

Let the Peoples Sing

Volume One

Sacred Choral Music of the Caribbean

Marian Dolan
Series Editor

WORLDSONG

Augsburg Fortress
Minneapolis

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Foreword

The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

O Praise Ye the Lord (Psalm 150)

I Come to the Cross

Lord, Make Us One

Peace and Love

Noel Dexter

Well-known in Jamaica and the Anglo-Caribbean as a choral conductor, lyricist, and composer, Noel Dexter has compositions including hymns, anthems, national patriotic songs, and music for theatre. He has been the musical director of the University Singers since 1977 when he was appointed Director of Music at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies. A graduate of the University of the West Indies and Licentiate of Trinity College of Music, London, he is holder of the prestigious Silver Musgrave Medal of the Institute of Jamaica. He received his music education at the Jamaica School of Music, Westminster Choir College, Princeton, N.J., and the Royal College of Church Music, London. In 1990 Noel Dexter was made Officer of the Jamaica Order of Distinction for his service to the arts.

Dexter's setting of *The Lord Is My Shepherd* was written many years ago when he was teaching in a high school in Kingston. His choir was invited to sing a St. Cecelia Festival at Scots Kirk, the Presbyterian church in downtown Kingston. Allowed to include his own selections on the program, Dexter wrote *The Lord Is My Shepherd* and *O Praise Ye the Lord*. Since then they have become very popular in Jamaica. This SATB arrangement of *The Lord Is My Shepherd* was written by Dexter for the Candler Choraliers in April 2001.

The text author of *I Come to the Cross* is Dennis Scott, one of Jamaica's better-known poets and playwrights who, at his death, was lecturer in the drama department of Yale University. Using tropical imagery, *I Come to the Cross* reflects the indigenous accents of recently written sacred music from the Caribbean. *I Come to the Cross* speaks of arriving "as a small boat," "as a sea stone," and "as a river folding down to the sea," each verse having imagery natural to the local Jamaican church. Stanzas 1 and 2 have beautiful images of comfort and consolation in times of grief. Stanza 3 also presents the journey of the soul toward repentance in Christ. Like many other works in this collection, *I Come to the Cross* may be sung with keyboard accompaniment *colla parte* (with the voices), but freely improvised beyond the simple chordal structures given. If available, a steel pan or marimba provides a sweet accompaniment on the melody.

Roman Catholic priest, Father Aloysius Church, S.J. from Guyana authored the reconciliation communion text in tandem with Dexter's choral arrangement of *Lord, Make Us One*. With its multiplicity of islands, close in terms of distance yet separated by both water and by cultural differences, the Caribbean churches constantly raise the theme of and desire for communal unity in their songs. Unity at the communion table presents an even stronger image of oneness. This piece can be sung either as a congregational work or as a call-refrain with the choir taking each main phrase, adding the congregation on the refrain "Lord, make us one."

Peace and Love is a Jamaican blessing, a parting song that is typical of family leave-taking songs. Sing it gently, unaccompanied or with keyboard only.

Let All the Peoples Praise You/Todos los pueblos canten
Victor Pilgrim and Patrick Prescod

This brief psalm text of praise and blessing receives a jubilant setting from Victor Pilgrim, an Anglican musician from the island of Barbados, also an active member in the musical sector of the Caribbean Conference of Churches. The choral arrangement was written by Patrick Prescod, a United Methodist composer and choral musician from St. Vincent. The Spanish text was adapted by Luis Olivieri, one of Puerto Rico's significant choral leaders. *Let All the Peoples Praise You* can be performed with or without accompaniment. Prescod's score contains chords for use by a guitar, cuatro, or the like. If the work is sung a cappella, some hand percussion is recommended (claves, maracas, conga). The refrain could be taught to the congregation.

Communion Hymn
Patrick Prescod

Patrick Prescod is the organist at Kingston Methodist Church in St. Vincent. Regarded as one of the Caribbean's significant composers and arrangers, Prescod edited the Caribbean Council of Churches collection *Sing a New Song*.

