

Recital by Mary Bonhag Texts and Translations

How Can I Keep from Singing

Arranged by James Primosch

Text and hymn by Robert Lowery

My life flows on in endless song;
Above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far-off song
That hails a new creation;
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm a-clingin'
If love is Lord of earth and heaven
How can I keep from singing?

What thought tempest round me roars?
I hear the truth, it liveth liveth;
What though the darkness round me close?
Songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm a-clingin';
Since love is Lord of earth and heav'n,
How can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringin'
It sounds and echoes in my soul
How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm a-clingin'
If love is Lord of earth and Heav'n
How can I keep from singin'?

On Consciousness Streams

Composed by Jacqueline B. Hairston

On consciousness streams soars
a metaphor of delight
with joy and hope for tomorrow
Oh listen! Make haste without waste,
for tomorrow will wait for no one,
lest he knows from whence he comes.
Fret not! The time to act is now!

From Lauren's Prayer Book

Composed by Don Jamison

Text by Lauren Aiken

1. Prayer for Harmony in Polyphony

Beloved, that you would lend me your ears,
That I loosen the weave of my being,
Becoming permeable to the shape
Of the harmony you would have me activate
In song and silence,
Touching the glowing and inconceivable
Net of creation,
That this harmony would live inside me,
Moving, changing,
Making through me a home in the world.

2. Prayer for Clearing the Channels

Pour into me, Beloved, what would,
Passing through me, nourish you.
Make of me a pitcher,
Made sound by the fire of change,
Pouring toward Source
All that must leave
In order to ready this vessel
For your waters.
Give me the courage to be empty,
Ready for you.

3. Prayer for Expanding Beyond Binaries

Two mirrors face each other
And create an infinite tunnel,
Terrifying, inexorable.
I pray for the courage and the faculty
To shift the mirrors
To catch the light of the world
That shatters, and creates,
And comforts, and sings, and holds
The question with no answer.

4. Prayer to the Unknown

You stand among all my beloved
And familiar treasures,
Pressing your silent command
Into all space and time.
That I would remember your true nature,
And see in your face

The great mother of all becoming.
Join my hands with all your children,
That we may do our part:
To enter you singing
Of terror and grief and homecoming,
Moving together as love into love.

5. Prayer for Faith

That I may continue to set my silk,
Ribbon of longing,
On the backs of fiercesome winds,
And woven in the tiny teeth of gentle breezes,
Sailing ever onward toward You.
Give me the strength to hold the ribbon's end,
And even in the bleakest doubt,
Give a small tug, whispering,
"I'm still here.
I won't give up.
I know we will return to each other."

Adonenu, Elohenu from Sephardic Songs

Composed by Joaquin Nin-Culmell

Text: Anonymous Ladino from Tetuan, Spain; paraphrased from Exodus

Adonenu, Elohenu, bará et Moxé rabbenu,
para darnos tora tenu que empesa con
"Anoki."

Lord our God, created Moses our teacher,
To give us the Torah that begins with
"I AM."

Moxé hale l'axamayim sin akilá.
Sin mayim
trujo las luhot xayim que empesa con
"Anoki."

Moses ascended the Heavens without food,
without water
Returned with the two tablets that begin with
"I AM."

The Crucifixion from Hermit Songs

Composed by Samuel Barber

Text: The Speckled Book 12th C; Anonymous Irish Monk

At the cry of the first bird
They began to crucify Thee, O Swan!
Never shall lament cease because of that.
It was like the parting of day from night.
Ah, sore was the suffering borne
By the body of Mary's Son,
But sorer still to Him was the grief
Which for His sake
Came upon His Mother.

Sorrow and Love Flow Mingled Down

Composed by Kathy Eddy

Text by Issac Watts

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Difficulties from Songs of Love and Justice

Composed by Adolphus Hailstork

Text by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from "Loving Your Enemies", a sermon delivered at the Detroit Council of Churches' Noon Lenten Services, March 7, 1961

It is difficult to like some people.
Like is sentimental.
It is difficult to like someone bombing your home,
It is difficult to like somebody threat'ning your children!
It is so difficult,
so difficult to like some people
But Jesus says: "Love them"
But Jesus says: "Love, love them,"
For love is greater than like.

Create in Me

Composed by Adolphus Hailstork

Text from Psalm 51:10-13, a Psalm of David

Create in me a pure heart O God.
And renew my spirit.
Revive in me the joy of Thy deliv'rance.
Open Thou my lips O Lord,
And I will sing the praises of Thy justice.
Open Thou my lips O Lord
That my mouth may proclaim Thy praise.
Alleluia.

