

**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, 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 22 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 200 voices and full orchestra.

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.B. voices, accompanied\*

Words and Music by  
**PEPPER CHOPLIN**

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 to let me sing, and I'll not

10 16 *cresc. poco a poco*

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

*cresc. poco a poco*

15 world ly praise, — but let me raise — my

*f*

\* To purchase a full-length performance recording (45213) of this piece, go to [alfred.com/downloads](http://alfred.com/downloads).

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19

*mf*

voice — to You. —

*mf*

24 SOPRANO / ALTO

*mf*

And if the world should stop — to hear, Lord, let Your

BARITONE

*mf*

29

*f*

*mf*

mei-o-dy come sound — strong and clear, that through — my song, — that

*f*

*mf*

32

*f*

*mf*

34 *f*

through my voice, they will re-joice in the mu-sic of

39 *mf* **41** Freely, with more emotion

You.

*mf*

Hymns to sing of Your might - y

44 *mf*

Psalms to sing of Your grace.

pow'r. Come and give the

49

*f*

songs to sing with Your Spir - it as \_\_\_\_\_ You

*f*

*f*

53

*dim.* *rit. poco a poco* *mf*

fill the wear - y soul.

*dim.* *mf*

*dim.* *rit. poco a poco* *mf*

59 Tempo I (♩ = ca. 92)

57

*mp*

So if I have one life \_\_\_\_\_ to

*mp*

*mp*

62

live, how shall I choose my life to

66 *rit.* [67] *cresc. and accel. poco a poco*

give? I'll lift my voice to fill my

*rit.* *cresc. and accel. poco a poco*

70

days with grate - ful praise, with grate - ful

74 *ff* *f* 77

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

*ff* *f*

78 *rit.* *mf*

nah — nah nah — nah nah nah

song, O give me a song, my Lord, my Lord, my

song to praise — You, my Lord, my

(9)

*rit.* *mf*

83 *a tempo* *dim.* *rit.* *p*

God.

*dim.* *p*

*a tempo* *dim.* *rit.* *p*

