Great Songs

for children's choir

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

Slowly

Quite loud

Oh____ stay,_________ oh...____ children, stay...

Quite loud

Oh____ stay in the field,____ children, stay in the field;____

Quite loud

Oh_________ stay___________ oh...____

_________ until the war is ended...

stay in the field,____ until the war____ is ended...

children, stay... until the war is ended...
Oh, I am a warrior in the army,

Oh, I am, I

Oh, oh, I am... I am...

I am a warrior for the Lord...

am a warrior for the Lord...

...war... the... Lord...
oh...  chil - dren,  oh...  chil - dren,  

oh____ stay in the field,  chil - dren,  stay in the field;  

oh stay,  oh stay...  

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...
I am, oh, I, I

oh, I am... the army of the

oh, I am a warrior, I am a

the Lord...

am a warrior... of the Lord, the Lord...

in the army of the Lord, Lord...

warrior in the army of the Lord...
2. Our Children (Great Song)

A little slower still

Softly

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

Softly

If we, if... the...

If we let our vision of the world,

our... world go forth,

if... we let our vision of the world go forth,

if... the world go forth,
if we embrace,
if, if... embrace, if,
if we, if,

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

if, if we wage,

if we wage, 

if we wage, total war,

if we wage total war,

if... total, total war,
then our, then our children will sing, our...
then, then our children, then... will sing, our...
then our, then our, then our

will sing great songs
then our children will sing great songs, our... will
a - bout__us, will

sing great songs__ a - bout__us, will...

sing great songs,

sing a - bout__ us years from now.

years from now.

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.

*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.’


**from Singing Soldiers, John Niles, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1927*
Great songs—the source tunes

I’m a warrior

Stay in the field
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*