

Commissioned in honor of Larry and Adgie Rogers
and their years of service in the music ministry of
First Baptist Church, Southern Pines, North Carolina

GIVE ME A SONG

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied*

Words and Music by
PEPPER CHOPLIN (ASCAP)

Adapted from the hymn tune **GERMANY**
from William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

Expressively (♩ = ca. 92)

ACCOMP. *mp*

5 SOPRANO / ALTO *mp*

Give me a song and let me sing, and I'll not

10 ask for an - y - thing: no wealth or fame, no

13 *cresc. poco a poco*

15 world ly praise, but let me raise my voice to

cresc. poco a poco

f

* To purchase a full-length performance recording (42531) of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads.

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20

mf

You. _____

TENOR / BASS

mf

24

mf

And if the world should stop to hear,

mf

28

f

Lord, let Your mel-o-dy come sound strong and clear, that

f

mf

f

mf

32

through_ my song,___ that through_ my voice,___ they

36

will re - joice in the mu - sic of You.

f *mf*

41

Freely, with more emotion

Hymns to sing of Your might - y pow'r.

(mf)

Freely, with more emotion

45

mf

Come and give the

Psalms to sing of Your grace.

mf

49

songs to sing with Your Spirit as You fill the

f

dim.

49

f

dim.

54

rit. poco a poco

mf

wear - y soul.

mf

rit. poco a poco

mf

6
59 **Tempo I** (♩ = ca. 88)

mp

So if I have one life to live,

mp

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 88)

mp

63

rit.

how shall I choose my life to give? I'll

rit.

67 *cresc. and accel. poco a poco*

cresc. and accel. poco a poco

lift my voice to fill my days with

cresc. and accel. poco a poco

71

grate - ful praise, — with grate - ful praise, — with

ff

ff

75

grate - ful praise. — O give me a song, — O

f 77 song to

song to

f

79

praise You, my Lord, *rit.* , *mf*

give me a song — to praise, O my Lord, my , *mf*

praise — You, my Lord, ()

rit. *mf*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Give Me a Song'. It consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'a tempo' and the dynamics are 'dim.', 'rit.', and 'p'. The lyrics 'God.' are written below the first measure. The middle staff is a bass line in G major, starting with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The dynamics are 'dim.' and 'p'. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in G major, starting with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'a tempo' and the dynamics are 'dim.', 'rit.', and 'p'. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

Give Me a Song is a general anthem that may be especially appropriate for stewardship, evangelism, and choir dedication. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Joshua 24:1-3a and 14-25, Psalm 78:1-7, Matthew 25:1-13, and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. One basic homiletical theme is choosing to live in Christ through humility, service, and singing God's praise.

This highly expressive adaptation of a beloved traditional hymn tune is best performed with some freedom of movement and a basic feeling of one pulse per measure. Rehearse the rich choral harmonies in the second verse (mm. 24-39) a cappella on a focused neutral syllable such as "noo" until the chords are well-balanced and perfectly tuned.

The composer shares this story regarding the commissioning of this anthem. "Give Me a Song" was written as a tribute to Larry and Adgie Rogers, husband and wife, who served the music ministry of their church for many years. It was to be premiered at a Sunday evening worship service in their honor. Sadly, Mrs. Rogers died quite unexpectedly on the Thursday prior to the anthem's scheduled premiere. It was instead performed at her Sunday afternoon memorial service, a loving tribute to one who had given so unselfishly of her musical gifts throughout her life.

Pepper Choplin is a full-time composer, conductor, and humorist. He has gained a reputation as one of the most creative writers in church music today. With a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, he went on to earn a Master of Music degree in composition from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

With a diverse musical background, Choplin composes in varied styles, such as folk, Gospel, classical, and jazz. His anthems consistently appear in the top seller lists of publishers and distributors. Since 1991, his choral music has sold several million copies. Each week, thousands of singers present his music in churches and schools in the United States and around the world.

He travels to many churches and conferences to share his compositions, to conduct, and to entertain. Beyond his choral music, Choplin has produced two humorous CDs and an inspirational recording. In his solo concerts, he moves audiences with his powerful ballads and his zany humor.

Choplin attends Greystone Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he served as music minister for twenty-two years. There in his hometown, Choplin has conducted several mass performances of his Easter and Christmas cantatas in Meymandi Auditorium (home to the NC Symphony) with over two hundred voices and full orchestra.