



# Quaker Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing?)

TRADITIONAL

Arranged by KEVIN MIXON (ASCAP)

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## INSTRUMENTATION

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- 1 Conductor
  - 8 1st Violin
  - 8 2nd Violin
  - 5 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
  - 5 Viola
  - 5 Cello
  - 5 String Bass
  - 1 Piano Accompaniment
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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

All Belwin string parts have been carefully bowed and fingered appropriately by level. The Yellow Very Beginning series includes many bowings as well as reminder fingerings for first-time readers. The Red Beginning series includes frequent bowings to assist younger players. Fingerings for altered pitches are often marked. The Green Intermediate series includes appropriately placed bowings for middle-level students. Fingerings and positions are marked for notes beyond first position. The Blue Concert series includes bowings appropriate for the experienced high school player. Fingerings and position markings are indicated for difficult passages.

*Bob Phillips*  
Belwin/Pop String Editor

## PROGRAM NOTES

The Quakers, or Religious Society of Friends, originated as a left-wing Puritan sect in England in the 17th century. Because of intolerance, they sought freedom as early colonists in the New World. Even though they were persecuted themselves, the Quakers were pacifists and fervent advocates of human rights, fighting consistently for issues such as women's rights, prison reform, treatment of the mentally ill and abolishing slavery. Though music was not widely accepted by the Quakers until the early 20th century, they are credited with several hymns, and *How Can I Keep from Singing?* is one of the most endearing and popular.

*My life flows on in endless song  
Above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the real, thought far off hymn  
That hails the new creation.  
Above the tumult and the strife,  
I hear the music ringing;  
It sounds an echo in my soul  
How can I keep from singing?*

*What through the tempest loudly roars,  
I hear the truth, it liveth.  
What through the darkness round me close,  
Songs in the night it giveth.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that rock I'm clinging,  
Since love is lord of Heaven and earth,  
How can I keep from singing?*

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The hymn text has a strong message that is manifested in the melodic rhythm, which is why slurs are relatively sparse in this arrangement. Strive for rhythmic precision even when playing legato sections. The piano has independent parts that are optional, but will add much to this setting. The bass, cello and viola lines are also harmonically independent at times, so cues are provided in the cello or piano part throughout. It is my hope that you will enjoy this melody as much as I do, and that you have an opportunity to learn more about this extraordinary group of people who serve as inspiration in the pursuit of human rights and equality.

# Quaker Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing?)

Traditional

Arranged by Kevin Mixon (ASCAP)

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Duration - 3:00

**Legato** (♩ = 80)

**Violins**  
I  
II

**Viola (Violin III)**

**Cello**  
(Vla)

**String Bass**

**Piano Accompaniment**

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla. (Vln. III)**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Piano Accomp.**

*div.*

*Play*

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12

**13 Confidently**  
*div. V*

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

**13 Confidently (Vln. 1)**  
*mf* Play

Piano Accomp. *mf*

13 14 15 16 17 18

**21 With growing intensity**

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello *x4*

Str. Bass

**21 With growing intensity (Strings)**

Piano Accomp.

19 20 21 22 23 24

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**  
(Vln. III)

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Piano Accomp.**

*f* *mp* *p*

25 26 27 28 29 30

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**  
(Vln. III)

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Piano Accomp.**

*mp* *div.*

31 32 33 34 35 36

I  
Vlns.

II

Vla.  
(Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano  
Accomp.

div.

Play

(Cello, Bass)

37 38 39 40 41 42

46 Rhythmically, with power (♩ = 100)

I  
Vlns.

II

Vla.  
(Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano  
Accomp.

stringendo

f

4

46 Rhythmically, with power (♩ = 100)

43 44 45 46 47

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**  
(Vln. III)

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Piano Accomp.**

48 49 50 51 52

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**  
(Vln. III)

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Piano Accomp.**

*rit.* 56 **Legato** (♩ = 80)

*mf* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

*rit.* 56 **Legato** (♩ = 80)  
**Play**

*mf* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

(Cello, Bass)

53 54 55 56 57

I  
Vlns.  
II

Vla.  
(Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano  
Accomp.

58 59 60 61 62 63

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 58 through 63. It features five staves for strings: Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, and String Bass. The Piano Accompaniment is shown in grand staff notation. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

I  
Vlns.  
II

Vla.  
(Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano  
Accomp.

Play  
*mp*

(Cello, Bass) 64 65 66 67

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 64 through 67. It features the same five string staves as the previous block. The Piano Accompaniment part includes a 'Play' instruction and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking. The score continues with various musical notations. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.



68 rit.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

68 69 70 71

72 73 74 75

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

*p* *pp*

rit.

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