Chants de terre et de ciel

Composed by Olivier Messiaen

Text by Messiaen

Antienne du silence

(pour le jour des Anges gardiens)

Ange silencieux,
écris du silence dans mes mains,
Alleluia.
Que j'aspire le silence du ciel,
alleluia.

Minuits pile et face (pour le mort)

Ville, oeil puant, minuits obliques,
clous rouillés
enfoncés aux angles de l'oubli.
Agneau, Seigneur!
Ils dansent, mes péchés dansent!
Carnaval décevant des pavés de la mort.
Grand corps tout pourri des rues,
sous la dure lanterne.
Carrefour de la peur!
Couverture de démente et d'orgueil!
Rire, aiguise-toi,
Rire, avale-toi:
Ces flambeaux
sont des montagnes de nuit.

Noeuds bien serré de l'angoisse
Bête inouïe qui mange.
Qui bave dans ma poitrine.
Tête, tête, quelle sueur!
Et je resterais seul
à la mort qui m'enroule?

Père des lumières, Christ, Vigne d'amour,
Esprit, Consolateur, aux sept dons!
Cloche, mes os vibrent, chiffre soudain,
Décombres de l'erreur et des cercles à
gauche,
Neuf, dix, onze, douze.

Oh! M'endormir petit!
sous l'air trop large, dans un lit bleu,
La main sous l'oreille,
avec une toute petite chemise.

Anthem of Silence

(for the day of the Guardian Angels)

Silenced angel,
cry of silence in my hands,
Alleluia,
that I breathe the silence of the heavens,
alleluia.

Midnight reverse and in front (for death)

City, stinking eye, devious midnights,
rusty nails
plunged to the corners of oblivion.
Lamb, Lord!
They dance, my sins dance!
Deceitful carnival of the streets of death.
Large fully rotten body in the roads,
under the hard street lamp.
Crossroads of fear!
Covering of madness and of pride!
Laughter, sharpen yourself,
Laughter, swallow yourself:
These torches
are from the night mountains.

Well clenched knots of anguish.
Unprecedented beast that eats.
That slobbers in my chest.
Head, head, what sweat!
And I must stay alone
while death coils around me?

Father of lights, Christ, Vine of love,
Spirit, Comforter, consoler to the seven gifts!
Bell, my bones vibrate; count suddenly,
Ruins of mistake and of circles counter-
clockwise,
Nine, ten, eleven, twelve.

Oh! To fall asleep a little,
beneath the wide open air, in a blue bed,
Hand under the ear,
with a little nightshirt.

Résurrection (pour le jour de Pâques)

Alleluia!

Il est le premier, le Seigneur Jésus.
Des morts, il est le premier né.
Sept étoiles d'amour au transpercé,
revêtez votre habit de clarté.
"Je suis ressuscité, je chante:
pour toi, mon Père, pour toi, mon Dieu.
De mort à vie je passe."

Un ange. Sur la pierre il s'est posé.
Parfum, porte, perle,
azymes de la Vérité.

Alleluia...

Nous l'avons touché, nous l'avons vu.
De nos mains nous l'avons touché.
Un seul fleuve de vie dans son côté,
revêtez votre habit de clarté.
"Je suis ressuscité, je monte: vers toi, mon
Père, vers toi, mon Dieu.
Alleluia. De terre à ciel je passe."

Du pain.
Il le rompt et leurs yeux sont dessillés.
Parfum, porte, perle,
lavez-vous dans la Vérité.

Resurrection (for Easter Day)

Alleluia!

He is the first, the Lord Jesus.
Of the dead, he is the first.
Seven stars of love to the transfigured one,
put on your garment of light.
"I am risen, I sing:
for you, my Father, for you, my God.
From death to life I pass."

An angel. He has landed on the stone.
Perfume, portal, pearl,
unleavened bread of the Truth.

Alleluia...

We have touched him, we have seen him.
With our hands we have touched him.
A single river of life in his side,
put on your garment of light.
"I am risen, I rise: towards you, my Father,
towards you, my God.
Alleluia. From Earth to Heaven I pass."

Bread.
He breaks it and their eyes are opened.
Perfume, portal, pearl,
wash yourselves in the Truth.

Walk Together Children

Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by Moses Hogan

Refrain:

Oh, walk together children
Don't you get weary
Walk together children
Don't you get weary
Walk together children
Don't you get weary
There's a great camp meeting in the promised land.

Verse 1:

Gonna walk and never tire,
Walk and never tire,
Walk and never tire,
There's a great camp meeting in the promised land.

Refrain

Verse 2:

Gonna sing and never tire,
Sing and never tire,
Sing and never tire,
There's a great camp meeting in the promised land.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Gonna shout and never tire,
Shout and never tire,
Shout and never tire,
There's a great camp meeting in the promised land.

Refrain