

ECHOES OF HOPE, Farnell
SBMP1862

TTB
piano

Echoes of Hope

Text by
F. E. Belden

Music by
Laura Farnell



Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

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About the composer

Laura Farnell (b. 1975) has a passion for making music with singers, working with educators, and creating accessible and artistic choral compositions. After graduating summa cum laude from Baylor University (Waco, TX) with her BME in Choral Music (with a piano emphasis), Laura taught elementary music for two years in Mansfield ISD, followed by eight years of JH choir in Arlington ISD. She was honored by her schools with Teacher of the Year awards in 2000 and 2003, and she received an Excellence in Education Award in 2004 as the Arlington ISD's outstanding junior high teacher of the year.

Laura presently lives in Arlington, Texas, and serves as an invited music conference presenter, as well as choral clinician for district, region, and state honor choirs across the country. As a composer, she especially enjoys writing and arranging music for developing choirs and is represented by several music publishing companies. She has more than one hundred choral compositions in publication, including many commissioned pieces and a co-authored beginning sightsinging method book. She and her husband, Russell, and their two sons, attend First Presbyterian Church of Arlington where Russell serves as Minister of Music and Laura directs the children's and youth choirs.

Text

If any little word of ours
—Can make one life the brighter;
If any little song of ours
—Can make one heart the lighter;
God help us speak that little word,
—And take our bit of singing
And drop it in some lonely vale
—To set the echoes ringing.

If any little love of ours
—Can make one life the sweeter;
If any little care of ours
—Can make one step the fleeter;
If any little help may ease
—The burden of another;
God give us love and care and strength
—To help along each other.

If any little thought of ours
—Can make one life the stronger;
If any cheery smile of ours
—Can make its brightness longer;
Then let us speak that thought today,
—With tender eyes aglowing,
So God may grant some weary one
—Shall reap from our glad sowing.

Ranges



Composer Notes

The text for "Echoes of Hope" is based on a poem by F. E. Belden (1858-1945) who is best known for the many hymn tunes and texts he wrote. His original poem, "The Helping Word" inspired a similar poem, included to the left in its entirety, on which the text of this piece is based. The poem encourages each of us to consider how speaking words of encouragement and showing love through our actions can help others. The poem's reference to combining words of kindness with singing is especially meaningful in this setting since singers in a choir have the opportunity to use their voices to share words that can inspire others.

This piece provides many opportunities to bring the ideas of the poetry to life. Feel free to take time at each rit. or tempo nuance, slowing down to help convey the meaning of text, spending time at the word "longer", lingering on the word "song", and so forth. Also, singing with dynamics will add musicality. For example, the extended crescendo (getting louder) over m52-60 should build in both volume and intensity to convey a sense of resolve to make the decision to act in love. A decrescendo (getting softer) on the repeated "echo" text creates an echo effect and helps the listener think about how one act of kindness can become many as it repeats in this way. Finally, allow your face to express the message of the words as you perform to help inspire your audience to consider the important message of this piece.



recording & rehearsal tracks available at sbmp.com

for the Forestwood Middle School Varsity Tenor Bass Choir, Cantus, Lewisville ISD,
for their February 2026 TMEA convention performance. Kateri Lavacek, director

Echoes of Hope

F. E. Belden, alt.

Laura Farnell

♩ = c. 104

Piano *p*

5 *mp* *poco rit.*

9 ♩ = c. 54 *p*

T Light - er, _____

T Bright - er, _____

B

p

And.

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11

8 sweet - er, _____ fleet - er, _____

8 Sweet - er, _____ fleet - er, _____

8 Fleet - er, _____

p

p

cresc. 3

13 $\text{♩} = c. 104$ *mp* *acc. all.* *mp* $\text{♩} = c. 70$

8 strong er, long - er.

mp *mp*

8 strong - er, long - er.

mp *mp*

8 strong - er, long - er.

mp *mp* *dim.*

pedal harmonically

17 *mp*

If an - y lit - tle word of ours can make one life the bright - er,

mp

If an - y lit - tle word of ours can make one life the bright - er,

mp

can make one life the bright - er,

mp

cresc.

