

FV05 - Someplace to Come To - SATB divisi

FORGOTTEN VOICES

Someplace To
Come To
by Katie Kring

*text based on conversations with
Springfield Street Choir members*

ABOUT THIS PIECE

I lived a rough life my whole life
Slept in a cardboard box full of broken dreams
Seeking safety and finding danger
Trying to meet some basic needs

This claustrophobic crowd
We're like micro-nomads
The same tribe of people
Walking from place to place
With people who don't feel like my people
Thrust together in poverty and space

But this is a place to come and feed the spirit
A home away from homeless
Where we know they love and see us
A place where we can be us

We're wearing wet socks all day long
Walking miles and miles till our feet bleed
Nowhere to lie down, nowhere to heal
Nowhere to sit or sleep or breathe

And some of it is not as bad as people think
And some of it is way worse
And I'm dancing just as fast as I can
And somehow I'm going in reverse

But here
It gives you a peace, a sanctuary
Someplace to come to
This door's always been open
Someplace to come to
Someplace to come home to
Home.



This is a very bittersweet song about a special place that is gone now. The Connecting Grounds was the church where the Street Choir rehearsed from Day One until the pandemic halted our rehearsals in March of 2020. It was a church, yes, but it was also a shelter, a cafeteria, a meeting place, a grocery store, a clothing boutique, a bike-repair shop, a field hospital, a foster-visit center, and whatever else it needed to be, all in three bays of a strip mall up against the railroad tracks, in a shady part of town. It was all that, but it was so much more than that.

Every person I interviewed for this project -- the ones quoted here, and the ones not -- used words like "sanctuary" and "home." "They love us," they said, over and over and over. And they did -- they do -- love the homeless and marginalized so well that the neighbors complained. The neighborhood organized. And this little church was told that they either had to stop serving their beloved homeless friends, or they had to leave. So they did, and have created a wonderful constellation of outreach services and others elsewhere in the city that quite literally have kept our homeless population alive. And yet, the thing that is missing is the place for everyone to be together under the banner of love. A place for everyone to come to -- home.

– Katie Krings



Katie Krings is a composer, writer-of-musicals, baker and alto. Katie's choral works and commissions are performed internationally and she has served as Springfield Chamber Chorus's Composer-in-Residence for several years. Her "At the Hour of Closing" was the winner of the 2019 MCDA Opus Award. She is particularly interested in creating work that empowers disadvantaged communities and is a passionate advocate for writing good parts for altos. Katie's musical theatre works include PEARL, ONWARD, FARMERS MARKET THE MUSICAL (about the time she got kicked out of the farmers' market -- twice!), IN THE SWIM and THINK BIG for the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and KELLY THE DESTROYER VS THE SPRINGFIELD COBRAS. Her first opera, SWEET LOUISA, is slated to premiere in 2022. Katie is the owner of Pickwick & Cherry, a bakery & cooking school, and an adjunct professor in the Missouri State University Music Department. In 2019, she founded the Springfield Street Choir, a choir made up of people experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty. She received her MFA in Musical Theatre Writing at NYU and her BFA in music at the University of Michigan, where she danced 25' up a tree and lived to tell about it.

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Forgotten Voices Some Place to Come To

This text was created from conversations with Springfield Street Choir members Paul, Katy, & Nino

Music by Katie Krings

Lightly ♩ = 96

mf

Soprano
I lived a rough life my whole life — Slept in a card-board box full of bro-ken dreams

Alto
I lived a rough life my whole life — card-board box full of bro-ken dreams

Tenor
I lived a rough life my whole life — card-board box full of bro-ken dreams

Bass
I lived a rough life my whole life — card-board box full of bro-ken dreams

Piano
(rehearsal only)

Lightly ♩ = 96

6

S
Seek-ing safe - ty and find-ing dan - ger Try-ing to meet some bas-ic needs This claus-tro-pho-bic crowd

A
Seek-ing safe - ty and find-ing dan - ger Try-ing to meet some bas-ic needs zh

T
8
Seek-ing safe - ty and find-ing dan - ger Try-ing to meet some bas-ic needs zh claus-tro-pho-bic

B
Seek-ing safe - ty and find-ing dan - ger Try-ing to meet some bas-ic needs zh

Pno.

