Inspired
Songs

Plenty

Janèt Sullivan Whitaker

Preview

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Edition #60100962

Plenty

Janèt Sullivan Whitaker
Acc. by David A. Brinker

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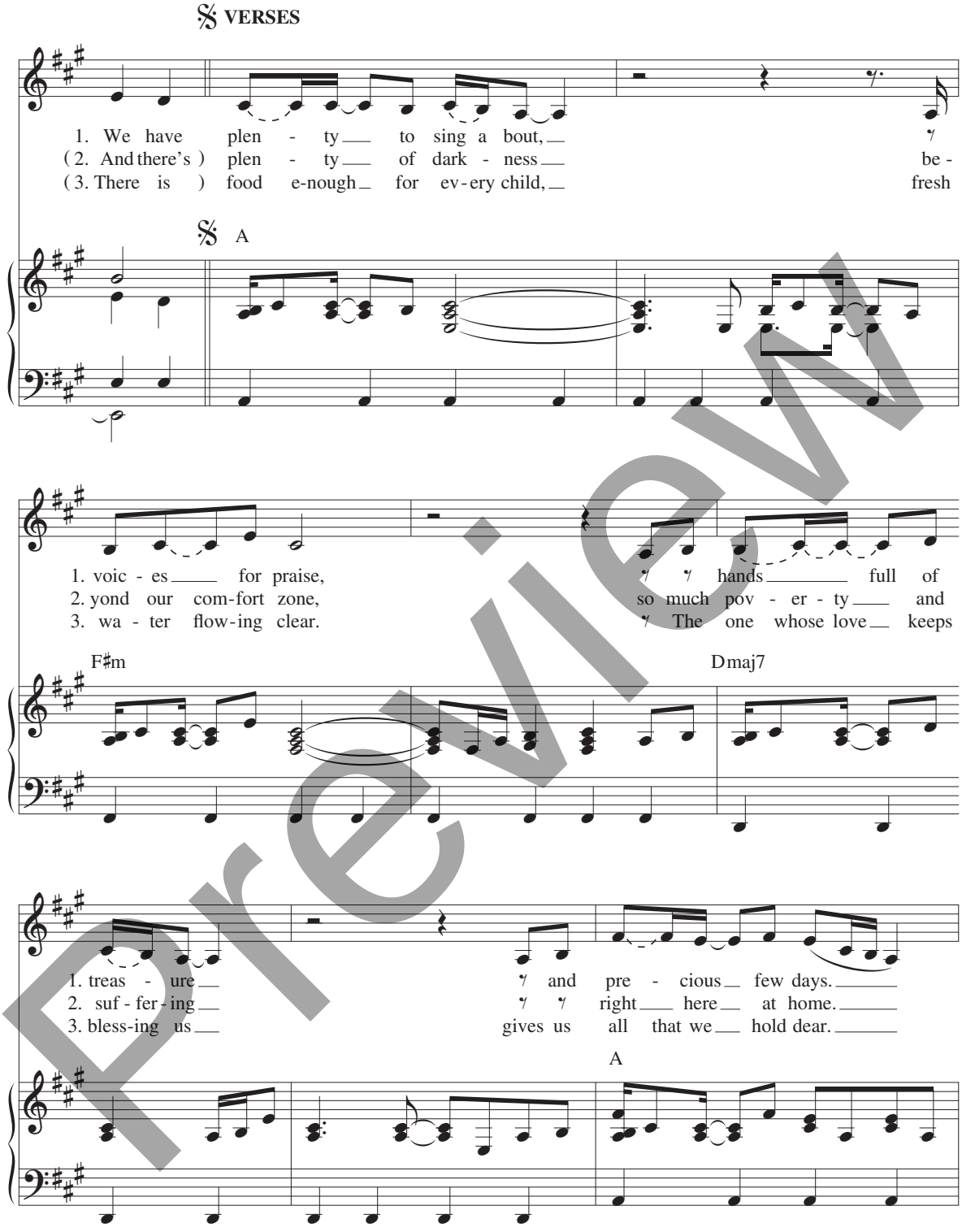
Preview

Edition 60100962

Printed in USA



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Plenty

(Guitar/Vocal)

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Composer Notes

Several years ago, I found myself in a conversation with a woman who said that she knew my music, and added "You're the one who writes all those social justice songs!" I immediately felt a twinge of guilt, realizing that, in truth, I hadn't written nearly enough. And in the day-to-day work of making liturgical music, I often allow myself to put my head down and block out the litany of ways in which suffering and devastation surround us. These are the things that should be in my songs.

The Scriptures are full of cries for justice for the oppressed, the abused, the homeless, and the forgotten. Many of us are blessed with abundance, but many more are not. The ravages of hunger, food insecurity, and the scarcity of clean water threaten the lives of millions of men, women and children in our own nation, and in many parts of the world.

Bono, I am not. Indeed, most people lack the means or the influence to launch sweeping, headline-grabbing campaigns to put an end to hunger. But each of us can make a difference. We can reverently re-commit ourselves to good stewardship (and less waste) with each new day. We can exercise mindfulness in caring for the precious resources we have—while we still have them. We can speak out to those in power who are able to advance more equitable and compassionate policy for the good of all. We can share from our abundance with those who lack basic, life-sustaining necessities.

The Church must never stop singing about these things. Composers must write the songs that help us remember that we are responsible for each other. Some of us need to write a lot more. This is my attempt, inspired by Bono.

Suggested uses/topics: Praise, Social Concern, and Thanksgiving.

—Janèt Sullivan Whitaker

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Assembly Edition

PLENTY

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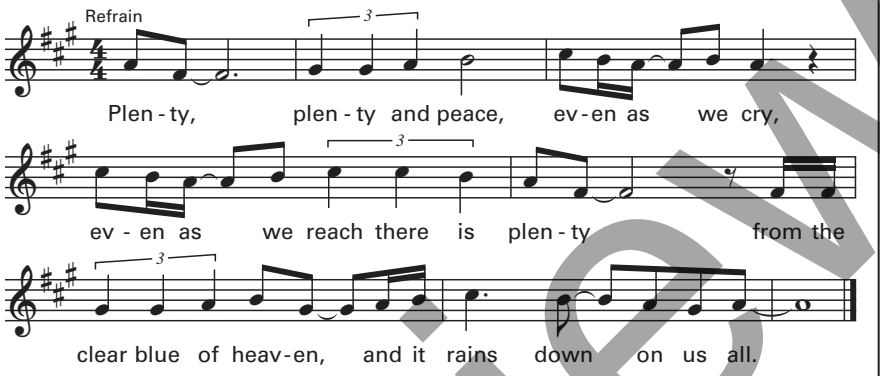
Verse 1

1. We have plenty to sing about, voices for praise,
hands full of treasure and precious few days.
We have plenty to hope for, plenty to come,
and so many dreams we have already won.
We have plenty.



Verse 2

2. And there's plenty of darkness
beyond our comfort zone,
so much poverty and suffering
right here at home.
There is anger met with silence,
violence with fear.
That wheel of despair keeps
turning year after year
when there's... **(to Refrain)**

Verse 3

3. There is food enough for every child,
fresh water flowing clear.
The one whose love keeps blessing us
gives us all that we hold dear.
There is room at the table,
and a room with a view
of all that is possible
beginning with you.
There is... **(to Refrain)**

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