By the Waters of Babylon
Traditional, arr. Bread for the Journey

This version of Psalm 137 is based on an old Rastafarian chant from Jamaica. Rastafarians, who regard themselves as Black Israelites, compare Jamaica to Babylon, a land of exile and social and spiritual oppression, and long for a return to Zion (Africa). Beyond the Caribbean context, this psalm text speaks clearly for many refugees and displaced people in our world today. The lamenting cries, combined with the Caribbean rhythms of this setting, make for a rather startling juxtaposition of tune and text. This is a prime example of how in the music of many cultures, laments are sung not just to dirges, but also, on occasion, to more lively rhythmic tunes.

I am deeply indebted to the singers in The Candler Choraliers and our musical and theological collaborations. A special word of thanks to tenor, Lester Bowers, and his vision for sharing Caribbean sacred choral music with us.

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The Lord Is My Shepherd

for SATB and keyboard

Psalm 23
K.J.V., alt. N.D.

Noel Dexter

Slowly, gently (♩ = c. 60)

The musical score is written for SATB choir and keyboard. It begins with a keyboard introduction in B-flat major, 2/2 time, marked 'p' (piano). The tempo is 'Slowly, gently' with a quarter note equal to approximately 60 beats per minute. The vocal parts enter at measure 5. The Soprano part begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'The Lord is my shepherd and I shall not'. The Alto and Tenor parts enter at measure 5 with the lyrics 'The Lord is my shepherd and I shall not'. The Bass part enters at measure 5 with the lyrics 'want. He makes me to lie down in green, green'. The keyboard accompaniment continues throughout the piece, providing harmonic support for the vocalists. The score is divided into systems, with measures 5-8 and 9-12 clearly visible. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'SAMPLE' is overlaid across the center of the page.

*Baritones may join in m. 1-24, *ad lib.*

13

pas - tures. The Lord is my shep - herd and I shall not

17

want. He leads me be - side the still, still

21

mp

wa - ters; he re - stor - eth my soul.

mp

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system (measures 13-16) includes the lyrics 'pas - tures. The Lord is my shep - herd and I shall not'. The second system (measures 17-20) includes 'want. He leads me be - side the still, still'. The third system (measures 21-24) includes 'wa - ters; he re - stor - eth my soul.' and features a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, providing harmonic support for the vocal melody. A large, faint watermark is visible across the center of the page.

25 *mf*

He re - stor - eth my soul. He leads me in paths of

Tenor *mp* *mf*

Bass

28 *rall.* *pp*

righ - teous-ness for his own name's sake. Yea,

rall. *pp*

32 *a tempo*

though I walk in death's val - ley, the val - ley of death;

a tempo

a tempo

36 *N.B.*

though I walk_ in death's val - ley, I'll fear no e - vil._

N.B.

40 *p*

For Lord, thou art with me, thy rod_ and thy

Lord, thy rod, thy

43

staff, thy rod_ and thy staff_ shall bring me

staff, thy rod, thy staff shall bring me

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 36-39) features a vocal line with lyrics 'though I walk_ in death's val - ley, I'll fear no e - vil._' and a piano accompaniment. A 'N.B.' (Note Bene) is placed above the vocal line at measure 37 and below the piano line at measure 38. The second system (measures 40-42) begins with a piano dynamic marking 'p' and contains the lyrics 'For Lord, thou art with me, thy rod_ and thy' on the vocal line, and 'Lord, thy rod, thy' on the piano line. The third system (measures 43-45) continues the lyrics with 'staff, thy rod_ and thy staff_ shall bring me' on the vocal line, and 'staff, thy rod, thy staff shall bring me' on the piano line. The piano accompaniment is characterized by a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

O Praise Ye the Lord

for SATB and keyboard

Psalm 150
K.J.V., alt. N.D.

