

Commissioned by Colborne Street United Church, London, Ontario, CANADA

Bill and Eva Bettger, Directors

BIRDSONG

for Two-Part Treble Voices & Piano

Music by
Paul Read

Text by
An unknown child in the
Terezin Concentration Camp
Czechoslovakia

The musical score is written for two-part treble voices and piano. It begins with a piano introduction at a tempo of quarter note = 88. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with dynamics starting at *p* and increasing to *cresc.* A *poco accel.* marking is present above the first system. The score is divided into systems, with measures 4, 7, and 11 marked at the beginning of their respective systems. At measure 4, the tempo changes to quarter note = 108, marked *subito* and *gentle and rhythmic*. The piano part continues with dynamics of *f* and *mp*. At measure 7, the instruction "All voices in unison" is written above the vocal line, and the piano accompaniment continues. The lyrics "He does - n't know the world at all." are written below the vocal line. At measure 11, the lyrics "Who stays in his nest _ and does-n't go out" are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment continues throughout the piece.

15

He does - n't know what birds know best.

Musical score for measures 15-19. The vocal line begins with a long note on 'He' and continues with the lyrics 'He does - n't know what birds know best.' The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

20

Nor - what I sing - a - bout, - Nor - what I sing - a - bout,

Musical score for measures 20-23. The vocal line starts with a *mf* dynamic and repeats the phrase 'Nor - what I sing - a - bout, -'. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar rhythmic pattern, featuring a *mf* dynamic in the right hand.

24

Nor - what I sing - a - bout: That the

Musical score for measures 24-27. The vocal line begins with a *f* dynamic and continues with the lyrics 'Nor - what I sing - a - bout: That the'. The piano accompaniment features a more complex rhythmic pattern with some syncopation.

28

world is full of love - li - ness.

Musical score for measures 28-31. The vocal line starts with a *f* dynamic and concludes with the lyrics 'world is full of love - li - ness.' The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

Treble I *mf*
 When dew - drops spar - kle in the grass

Treble II *mf*
 When dew - drops spar - kle in the grass

36
 — And earth is a - flood _ with mor - ning light.

— And earth is a - flood _ with mor - ning Earth's a - flood _ with

40
 — A black - bird sings _ up - on a bush

mor - ning light. _ A black - bird sings _ up - on a bush.

44

To greet the dawn - ing af - ter night, _ the

the dawn - ing af - ter night,

47

dawn-ing af - ter night, _ the dawn-ing af - ter night.

the dawn - ing af - ter night, _ af - ter night.

51

Then I know how fine it is to live.

Then I know how fine it is to live.

Optional Solo *f*

Hey, try to

59

o - pen your heart. to beau - ty;

Optional Solo *f*

try to o - pen your heart_ to

62

Go to the woods some-day _ And weave a wreath of

beau - ty; woods some-day _ And weave a wreath of

65

me - mory there. Then if tears ob - scure your way
me - mory there. Then if tears

mf *cresc.*
mf *cresc.*
mf *cresc.*

68

You'll know how won - der - ful _ it is _ You'll know how
tears ob - scure your way how won - der - ful _ won - der - ful _ You'll know h

mf *cresc.*

72

won-der-ful _ it is _ Oh how won-der-ful to be a -
won-der-ful _ it is _ Oh how won-der-ful to be a -