Some Place to Come To

2

11

S zh _____ the same tribe of peo-ple walk-ing from place to place With peo-ple who don't feel _____

A We're like mi-cro-no-mads the same tribe of peo-ple walk-ing from place to place With peo-ple who don't feel _____

T crowd _____ the same tribe of peo-ple walk-ing from place to place peo-ple who don't feel _____

B _____ the same tribe of peo-ple walk-ing from place to place peo-ple who don't feel _____

Pno.

15

S like my peo-ple Thrust to - get-her in po-ver-ty and space *mp* But this is a place to come and feed the spi-rit. A

A like my peo-ple Thrust to - get-her in po-ver-ty and space *mp* But this is a place to come and feed the spi-rit.

T like my peo-ple Thrust to - get-her in po-ver-ty and space _____ feed the spi-rit.

B like my peo-ple Thrust to - get-her in po-ver-ty and space _____ feed the spi-rit.

Pno.

21

S *f*
home a - way from home - less__ Where we know they love and see us A place where we can

A *f*
home a - way from home - less__ Where we know they love and see us A place where we can

T *f*
home a - way from home - less__ Where we__ know they love and see us A place where we can

B *f*
home a - way from home - less__ Where we__ know they love and see us A place where we can

Pno.

28

S *mf* *mp*
be us.__ A place where we can be us. A place where we can be

A *mf* *mp*
be__ us.__ A place where we can be__ us. A place where we can be__

T *mf* *mp*
be__ us.__ A place where we can be__ us. place where we can be__

B *mf* *mp*
be__ us.__ A place where we can be__ us. place where we can be__

Pno.

Some Place to Come To

4

36 *mf*

S us. ____ We're wear-ing wet socks all day long ____ Walk-ing miles and mi-les till our feet bleed ____ no -

A us. ____ wear-ing wet socks all day long ____ Walk-ing miles and mi-les till our feet bleed ____ no -

T us. ____ wear-ing wet socks all day long ____ Walk-ing miles and mi-les till our feet bleed ____ no -

B us. ____ We're wear-ing wet socks all day long ____ Walk-ing miles and mi-les till our feet bleed ____ no -

Pno.

41 *mf*

S where to lie ____ down no - where to heal ____ no - where to sit or sleep or breathe and some of it is not as

A where to lie ____ down no - where to heal ____ no - where to sit or sleep or breathe oh

T where to lie ____ down no - where to heal ____ no - where to sit or sleep or breathe oh some of it is

B where to lie down where to heal ____ no - where to sit or sleep or breathe oh

Pno.

46 *rall.* *a tempo*

S bad _____ and some of it is way worse And I'm danc - ing just as fast as I can and

A *mf* bad as peo - ple think and some of it is way worse And I'm danc - ing just as fast as I can _____

T bad _____ and some of it is way worse And I'm danc - ing just as fast as I can and

B _____ and some of it is way worse And I'm danc - ing just as fast as I can _____

Pno. *mf* *rall.* *a tempo*

51 *accel.*

S some - how I'm go - ing in re - verse but here _____ here _____

A _____ here _____ but _____

T some - how I'm go - ing in re - verse but here _____ here _____

B _____ but here _____ here _____ but _____

Pno. *accel.*

Some Place to Come To

6
57 *accel.* $\text{♩} = 104$ *f*

S
It gives you a peace a sanc - tu - a - ry some - place to

A
here It gives you a peace a sanc - tu - a - ry some - place to

T
8 here peace sanc - tu - a - ry some - place to

B
here peace sanc - tu - a - ry some - place to

Pno.
57 *accel.* $\text{♩} = 104$

64

S
come to This door's al - ways been o - pen some -

A
come to This door's al - ways been o - pen some -

T
8 come to This door's al - ways been o - pen some -

B
come to This door's al - ways been o - pen some -

Pno.
64

69

S
place to come to _____ some _____ place to

A
place to come to _____ some - place to

T
8
place to come _____ some - place to come to _____

B
place to come _____ to _____ some - place to

Pno.

73

S
come to _____ some-place to come home to Home _____

A
come to _____ some-place to come home to Home _____

T
8
oh _____ some-place to come home to Home

B
come to oh _____ some-place to come home to Home

Pno.