

What Will We Promise

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## Viking Song

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# What Will We Promise?

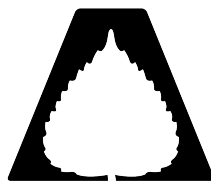
TB, cello and piano

text

David Bengtson

music

Christopher Aspaas



**ASPEN HILL**

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for the Staples Area Men's Chorus,  
Steve Hoernberg, Conductor,  
on the occasion of Real Men Sing,  
Staples, MN, October 3, 2015

# What Will We Promise?

David Bengtson

Christopher Aspaas (ASCAP)

The musical score is written for Cello, Violoncello (Vc.), Bass (B.), and Piano. It is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 40. The score begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Cello part features a melodic line with a long note in the first measure. The Piano part includes a 'pedal freely throughout' instruction and a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Violoncello and Bass parts enter at measure 6 with a tempo change to quarter note = 60 and a *rit.* (ritardando) marking. The Bass part has a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic and includes the lyrics 'We'. The Piano part continues with a *mp* dynamic. A large watermark 'do not duplicate' is visible across the score.

The opening section (mm. 1-7) is a suggestion only: it should be played freely and aleatorically to imitate the sounds of the singing desert sands and ringing rocks found in Pennsylvania. Alternatively, the piece could open with the piano introduction starting with the pickup to measure 9.

11 *a tempo*

Vc.

T

B

*mp*

We sing like the swift who

sing to the spi - rit of moun - tain and val - ley.

14

Vc.

T

B

*mf*

cries down the rain, like the thrush whose prayers rise be - yond the stars. Our

like the thrush whose prayers rise be - yond the stars. Our

17 A

Vc.

T  
8  
song is a mys - te - ry of power and grace. Look, in the dis - tance! The

B  
song is a mys - te - ry of power and grace. The

*mf*

20 *p*

T  
8  
chil - dren of to - mor - row are cross - ing the thresh - old in - to the world. Will we

B  
chil - dren of to - mor - row are cross - ing the thresh - old in - to the world.

23

T  
8  
pro-mise a safe place to laugh and to learn? *mp*

B  
Will we pro-mise a life with-out

*p*

26

T  
8  
*mf* **B**  
*mf* The sands will sing. The rocks will ring. The

B  
threats and harm? The sands will sing. The rocks will ring. The

*mf*

29

Vc.  
birds will catch rain-drops in flight.

T  
8  
birds will catch rain-drops in flight.

B  
birds will catch rain-drops in flight.

*p*  
play cue notes only if no cello is present

32

Vc.

*mp*

C

Vc.

T

B

*mf*

Will we pro - tect and hon - or the chil - dren, lift the cur - tains of dark - ness and doubt,

*mf*

Will we pro - tect and hon - or the chil - dren, lift the cur - tains of dark - ness and doubt,

*mf*

37

Vc.

T

B

qui-et the thun-der of fear and sus - pi-cion, give voic-es of cour-age to those with - out?

qui-et the thun-der of fear and sus - pi-cion, give voic-es of cour-age to those with - out?

**D**

Vc.

T

B

Look at our fac - es! We, too, are chil - dren.

Look at our fac - es! We, too, are chil - dren.

41

Vc.

T

B

*f*

Sons and bro - thers, strang - ers and neigh - bors, we sing

Sons and bro - thers, strang - ers and neigh - bors, we sing

43

Vc.

T

B

*cresc.*

*ff*

*rit.*

*a tempo*

*f*

hope in - to the won - der of their eyes, \_\_\_\_\_ their eyes. \_\_\_\_\_ The

hope in - to the won - der of their eyes, \_\_\_\_\_ their eyes. \_\_\_\_\_ The

*cresc.*

*ff*



**E**

Vc.

T

B

46

The birds will catch rain-drops in  
birds will catch rain-drops in

**F**

Vc.

T

B

49

flight. \_\_\_\_\_ sis - ters and bro - thers, we  
flight. \_\_\_\_\_ Bro - thers and sis - ters, sis - ters and bro - thers, we

52

T  
8  
cra - dle you in the arms of our song. This is our pro-mise to

B  
cra - dle you in the arms of our song. This is our pro-mise to

55

Vc.  
one — a - no-ther. This is our pro-mise pro - mise to

T  
one — a - no-ther. This is our pro-mise to you.

B  
one — a - no-ther. This is our pro-mise to you.

8<sup>va</sup>-----

**G**

Vc.

T

B

58

8

you. We sing! We

We re-mem-ber the names of the child-ren, bro-thers, sis-ters, neigh-bors and friends...

(8va)

rit.

60

T

B

(8va)

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62 *a tempo* freely *ff*

Vc.

T

B

We pro - mise. *ff* We sing!

We re - mem - ber the chil - dren. *ff*

*ff*

8<sup>va</sup>

for persual only