

May 10, 2020

It's the Music That Brings Us Together

SSAA for female voices

LEAD

rubato

1 2 3 4 5 (Bb=A#) 6

It's the **mus - ic** that brings us to - geth - er it's the mus - ic that brings **joy** un -

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

told those **sweet** mel - o - dies those **grand** har - mon - ies light the fi - re that

14 15 16 17 18 19

burns in my soul when **storms** roll a - round when life brings us

20 21 22 23 24 25

down when trou - ble an' **strife** come our way it's the mus - ic that

Words, Music, and Arrangement by Clay Hine, copyright Clayton B. Hine, May 2020

For as long as I can remember (literally), music and barbershop have meant a lot to me. To my whole family, to choruses I've sung with and directed, to quartets I've had the privilege of singing with, to barbershoppers I've sung tags with and had the amazing opportunity to meet from all over the world, and to folks who love music who I hope to meet someday: this is for you...make as many copies as you want...and thanks for sharing music with friends.

LEAD

The image shows a musical score for a lead part, consisting of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "brings us to - geth - er but it's the friend - ships that make us stay (shar - ing mus - ic with friends fills our hearts with song each day)". The score includes measure numbers 26 through 40. Red highlights are present under the lyrics "brings us to - geth - er", "friend - ships", "stay", and "song each day". There are also red 'X' marks above the piano accompaniment in measures 34, 35, 36, and 37.

Special thanks to Tony DeRosa and Michaela Johnston for donating their time and talents to create learning tracks. These are available for no charge (thanks for that, too!) at www.advocals.com (TTBB and SATB) and www.officialjohnstonmusic.com (SSAA)

From the Composer/Arranger

This song was written shortly after "shelter-in-place" for COVID-19 started. As with many barbershop ensembles, my chorus had just started virtual rehearsals...and it was inspiring to see how many barbershoppers still wanted to find ways to rehearse, learn more, and talk about music...and most importantly, stay connected to all of our barbershop friends. It's easy for me to get emotional about the impact barbershop has had on my life, but with the craziness of everyday life, we don't always get a lot of opportunities to remember WHY barbershop is so important in our lives. Sharing a song or a great tag with friends is one thing that made us all go nuts for barbershop in the first place. Even when we're not able to sing together, it's incredibly inspiring and helps us remember WHY when so many still do so much to virtually get together with the friends that make music so meaningful to all of us.

Performance Notes

- 1) This key (F) should work well for female barbershop ensembles, but feel free to pitch it up or down if that better fits your particular ensemble's vocal strengths. This arrangement is also available in Ab (TTBB for male voices) and C (SATB for mixed voices).
- 2) There are optional notes shown in measures 17 (bass), 18 (bari), and 20 (bass). These work just fine, and may be considerations for your ensemble depending upon the voices and on the key you choose.
- 3) The song starts with a simple message - "it's the music that brings us together" - and continues to tell the story of what music means to us. From sweet melodies to grand harmonies, music is the emotional fire that fuels our souls. Music is passion, music helps us through good times and bad times, and when our troubles might be especially great, music is there to help ease the burden. The message starts simply, grows more emotional, passionate, and grand, and then comes back to the simple thought that "it's the music that brings us together"...but it's the friends we share music with that matter the most and that make each day special.