20 *mp*

one heart the light - er. If an - y lit - tle song of

mp

one heart the light - er. If an - y lit - tle song of

one heart the light - er.

dim.

mp

8 ours can make one life the sweet - er, one step the fleet - er,

8 ours can make one life the sweet - er, one step the fleet - er,

mp can make one life the sweet - er, one step the fleet - er,

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 78$

8 Let us speak those words, Let us speak those

mp Let us speak those words, Let us speak those_

mp Those words_ of help, Let us speak those_

28 *cresc. poco a poco*

words of love, and may those words joined with our sing - ing

cresc. poco a poco

words of love, may those words joined with our sing - ing

cresc. poco a poco

words of love, may those words joined with our sing - ing

cresc. poco a poco

31 *mf* *dim.*

fill the lone - ly val - leys, ring - ing ech - oes,

mf

fill the lone - ly val - leys, ring - ing ech - oes, ech - oes

mf

fill the lone - ly val - leys, ring - ing ech - oes,

mf *dim.*

*The higher note here is preferred, unless it is out of range.

rit.

♩ = c. 104

34

mp

dim.

ech - oes of hope. _____

mp

dim.

ech - oes, ech - oes of hope. _____

mp

dim.

ech - oes ech - oes of hope. _____

PREVIEW

39

poco rit.

44 $\text{♩} = c. 70$ *mp*

If an - y lit - tle thought of ours

mp

If an - y lit - tle thought of ours

Opt. Solo *mp*

Can make one

mp

46 Opt. Tenor Solo Duet *

its bright-ness long - er

its bright-ness long - er

life — the strong - er, *Tutti*

Then let us

p **

*Either or both notes may be sung.

**Play cued accompaniment notes m. 49-51 only if needed.

50

taking time a tempo

Tutti

Speak that thought to - day.

Tutti

Speak that thought to - day.

cresc.

speak that thought to - day. Give us love, give us

PREVIEW

53

mp

strength, Let us care, let us speak, Give us

cresc.

56 *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Give us love, give us strength,

Give us love, give us strength,

love, _____ give us strength, Let us

mp *cresc. poco a poco*

58 *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Let us care, let us speak, Oh, _____

Let us care, let us speak, Oh,

care, _____ let us speak.

Let us care, let us speak, Oh, _____

60

mf

poco rit.

♩ = c. 66

8 let us sing! Oh, let us speak those thoughts to - day,

8 let us sing! Let us speak those thoughts to - day,

8 let us sing! Let us speak those thoughts to - day,

mf

62

cresc.

8 May our sing - ing light your way with joy! _____

8 May our sing - ing light your way with joy! _____

cresc.
8 May our sing - ing light your way with joy! _____

cresc.

64 *poco rit.* ♩ = c. 78 *f* Those words_ of

Let us speak those words,

Let us speak those words,

Those words_ of

PREVIEW

67

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with our sing - ing fill the lone - ly

with our sing - ing fill the lone - ly

with our sing - ing fill the lone - ly

ff *molto rit.*

val - leys, ring - ing ech - oes,

val - leys, ring - ing ech - oes, ech - oes, ech - oes,

val - leys, ring - ing ech - oes, ech - oes,

ff *dim.*

*Sing upper note unless range is an issue.

♩ = c. 104
dim.

75

p *dim.*

ech - oes of hope. _____

p *dim.*

ech - oes of hope. _____

p *dim.*

ech - oes of hope. _____

p dim.

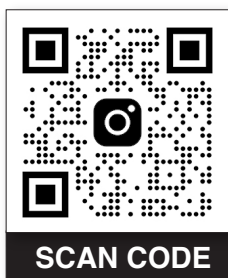
PREVIEW

rit.

80

ech - oes of hope. _____

pp



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