

FV03 - Without the Struggle - SATB divisi

# FORGOTTEN VOICES

Without the Struggle

by Katie Krings

*text based on a conversation*

*Springfield Street Choir member Paul*

# ABOUT THIS PIECE

Without the struggle I ain't me  
On the streets, it's alright, it's where I belong  
If everything is running smooth  
then it's too good  
I walk as humble as I can

If it ain't sweat, blood and tears  
then it aint worth living  
I am flesh, so I'm gonna feed the flesh  
And if I can feed the spirit,  
well, it needs fed too  
I am gonna do me while I can

And oh, there's smiles out there  
And oh, when you get those smiles  
God it's good, you know?  
God it's good.

But the rest of it is hard  
So I live hard

Without the struggle, I ain't me  
On the streets, it's alright, it's where I belong  
A person comes in all shapes and forms  
I should come in small doses  
But I don't

Without the struggle I ain't me  
On the streets, it's alright, it's where I belong  
If everything is running smooth  
then it's too good  
I walk as humble as I can



This text is based on an interview I did with my friend Paul on a cold February night as we stood outside the Connecting Grounds church, surrounded by crowds of other homeless people, ducking into the church for warmth, then back out to smoke, rinse, and repeat. At the time of this interview, Paul had been out on the street for about 8 years, and was on any number of drugs. Just about a month after this interview, he got sober, and has maintained that sobriety to this day. He is also off the street now, living with his mother.

Paul is a someone who is a welter of contradictions - a spectacularly articulate man who isn't afraid to throw a punch, someone who loves very deeply but who has been hurt in impossible ways, and who has a rap sheet that says he carries the potential for danger, but who has only ever made me feel safe and protected to have him around. Knowing how much he has struggled, I am so proud of the progress he has made.

– Katie Kring



Katie Kring 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

## Without The Struggle

Text based on a conversation with Springfield Street Choir member Paul S.

Music by Katie Krings

$\text{♩} = 76$

*p*

Soprano  
ooh \_\_\_\_\_ ooh \_\_\_\_\_

*p*

Alto  
ooh \_\_\_\_\_

*mp*

Tenor  
With - out the strug - gle I ain't me On the streets, it's al-right, it's where I be-long If \_\_\_\_\_

*mp*

Bass  
With - out the strug - gle I ain't me On the streets, it's al-right, it's where I be-long If \_\_\_\_\_

$\text{♩} = 76$

*p*

Piano

6

S  
ooh \_\_\_\_\_ ooh \_\_\_\_\_ ooh \_\_\_\_\_ If it aint

A  
ooh \_\_\_\_\_ ooh \_\_\_\_\_

T  
ev - ry - thing is run - ning smooth then it's too good I \_\_\_\_\_ walk as hum - ble as I \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_ If it aint

B  
ev - 'ry - thing is run - ning smooth then it's too good I \_\_\_\_\_ walk as hum - ble as I \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_ If it aint

*mp*

Pno.

# Without The Struggle

*mf melody*

S  
sweat blood and tears then it ain't worth liv-ing I am flesh so i'm gon-na feed the flesh Ah

A  
ooh And when I can feed the spi-rit, well it

T  
sweat blood and tears then it ain't worth liv-ing I am flesh can feed the spi-rit, well it

B  
sweat blood and tears then it ain't worth liv-ing I am flesh so i'm gon-na feed the flesh when I can feed the spi-rit, well it

*mf melody* *mf melody*

Pno.

16 **Joyful!** ♩ = 72

S  
Ooh oh There's smiles out

A  
*mp* needs fed too I am gon-na do me while I can oh There's smiles out

T  
*melody* needs fed too I am gon-na do me while I can And oh There's smiles out

B  
needs fed too I am gon-na do me while I can And oh There's smiles out

*mp* **Joyful!** ♩ = 72

Pno.

Without The Struggle  $\text{♩} = 64$

23

S here Oh! — When you get some smiles God, it's good, you know God, it's good,

A smiles out here oh — when you get some smiles God, good,

T here — And oh — when you get some smiles God, good,

B here — And oh — when you get some smiles God, good,

Pno.

$\text{♩} = 64$

29

S *ppp* But the rest of it is hard — I live hard

A *pp* But the rest of it is hard — So I live hard — *p* With -

T So I live hard —

B *ppp* But the rest of it is hard — I live hard With -

Pno.

# Without The Struggle

35 *a tempo cresc poco a poco al fin* *mp*

S  
With - out the strug - gle I ain't me On the streets, all —

A  
out the strug - gle I ain't me On the streets, it's al - right, it's where I be - long A — per - son comes in all —

T  
*mp*  
With - out the strug - gle I ain't me On the streets, it's al - right, all

B  
out the strug - gle I ain't me On the streets, it's al - right, it's where I be - long A — per - son comes in all —

Pno. *a tempo cresc poco a poco al fin*

40

S  
shapes and forms I should come in small do - ses but I don't —

A  
shapes and forms I should come in small do - ses but I — don't With - out the strug - gle I ain't me On the

T  
shapes and — forms I should come in small do - ses but I don't With - out the strug - gle I ain't me On the

B  
shapes and forms I should come in small do - ses but I don't — I ain't me On the

Pno.

45

S Ah

A streets, it's al - right, it's where I be - long If ev - 'ry - thing is run - ning smooth then

T streets, it's al - right, it's where I be - long If ev - 'ry - thing is run - ning smooth then

B streets, right, where I be - long If ev - thing is run - ning smooth then

Pno.

48

S *rit.* it's too good I walk as hum - ble as I can

A it's too good I walk as hum - ble as I can

T it's too good I walk as hum - ble as I can

B it's too good I walk as hum - ble as I can

Pno. *rit.*