

IT'S THE MUSIC THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER

for SATB/mixed voices

Words, Music, and Arrangement by
CLAY HINE*Freely, rubato*

Tenor Lead Bari Bass

Freely, rubato

1 2 3

It's the mu - sic that brings us to - geth - er,

4 5 6 7 8

F = E[#]

it's the mu - sic that brings joy un - told. Those

9 10 11 12

oo

sweet mel - o - dies, those grand har - mo - nies light the

13 14 15 16 17

fi - re that burns in my soul. When storms roll a -

It's the Music That Brings Us Together

18 19 20 21

round, when life brings us down, ____ when trou - ble an'

22 23 24 25

strife come our way, _____ it's the mu - sic that

26 27 28 29

brings us to - geth - er, _____ but it's the friend -

30 31 32 33 stay. Shar - ing

ships _____ that make us stay. stay. Shar - ing

mu - sic with friends

34 35 36

mu - sic with friends

37 38 39 40

fills our hearts with song each day.

From the Composer/Arranger

This song was written shortly after “shelter-in-place” for COVID-19 started. As with many barbershop ensembles, my chorus had just started virtual rehearsals and it was inspiring to see how many barbershoppers still wanted to find ways to rehearse, learn more, talk about music, and most importantly, stay connected to all of our barbershop friends. It’s easy for me to get emotional about the impact barbershop has had on my life, but with the craziness of everyday life, we don’t always get a lot of opportunities to remember WHY barbershop is so important in our lives. Sharing a song or a great tag with friends is one thing that made us all go nuts for barbershop in the first place. Even when we’re not able to sing together, it’s incredibly inspiring and helps us remember WHY when so many still do so much to virtually get together with the friends that make music so meaningful to all of us.

Performance Notes

- 1) This key (C) may work well for some mixed barbershop ensembles, but more generally, B♭ - D should fit, depending upon your particular ensemble’s mix of voices. Feel free to adjust the key based on this. This arrangement is also available in A♭ (TTBB for male voices) and F (SSAA for female voices).
- 2) There are optional notes shown in measures 17 (bass), 18 (bari), and 20 (bass). These work just fine, and may be considerations for your ensemble depending upon the voices and on the key you choose.
- 3) The song starts with a simple message: “it’s the music that brings us together,” and continues to tell the story of what music means to us. From sweet melodies to grand harmonies, music is the emotional fire that fuels our souls. Music is passion, music helps us through good times and bad times, and when our troubles might be especially great, music is there to help ease the burden. The message starts simply, grows more emotional, passionate, and grand, and then comes back to the simple thought that “it’s the music that brings us together” . . . but it’s the friends we share music with that matter the most and that make each day special.

Special thanks to track producers Tony De Rosa and Michaela Johnston for donating their time and talents to create learning tracks for this arrangement. They are available free of charge at shop.barbershop.org as well as at www.advocals.com (Tony) and www.officialjohnstonmusic.com (Michaela).

Additional note from Composer/Arranger, Clay Hine, May 2020

For as long as I can remember, music and barbershop have meant a lot to me. To my whole family, to choruses I've sung with and directed, to quartets I've had the privilege of singing with, to barbershoppers I've sung tags with and had the amazing opportunity to meet from all over the world, and to folks who love music who I hope to meet someday: this is for you . . . make as many copies as you want . . . and thanks for sharing music with friends.

"It's the Music That Brings Us Together" is something we've all probably thought about during the last few weeks of craziness. With that, I had an idea for an original song that I thought might capture the sentiments of all barbershoppers from all walks of life. Whatever country you call home, whatever organization you're a member of, and whatever group of folks you like to sing tags with—we all love barbershop, and right now, we all love and miss the same things. Please enjoy this song, share it with friends, try it on for size, and hopefully, sing it one day soon with the people who "fill your heart with song". Special thanks to Tony DeRosa and Michaela Johnston for donating their time and amazing talents to create wonderful learning media! Check out their websites for available tracks, recordings, and other fun items at www.advocals.com and www.officialjohnstonmusic.com.

From track producer, Michaela Johnston

This beautiful original song by the incredible Clay Hine perfectly describes all the amazing things about being involved in our barbershop community! We are brought together by our common love of music, but it's the life-long friendships made here that keep us going—through the good times and the bad! I hope everyone takes some time to learn this while we're apart, because I can't wait to sing it in person with my barbershop family when we can all finally be together again!

From track producer, Tony De Rosa

As a barbershop and professional singer as well as a vocal music director, I have been blessed to be a part of amazing music all of my life. That said, having a chance to connect with 'barbershop lovers' is a true joy of my life. One of the most treasured relationships I have is with Clay Hine. Having a chance to connect with Clay through the years on countless musical endeavors has been a gift. But as his song says, while we come together to make music and harmony, it is the bonds we weave as people that make the real difference in our lives. Thank you, Clay, for writing something simple yet filled with deep meaning at a time that we all need it. Thank you also for allowing me to be a part of bringing it to life so others might enjoy it as well.

Clay Hine Bio

Clay is a 3rd generation barbershopper and joined the Barbershop Harmony Society in 1978 as soon as his dad (director of the Detroit #1 Chapter) would let him. He became the director of the Big Chicken Chorus in 1989, competing in 15 consecutive BHS international competitions, placing as high as 3rd. He's been the director for the Atlanta Vocal Project since 2005, competing in 11 BHS international chorus competitions. Clay has won 3 district quartet championships, and won 8 quartet medals at BHS international competitions, including gold with FRED in 1999. Over their 25 years together, FRED performed in every US state and over 15 countries. Clay currently sings with Category 4, 2019 BHS 7th place finalists. He's arranged for and coached choruses and quartets around the world and has been a certified BHS Music judge since 1990. Clay's wife (Becki) and daughter (Melody) are at least as obsessed with barbershop as he is (and fortunately, more talented). Clay's son, Camden, also loves barbershop, and has been busy earning as many college degrees as he can before he turns 25. Clay has a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering, and during the day is a Regional Sales Manager for Nordic Semiconductor.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask *before* you sing.