f
f
f

live. _____

live. _____

80 All voices in unison *mf*

He does - n't know the

83

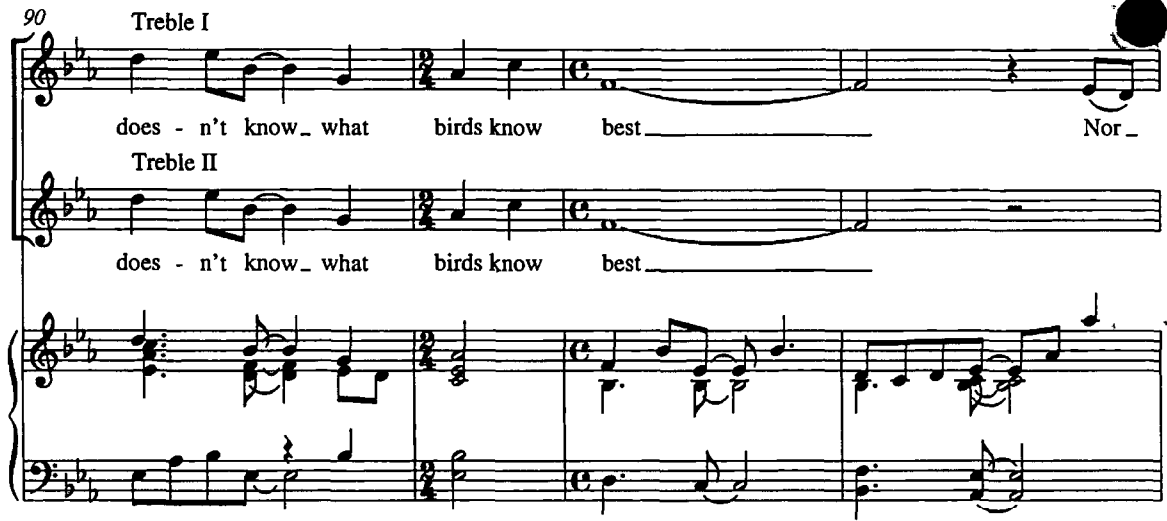
world at all _____ Who

86

stays in his nest _ and does-n't go out. _____ He

90 Treble I
does - n't know_ what birds know best _____ Nor_

Treble II
does - n't know_ what birds know best _____



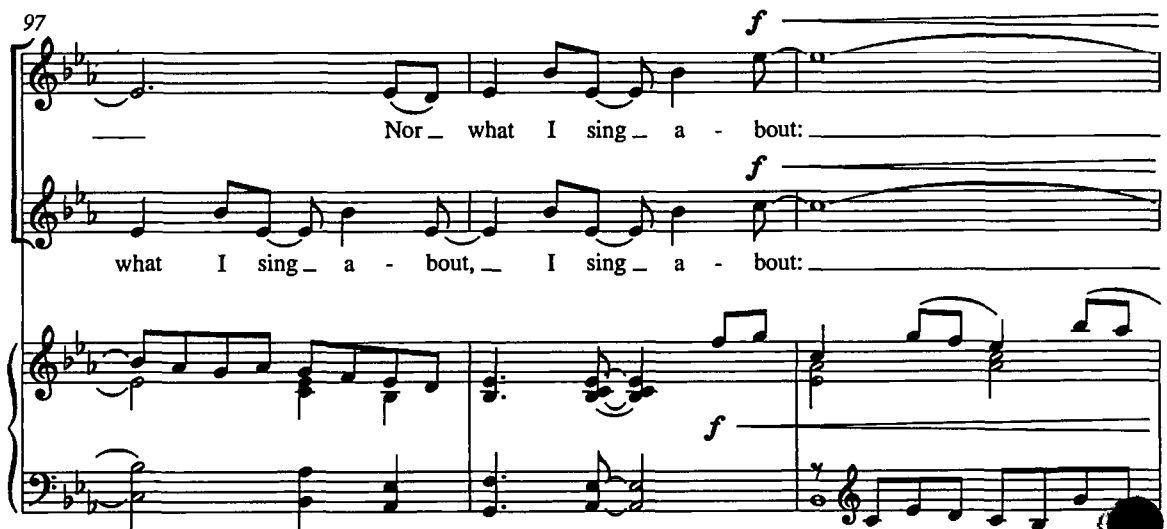
94 *mp* *cresc.*
what I sing_ a - bout, _____ Nor_ what I sing_ a - bout,

mp *cresc.*
Nor_ what I sing_ a - bout, _____ Nor_



97 *f*
Nor_ what I sing_ a - bout: _____

f
what I sing_ a - bout, _____ I sing_ a - bout: _____



ff
That the world is full of love, and how
ff
That the world is full of love, and how
ff

103
fine it is to live. Oh how_ won-der-ful to be a -
fine it is to live. Oh how_ won-der-ful to be a -

107
live.
live.