Stand by Me!

Stephen M. Lee

FROM THE COLLECTION
Stand by Me: A Celebration of African-American Song
Octavo Packet #30113342
CD #30113343
Stand by Me!

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Pleading (\( \text{\textit{p}} = \text{ca. 50} \)) Breathing should be seamless

Soprano

1. Stand by me! Stand by me!
2. Walk with me! Walk with me!
3. Be with me! Be with me!
4. Hold mah hand! Hold mah hand!
5. Calm mah fears! Calm mah fears!
6. Wipe mah tears! Wipe mah tears!
7. I’m your child! I’m your child!

Alto

1. Stand by me! Stand by me!
2. Walk with me! Walk with me!
3. Be with me! Be with me!
4. Hold mah hand! Hold mah hand!
5. Calm mah fears! Calm mah fears!
6. Wipe mah tears! Wipe mah tears!
7. I’m your child! I’m your child!

Tenor

1. Stand! Stand by me! Stand by me!
2. Walk! Walk with me! Walk with me!
3. Be! Be with me! Be with me!
4. Hold! Hold mah hand! Hold mah hand!
5. Calm! Calm mah fears! Calm mah fears!
6. Wipe! Wipe mah tears! Wipe mah tears!
7. I’m, I’m your child! I’m your child!

Bass

1. Stand by me! Stand! Stand by me!
2. Walk with me! Walk! Walk with me!
3. Be with me! Be! Be with me!
4. Hold mah hand! Hold! Hold mah hand!
5. Calm mah fears! Calm! Calm mah fears!
6. Wipe mah tears! Wipe! Wipe mah tears!
7. I’m your child! I’m, I’m your child!

Keyboard

(for rehearsal only)

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1. Stand by me!
2. Walk with me!
3. Be with me!
4. Hold mah hand!
5. Calm mah fears!
6. Wipe mah tears!
7. I'm your child!

1-7. Oh, Lawd! Lawd! Lawd!

1. Stand by me!
2. Walk with me!
3. Be with me!
4. Hold mah hand!
5. Calm mah fears!
6. Wipe mah tears!
7. I'm your child!

1-7. Oh, Lawd!

1. Stand by me!
2. Walk with me!
3. Be with me!
4. Hold mah hand!
5. Calm mah fears!
6. Wipe mah tears!
7. I'm your child!

1-7. Oh, Lawd!

1. Stand! Stand by me!
2. Walk! Walk with me!
3. Be! Be with me!
4. Hold! Hold mah hand!
5. Calm! Calm mah fears!
6. Wipe! Wipe mah tears!
7. I'm, I'm your child!

Edition #30113339
Consider singing “Stand by Me” in the style of a Taizé chant. Although similar to Charles Albert Tindley’s (1851–1933) hymn by the same name, “Stand by Me” makes a radical departure from the Tindley hymn. The imperative “Walk with me!” recalls the words of the African-American Spiritual, “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me.” In the African-American community, the word “Lawd” is a vernacular expression for Lord. “Lawd” is a term of endearment, indicating a trusting relationship with an “on-time” God, who walks with me “while I’m on this tedious journey.” Additionally, singing the vernacular expression “mah” instead of “my” provides color and weight, amplifying the text’s meaning.

These seven supplications will enrich any liturgical celebration, especially Lenten devotions, e.g., The Way of the Cross, The Seven Last Words, or any similar celebration in which a short refrain is needed. Sing these verses straight through, repeat them, or even omit individual verses, as needed. Consider employing silence or, perhaps, spoken word before and/or after each verse. Singing the syllable “ah” or “loo” between verses may also be effective. The following are offered as possible additional verses: “Stay with me!” “Guide mah feet!” “Wash mah sins!” “Make me whole!”

—Stephen Lee