung alone or together in any combination.

Submitted by Corrina Hewat - corrinahewat.com

SUGGESTED FORM:

ALL sing A then B parts
MIDs sing C words with others on B
ALL sing A then D
LOWs sing C words with others on B
ALL sing A then D
HIGHs sing C words with others on B
ALL sing A then D
All sing C

ΑII

of

these

col - ours

we

bring___

to

you





of

the,

cool

of

the

win - ter

 $through_{-}$

the

cool

see

Why We Sing

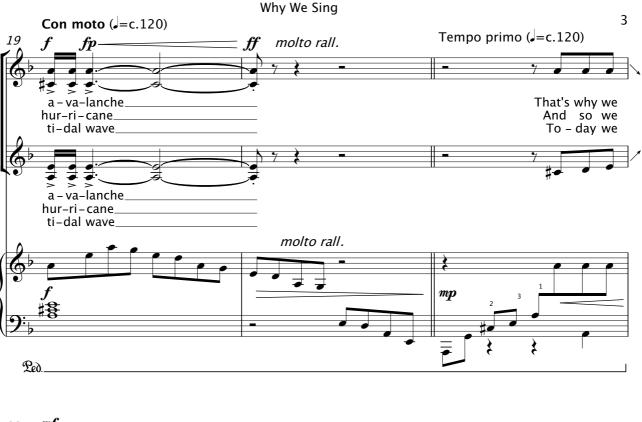




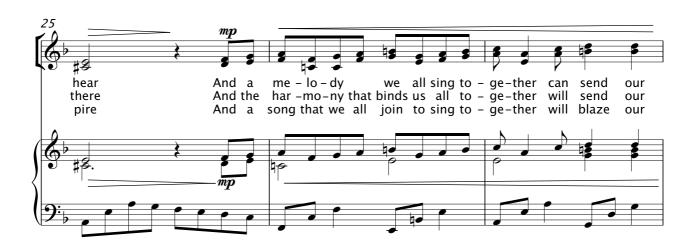
This was written to explain why I think singing can change the world. The words of the third verse can be adapted or re-written to suit your cause, ask your own questions or tell your own story. You can find two versions adapted for climate campaigning at www.hutchingsmusic.co.uk

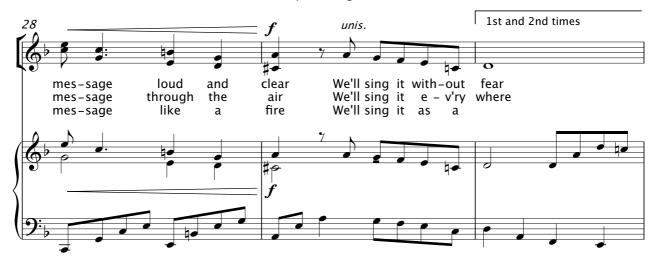


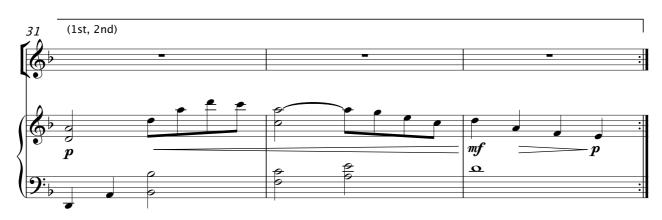


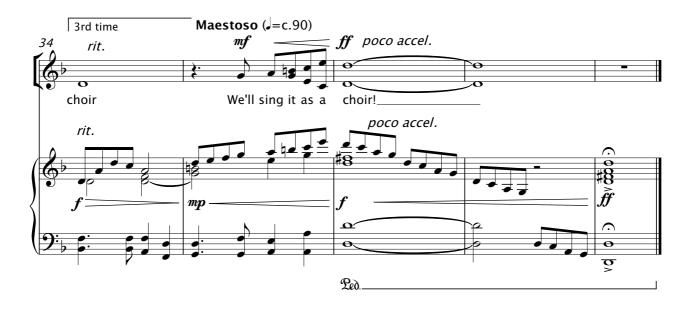












I Thought I Had No Voice





In 2010-11, I worked on *Inspire*, a Scots Music Group project funded by Creative Scotland. As tutors we worked with groups of vulnerable folk, collected their thoughts about what the project meant to them, and put those words to music.

Submitted by Scott Murray - www.scottmurraysongs.co.uk



Come Away In













Come Away In was written originally for Hands Up For Trad's community project, *Scotland Sings*. It's a rousing, big-hearted song of welcome, which speaks to the issues of migration and asylum. There's scope to augment this arrangement with simple echoing lines if you have lots of voices.

Submitted by Karine Polwart - karinepolwart.com

Travel These Ways





An uplifting song of connection and community, *Travel These Ways* was commissioned by Luminate for its Dementia Inclusive Singing Network resource pack. The lockdown era brief was to create a positive and accessible song, rooted in landscape and rich visual imagery. Audio and video resources are available and can be found here: singing.luminatescotland.org/songs-to-sing-at-home/travel-these-ways

Submitted by Karine Polwart - www.karinepolwart.com







to - ge

ways___

ther_