

For use with

Yonder Come Day

with

Walk Together, Children

Words and Music
Traditional Spirituals
Arranged by Vicki Tucker Courtney

(810042)

Rehearsal Notes

Try not to be overly concerned with traditional choral “correctness” on this piece. A little scooping, a little “punch per note,” “throwing away” an occasional note, etc. are well within the style. Those effects need to be performed by everyone together so it doesn’t come across as random or sloppy.

A few suggestions:

1. Stress the “m” rather than the vowel on *come* each time.
2. Crescendo between *day* and *Day* (mm. 5-6, 9-10, etc.).
3. “Throw away” (meaning totally unaccented and lightly sung) the off-glide (the last note) of m. 8, 18, etc.
4. Stress “n” on *breakin’*, and *risin’*, and *camp-meetin’*.

Have fun with it!

About the Spirituals

“Yonder Come Day” is a spiritual from the Georgia Sea Islands, where some of the first slaves to arrive in the United States were put to work. For enslaved peoples, this song was a message of hope, pointing their feet “down that freedom line,” as they walked toward a new day of independence.

“Walk Together, Children” is a spiritual that calls us to work together in unity and purpose. In the days of slavery, it is believed that this song was sung by slaves who were weary from long hours of hard labor. They sang this song to encourage one another to keep moving forward, even when they were utterly exhausted. The words “there’s a great campmeeting in the promised land,” expressed the hope of freedom from slavery and of a better life where families would be reunited.