Noel Dexter

$\text{♩} = 76$

Keyboard *f*

5 Soprano *mf*
Alto
Tenor *mf*
Bass

O praise_ ye the Lord! O praise_ ye the Lord!_____

mf

9 Praise God_ in his sanc - tu - a - ry, O praise_ ye the Lord!_____

the

8

13

O praise_ye the Lord! O praise_ye the Lord!

17

Praise God_ in his sanc - tu - a - ry, O praise_ye the

20

Lord! In the fir - ma - ment_ of his pow - er, praise him!

unis. *God's* *God*

24

For his might - y acts let us praise him! For his ex - cel-lent great-ness, praise him!

God's God God's God

28

O praise_ ye the Lord! O praise_ ye the Lord!

32

O praise_ ye the Lord! Praise God_ in his sanc - tu - a - ry,

the

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 24-27) features a vocal melody with lyrics 'For his might - y acts let us praise him! For his ex - cel-lent great-ness, praise him!' and piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 28-31) features a vocal melody with lyrics 'O praise_ ye the Lord! O praise_ ye the Lord!' and piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 32-35) features a vocal melody with lyrics 'O praise_ ye the Lord! Praise God_ in his sanc - tu - a - ry,' and piano accompaniment. The piano part includes various chords and melodic lines, with some measures marked with a '3' indicating a triplet. A large, faint watermark 'A' is visible across the center of the page.

36

O praise_ ye the Lord!_____ O praise_ ye the Lord!

40

O praise_ ye the Lord!_____ Praise God_ in his *the*

43

sanc - tu - a - ry, O praise_ ye the Lord!_____

The musical score is written for a three-part setting: Soprano, Alto, and Bass. The Soprano part is on a single staff, while the Alto and Bass parts are on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The score is divided into three systems, each starting with a measure number (36, 40, 43). The lyrics are written below the Soprano staff. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing rests. A large, faint watermark 'SAMPLE' is visible across the center of the page.

I Come to the Cross

for SATB

Dennis Scott

Noel Dexter

In a gentle 2 (♩ = 50)

Soprano
Alto

1 I come to the cross like a small boat sail-ing a-cross the
2 I come to the cross like a sea - stone, wet in the Sav - ior's
3 I come to the cross like a riv - er fold-ing down to the

Tenor
Bass

4

reef: and the calm of my Christ is wait - ing, be - hind the waves of grief.
hand; he will pol - ish me for his glo - ry, safe in the prom-ised land.
sea; and the tide of love wash-es red, red; down from the cross to me.

9

Com-ing home, Je - sus, com-ing home; not go - ing to sail no more.
not go - ing to drown no more.
not run - ning down no more.

13

Com-ing home, Lord, in-to heav - en; sail-ing to the prom - ised shore.
home and dry on the shore.
sing-ing on the prom - ised shore.

Text © Dennis Scott

Let All the Peoples Praise You
Todos los pueblos canten

for SATB, a cappella

Psalm 67

Spanish tr. Luis Olivieri, adapt.

Victor Pilgrim

arr. Patrick Prescod

$\text{♩} = 104-108$

F Gm⁷/F C/E F

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Keyboard
(for
rehearsal
only)

Let all the peo - ples praise you, O God;
To - dos los pue - blos can - ten a Dios,

5 Dm⁷ Dm⁷/C Gm/B^b C⁷ F

let all the peo - ples praise you.
to - dos los pue - blos can - ten.

praise you, all praise you.
can - ten, si, can - ten.

