

Great Songs

for children's choir

Luke Stoneham

1. Stay in the Field / I'm a Warrior

Slowly

Quite loud

Oh _____ stay, _____ oh... _____ chil - dren, stay...

Oh _____ stay in the field, _____ chil - dren, stay in the field; _____

Oh _____ stay... _____ oh... _____



5

_____ un - til the war is en - ded...

stay in the field, _____ un - til the war _____ is en - ded...

chil - dren, stay... un - til the war is en - ded...

9

Oh, I am a war-ri-or in the ar-my,
Oh, I, I am, I
Oh, oh, I am, I am...



13

I am a war-ri-or for the Lord...
for the...
am a war-ri-or for the Lord...
war... the Lord...

17

oh... chil - dren, oh... chil - dren,
oh _____ stay in the field, _____ chil - dren, stay in the field; _____
oh stay, _____ oh _____ stay... _____



21

stay... un - til the... is en - - ded... _____
stay in the field, un - til the war _____ is en - ded...
_____ un - - til the war is en - ded... _____

25

I am, oh, I, oh, I
 oh, I am... the ar - my of the
 oh, I am a war - ri - or, I am a



29

am a war-ri-or... of the Lord, the Lord...
 in the ar - my of the Lord, Lord...
 war-ri-or in the ar - my of the Lord...

2. Our Children (Great Song)

A little slower still

Softly

If, if... our... world...

Softly

If we, if... the...

Softly

If we let our vi-sion of the_ world,



6

our... world go forth,

if_ we let our vi - sion of the__ world go__ forth,

if... the world go forth,

11

if we embrace,
if, if... embrace, if,
if we, if, if



14

embrace it, if we embrace it entirely,
if we embrace it entirely,
we embrace it entirely

17

Musical score for measures 17-20. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4, then to 3/4, and finally back to 2/4. The lyrics are: "if we, if if, if we wage, if we wage,". There are horizontal lines under the lyrics "if we wage," and "if we wage,".



21

Musical score for measures 21-24. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4, then to 4/4, and finally to 6/4. The lyrics are: "we, if we wage to - tal war, if we wage to - tal war, if... to - tal, to - tal war,". There are horizontal lines under the lyrics "to - tal war," and "to - tal, to - tal war,".

25

then___ our, then our chil - dren will sing, our...

then, then our chil - dren, then... will sing, our...

then our, then our, then our



29

will sing great songs

then our chil - dren will

chil - dren will sing great___ songs, our... will

34

Musical score for measures 34-36. It consists of three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 7/4 and back to 3/4. The lyrics are: "a - bout us, will sing great songs a - bout us, will... sing great songs,". There are horizontal lines under the lyrics "sing great songs," and "a - bout us, will...".



37

Musical score for measures 37-39. It consists of three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 5/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. The lyrics are: "sing a - bout us years from now. years from now. sing a - bout us years from now.". There are horizontal lines under the lyrics "sing a - bout us years from now." and "sing a - bout us years from now.".

London, December 2006

Great songs—the source texts

A. Two American vernacular songs of the nineteenth century

*I'm a warrior**

Oh, I'm a warrior in the army—
I'm a warrior for the Lord,
Oh, I'm a warrior,
I'm a warrior in the army of the Lord.

My God is a mighty God in battle—
My God is a victor in the fight—
My God is a mighty God in battle—
He's fighting for the right.

Oh, I'm a soldier in the army—
I'm a soldier for the Lord,
I'm a soldier,
I'm a soldier in the army of the Lord.

*from *The Music of Black Americans: A History*,
Eileen Southern, WW Norton & Company, New York, 1971

**from *Singing Soldiers*,
John Niles, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1927

*Stay in the field***

Oh stay in the field, children, stay in the field;
Stay in the field, until the war is ended.

I've got my breast-plate, sword and shield, 'til the war is ended;
And I'll go marching through the field, 'til the war is ended.

Oh stay in the field, children, stay in the field;
Stay in the field, until the war is ended.

Satan thought he had me fast, 'til the war is ended;
But thank the Lord I'm free at last, 'til the war is ended.

B. Former Pentagon Policy Advisor and retired United States Assistant Secretary of Defence, Richard Perle, 2001

'If we just let our vision of the world go forth, and we embrace it entirely, and we don't try to piece together clever diplomacy, but just wage a total war, our children will sing great songs about us years from now.'

Great songs—the source tunes

I'm a warrior

Musical notation for the song "I'm a warrior". It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the first eight measures, ending with a quarter rest. The second staff contains the next eight measures, ending with a double bar line.

Stay in the field

Musical notation for the song "Stay in the field". It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the first eight measures. The second staff contains the next eight measures. The third staff contains the final eight measures, starting with a repeat sign and ending with a double bar line.

Great songs—the process

Source materials

A. Music—the two 19th century songs (*Stay in the field* and *I'm a warrior*)

B. Text—the Richard Perle quote

- 1 Apply pitch material from A (the two 19th century songs) to B (the Richard Perle quote)
- 2 Add auxiliary lines to B (now that it is music)
- 3 Extract these auxiliary lines from B and project them back onto the text of A (stripped of its original music)
- 4 Render these two new songs as a single entity—*Great songs*