

Commissioned and premiered by the Montgomery County Chorale and Orchestra through the Michael Kemp Fund for New Music on April 16, 2023, in celebration of their 25th Anniversary.  
David J. Fitzpatrick, Artistic Director and Conductor.

# To Make Words Sing

Duration: ca. 3:30

Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

Rollo Dilworth

With driving excitement! ♩ = 120

Piano



*f* *mf*

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. It features a driving, rhythmic accompaniment. The right hand plays chords and eighth-note patterns, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note bass line. The piece starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ends with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

5 *mf*



To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. — To make words sing

To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. — To make words sing

The vocal entry consists of two staves for the vocal line and two staves for the piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. — To make words sing". The piano accompaniment provides a rhythmic accompaniment for the vocal line.



The piano accompaniment continues with a driving, rhythmic accompaniment. It features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords and eighth-note patterns in the right hand. The piece ends with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

10

— is a won - der - ful thing. —  
— is a won - der - ful thing. —  
*mf* Be - cause in a song —  
*mf* Be - cause in a song —

The musical score for measures 10-14 features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The first two staves are for two voices, both with the lyrics "is a wonder - ful thing. —". The third and fourth staves are for two voices, both with the lyrics "Be - cause in a song —". The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass clef with chords and moving lines. A dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) is placed above the piano part in measure 12.

15

To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. —  
To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. —  
words last so long. — To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing.  
words last so long. — To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing.

The musical score for measures 15-19 features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The first two staves are for two voices, both with the lyrics "To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. —". The third and fourth staves are for two voices, both with the lyrics "words last so long. — To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing.". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines.

To Make Words Sing, p. 3

20

*mp*

To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. —

*mp*

To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. —

*mp*

To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. —

*mp*

To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. —

*mp*

25

*poco a poco cresc.*

*mf*

To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. — Be - cause in a song

*poco a poco cresc.*

*mf*

To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. — Be - cause in a song

*poco a poco cresc.*

*mf*

To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. — Be - cause in a song

*poco a poco cresc.*

*mf*

To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. — Be - cause

*poco a poco cresc.*

*mf*

To Make Words Sing, p. 4

30

words last so long. To make words sing is a won-der-ful

words last so long. To make words sing is a won-der-ful

words last so long. To make words sing is a won-der-ful

words last so long. To make words sing is a won-der-ful

The score for measures 30-34 consists of four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "words last so long. To make words sing is a won-der-ful". The piano part features a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

35

thing. thing. To make words sing thing. thing. thing.

thing.

thing.

thing.

The score for measures 35-39 continues with four vocal staves and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "thing. thing. To make words sing thing. thing. thing.". A handwritten "SILVA" is written above the second vocal staff. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar accompaniment style.

To Make Words Sing, p. 5

40

Musical score for measures 40-43. The system includes a vocal line with lyrics "Sing, sing, sing, sing, sing." and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a bass line with a steady eighth-note pattern and a treble line with chords. A piano number '8' is written below the first staff.

Piano accompaniment for measures 40-43, showing the treble and bass staves with chords and melodic lines.

44

Musical score for measures 44-47. The system includes a vocal line with lyrics "Sing, sing, sing, sing, sing, sing, sing." and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a bass line with a steady eighth-note pattern and a treble line with chords. A piano number '8' is written below the first staff.

Piano accompaniment for measures 44-47, showing the treble and bass staves with chords and melodic lines.



To Make Words Sing, p. 7

57

won - - - der - ful thing, — a won - der - ful thing. —

won - - - der - ful thing, — a won - der - ful thing. —

won - - - der - ful thing, — a won - der - ful thing. —

won - - - der - ful thing, — a won - der - ful thing. —

The musical score for measures 57-61 consists of four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a soprano, alto, tenor, and bass range. The piano accompaniment is in the right and left hands. The lyrics are: "won - - - der - ful thing, — a won - der - ful thing. —".

62

*f* To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. — To make words sing

*f* To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. — To make words sing

*f* To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. — To make words sing

*f* Sing. — Sing. —

The musical score for measures 62-66 consists of four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a soprano, alto, tenor, and bass range. The piano accompaniment is in the right and left hands. The lyrics are: "To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. — To make words sing". The piano accompaniment features a strong rhythmic pattern in the left hand and chords in the right hand. The dynamic marking *f* (forte) is present throughout.

To Make Words Sing, p. 8

67

is a won - der - ful thing. — Be - cause in a song —

is a won - der - ful thing. — Be - cause in a song —

is a won - der - ful thing. — Be - cause in a song —

Be - cause —

72

words last so long. — To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. —

words last so long. — To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. —

words last so long. — To make words sing — is a won - der - ful thing. —

words last so long. — To make words sing — is a won - de - ful thing.

SI/SI.1

77

Musical score for measures 77-81. It consists of four staves: a vocal line and three piano accompaniment staves (treble, middle, and bass clefs). The vocal line contains the lyrics "Sing! Sing! Sing! Sing!". The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes.

82

SI/A

Musical score for measures 82-86. It consists of five staves: a vocal line and four piano accompaniment staves (treble, middle, and bass clefs). The vocal line contains the lyrics "Sing! To make words sing is a wonderful thing. Sing!". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern as in the previous section.

86

SII  
A

Sing! — Sing! — Sing! Sing!

To make words sing — is a won-der-ful thing. Sing!

To make words sing — is a won-der-ful thing. Sing!

To make words sing — is a won-der-ful thing. Sing!

**Broaden to end**

90

SII  
A

To make words sing — is a won-der-ful thing. Sing! —

To make words sing — is a won-der-ful thing. Sing! —

To make words sing — is a won-der-ful thing. Sing! —

To make words sing — is a won-der-ful thing. Sing! —