Spanish text © Luis Oliveri

Music © Caribbean Conference of Churches

Let the Peoples Sing, vol. 1: *Sacred Choral Music of the Caribbean*, series edited by Marian Dolan, ISBN 0-8006-7539-8

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9 F C⁷ F

1 O God be gra - cious and bless us, and let your
 1 Se - ñor, con - ce - de tu gra - cia y que en no -

1 O God be gra - cious and bless us, and let your
 1 Se - ñor, con - ce - de tu gra - cia y que en no -

8 1 O God be gra - cious and bless us, and let your
 1 Se - ñor, con - ce - de tu gra - cia y que en no -

1 O God bless us, bless us, and let your
 1 Oh Dios tu gra - cia y a - mor, y que en no -

13 Dm⁷ G C C⁷

face shed its light up - on us.
 so - tros tu luz siem - pre es té.

face shed light up - on us.
 so - tros siem - pre es té.

face shed light up - on us.
 so - tros siem - pre es té.

face shed light up - on us.
 so - tros siem - pre es té.

17 F B $\flat$ C F

So will_ your ways be known_ on earth and
 To - dos_ co - noz - can tu vo - lun - tad y

So will_ your ways be known_ on earth and
 To - dos_ co - noz - can tu vo - lun - tad y

So will_ your ways be known_ on earth and
 To - dos_ co - noz - can tu vo - lun - tad y

So will_ your ways be known_ on earth and
 To - dos_ co - noz - can tu vo - lun - tad y

21 C 7 F A m D m C 7 F

all na - tions learn your sav - ing help.
 to - da_ na - ción tu sal - va - ción.

all na - tions learn your sav - ing help.
 to - da_ na - ción tu sal - va - ción.

all na - tions learn your sav - ing help.
 to - da_ na - ción tu sal - va - ción.

all na - tions learn your sav - ing help.
 to - da_ na - ción tu sal - va - ción.

25

F Gm⁷/F C/E F

Let all the peo - ples praise you, O God;
 To - dos los pue - blos can - ten a Dios;

29

Dm⁷ Dm⁷/C Gm/Bb C⁷ F

let all the peo - ples praise you.
 to - dos los pue - blos can - ten.

praise you, all praise you.
 can - ten, si, can - ten.

Hallelu, Let the People All Sing!

for SATB, a cappella

John 20
Paraphrase, Marian Dolan

Edouard Toppenberg
arr. Rufo Odon

Lively (♩ = 100) *Clap: ♩ ♩ ♩

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Keyboard
(for
rehearsal
only)

Hal - le - lu! ____ Hal - le - lu! ____

Let the peo - ple all sing, let the peo - ple all sing!

Let all sing, let all sing!

*Entire choir claps rhythm pattern.

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9

I Ear - ly on the first day, Ma - ry came to the tomb; she

I Ear - ly on the first day, Ma - ry came to the tomb; she

I Ear - ly on the first day, Ma - ry came to the tomb; she

I Hal - le - lu, oh, hal - le - lu, oh,

13

saw the stone rolled a - way and cried be - cause he was gone.

saw the stone rolled a - way and cried be - cause he was gone.

saw the stone rolled a - way and cried be - cause he was gone.

hal - le - lu, and cried, "He's gone."

17

“Wo - man, why_ do you weep? I have bro - ken the

“Wo - man, why_ do you weep? I have bro - ken the

“Wo - man, why_ do you weep? I have bro - ken the

“Why do you weep? I’ve bro - ken, bro - ken the

20

bonds of death. You will live_ ev - er - more!”

bonds of death. You will live_ ev - er - more!”

bonds of death. You will live_ ev - er - more!”

bonds of death ev - er - more!”

By the Waters of Babylon

for unison choir and keyboard

Psalm 137, alt.
st. 1 and 3, traditional; st. 2, Marian Dolan

Jamaican traditional
arr. Bread for the Journey

$\text{♩} = 60$

Unison Choir

1 By the wa-ters of Ba - by-lon— where we sat

E

Keyboard

3

down, and there we wept when we re-mem - ber'd

B

7

Zi - on. — By the wa-ters of 2 We hung our harps on the

E

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10

wil - low trees, _ lest we for - get

E

13

Je - ru - sa - lem, the cit - y of our

B

16

high - est joy. We hung our harps on the 3 For the wick - ed

E

19

car-ried us a-way, cap - ti - vi - ty re - quired from us a song.

E A

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