

Mattie J.T. Stepanek was selected by the *USA Today* newspaper as one of the “25 people who moved us in the past quarter-century ... lives of indelible impact.” He appeared on national TV and spoke around the country as he spread his message of love, hope, and peace.

Mattie had a rare form of muscular dystrophy. He had three older siblings who died of the same illness. His mother, Jeni Stepanek, has a milder, adult-onset form, but continues to speak and share her positive message.

Mattie began writing poetry at three years old and published five books by the time he died in 2004, shortly before his fourteenth birthday. At his funeral, former president Jimmy Carter said he has known “kings and queens ... presidents and prime ministers” but “the most extraordinary person whom I have ever known in my life is Mattie Stepanek.”

This piece was written for the dedication of the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park in Rockville, Maryland. The text is based on Mattie’s final “peace” speech. At the ceremonies, many politicians and celebrities, including Oprah Winfrey, came to remember Mattie’s legacy. The park features a statue of Mattie with benches and plaques inscribed with quotes from his books and speeches.

A note from the composer

It has been a complete pleasure to delve into Mattie’s writings and try to share his message through music. I have been truly touched by the experience of setting his words. It is easy for us to become discouraged or jaded when our efforts to make a difference don’t seem to change anything. But as we take our own steps to LIVE peace and SPEAK peace, we continue Mattie’s journey toward a world full of peace, hope, and love.

Music notes

The piece should be sung with bright enthusiasm and conviction. High eyebrows will keep the tone vital and the rhythms light and precise. The word “down” should be sung with a percussive “d”, a low jaw, and plenty of space in the back of the throat. The verses will be most effective when sung crisply with a bit of a “rap” or “patter” approach.

Please visit www.mattieonline.com for more information.

for the dedication of the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park in Rockville, MD

LOOK UP, WAY DOWN

for S.A.T.B. voices and piano
with optional PianoTrax CD*

Words by
MATTIE J.T. STEPANEK
and **PEPPER CHOPLIN**

Music by
PEPPER CHOPLIN

Steady (♩ = ca. 132)

mf

SOPRANO
ALTO

Look up, way down. — Look up,

mf

TENOR
BASS

Steady (♩ = ca. 132)

mf

PIANO

3

way down — the road. — Look up, way down. —

* Also available for S.A.B. (31172) and 2-part (31173).
PianoTrax 1 Accompaniment CD available (31028).

NOTE: Please go to alfred.com/choralparts to download optional parts
for Shaker and Congas as heard on the PianoTrax CD.

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