

Peter Bloesch

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# How Can I Keep from Singing?

*Version with original (religious) text*

Arranged by Peter Bloesch  
for SATB chorus with piano accompaniment  
Duration: ca. 4:15

Commissioned by University of Wisconsin –  
Whitewater Concert Choir, Dr. Robert Gehrenbeck, conductor

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## Description:

This beloved song by Robert Lowry has the sound of a folk tune – simple, direct, and memorable. Lowry was an American preacher and popular writer of gospel music, including the famous “Shall We Gather at the River.”

My arrangement of “How Can I Keep from Singing?” seeks to highlight the gentleness and inward peace of the song, but in the last verse, the affirmation of “No storm can shake my inmost calm” shines forth with confidence and joy.

The words are as apt today as they were in 1869: They encourage us to sing on in the midst of any personal or global troubles. After all, the universal language of music has the power to heal us, and to unite us all in love. I hope that we will never keep from singing!

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## Text:

My life goes on in endless song, above earth’s lamentation.  
I catch the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.  
*No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I’m clinging.  
Since love is Lord of heav’n and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?  
*(Refrain)*

What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.  
*(Refrain)*

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?  
*(Refrain)*

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Serenely (♩ = ca. 74)

The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the piano introduction with a tempo of ca. 74. The second system begins the vocal entry with a 'Poco rit.' marking and 'A tempo' instruction. The third system continues the vocal melody with lyrics and piano accompaniment.

PIANO  
*mp gently flowing*

S./A. *Poco rit.* SOPRANOS & ALTOS *mp* A tempo

1. My

PNO. *Poco rit.* A tempo

*Ped. ad lib.*

S./A. life goes on in end-less song, a - bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion. I

PNO. *mp*

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13

S./A. SOP. *mp*

catch the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion. No

PNO. *still gently*

Red.

17

S. *mp*

storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling - ing. Since

A. *p* *mm.* *mp*

Altos, div. *p* *mm.* *mp*

Since

PNO.

Red.

21

S. *mp*

love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing? —

A. *mp*

love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing? —

PNO. *mp*

love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing? —

Red.

25

S. *mp*  
2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I

A. *Unis. mp*  
2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I

T. *mp*  
2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I

B. *mp*  
2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I

PNO. *p*  
L.H. R.H. L.H. R.H.

29

S. hear that mu - sic ring - ing... It finds an ech - o in my soul. How

A. hear that mu - sic ring - ing... It finds an ech - o in my soul. How

T. hear that mu - sic ring - ing... It finds an ech - o in my soul. How

B. hear that mu - sic ring - ing... It finds an ech - o in my soul. How

PNO. *p*  
L.H. R.H. L.H. R.H. L.H.

33 *mf with spirit*

S. can I keep from sing - ing? No storm can shake my in-most calm \_\_\_\_\_ while to that Rock I'm

A. can I keep from sing - ing? No storm can shake my in-most calm \_\_\_\_\_ while to that Rock I'm

T. can I keep from sing - ing? No storm can shake my in-most calm \_\_\_\_\_ while to that Rock I'm

B. can I keep from sing - ing? No storm can shake my in-most calm \_\_\_\_\_ while to that Rock I'm

PNO. *mp* *p* *mp*

38

S. cling - ing... Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?\_

A. cling - ing... Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?\_

T. cling - ing... Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?\_

B. cling - ing... Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?\_

PNO. *mp* *8va*

43 TENORS & BASSES *mp*

T./B. 3. What

PNO. *mf ma dolce*

47 *p* Ah, ah, ah, Ah, ah, ah,

T./B. though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav - ior liv - eth. — What

PNO. *p dolce* *mp dolce* *gru*

51 *mp* No *mp* No *mf* No *mp* No

S. ah. No

A. ah. No

T. though the dark - ness gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth. — No

B. though the dark - ness gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth. — No

PNO. 51 (8)