Performance Notes

The feeling of hope can be extremely delicate and fleeting, and yet it has incredible power to sustain us through the most difficult of times. Emily Dickinson's poem says it so beautifully, "Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all..." People everywhere can identify with these beautiful words.

This choral setting of the poem was composed for a Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) commemoration. The melody of *Ani Ma'amim* (the translation of which is "I believe with complete faith in the coming of the Messiah, and though he may tarry, I wait daily for his coming") is heard in the piano accompaniment in the center section of the piece as a tribute to those who sang this tune as they were marched to their deaths in concentration camps during World War II. *Dedicated with deep appreciation and friendship to Cantor Richard and Marsha Cohn.*

More Music by Debra Scroggins

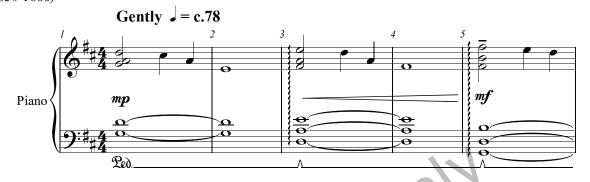
Heartstrings (SA with Piano and Cello)	P1468
The Blooming Brights Star of Belle Isle (SATB with Piano and Violin).	
Yishakeni (SATB with Piano and Oboe)	P1510

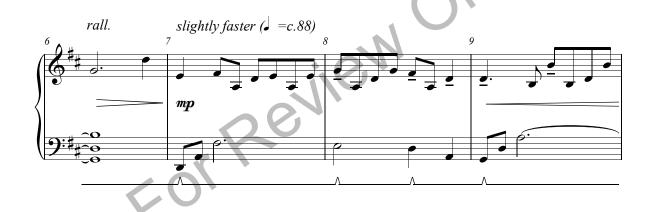
Hope S.A.T.B, piano

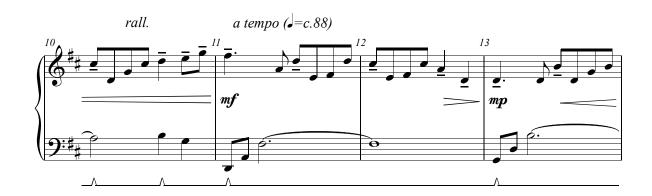
for Marsha

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Debra Scroggins

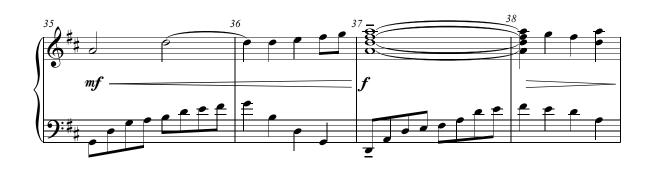
















* Bring out this melodic line. It is one of the melodies set to the Jewish prayer, *Ani Ma'amin* which was composed during the Holocaust and sung by prisoners as they went to their deaths in the gas chambers.













Debra Scroggins, composer, is known for her lyrical and engaging compositions and her music has been heard throughout the United States and Europe, and as far away as Russia, Asia and South America. She was named Commissioned Composer by the Texas Music Teachers Association and serves as Composer in Residence for both The Texas Voices (a professional chamber choir)



and the Plano Civic Chorus (a 100-voice community choir). Her music is frequently performed at state, division and national American Choral Directors Association conventions in addition to numerous all-state and regional choirs, churches, schools and universities.

Drawing upon years of experience as a composer, professional singer and educator she is highly sought-after for commissions and as a consultant and conductor for choirs throughout the US.





