

I was inspired by the phrase “singing our lives.” What a phrase! I wanted to use it for the first line: “We are singing our lives to the Lord of life.” But soon it became apparent that the phrase begged some explanation—what do we mean by that?

So, the phrase became a guide for the lyric instead. Our “singing” is more than singing, it is responding to inspiration (verse 1), bringing prayers to God (verse 2), offering praise (verse 3), and telling our story (verse 4). Ultimately, though, our singing is our attempt to speak a spiritual language that transcends words alone. It is not merely what we mean to say, it is how we feel about it and how we attempt to make our meaning beautiful to God. The ultimate hope of our singing is that God will hear beyond our presentation to our heart’s intention, thus, “hear our hearts.”

And what is the “life” of the believer? It is having a small voice in a big world (verse 1), hoping that there is significance in our message that is not evidenced by our numbers. It is a life that confesses its sinfulness and neediness (verse 2). It is a reverent life, aware of our seeming insignificance in the scheme of things (verse 3), yet marveling that God has somehow found us necessary. And the believer’s life is a witnessing life (verse 4), motivated in real ways by the crazy hope that our way of life, our stories themselves, can be tools in God’s hands to do God’s will in the world.

The melody emphasizes the most important and most “singable” words. A more contemporary backbeat, married to a text that is both formal and traditional, keeps the sound current without sacrificing content. The melodic phrases rise and fall, but the third phrase in particular is written so that each verse lyric reaches a penultimate point that may be declarative or interrogative, but essentially is passionate—a cry. The musical resolution of each verse is common in order to suggest the peace that follows the catharsis of spiritual song.



KYLE MATTHEWS

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Hear Our Hearts, O Lord

BY KYLE MATTHEWS

We are singing our songs to the Lord of Song,
you inspire us, you inspire.
Though our voices are few, make them beautiful.
As we sing, hear our hearts, O Lord.

We are bringing our prayers to the Healing One,
mercy calls to us, hope is calling.
Though our offering is flawed, we bring all we are.
Heal our pain, hear our hearts, O Lord.

We are lifting our praise to a worthy God,
you created us and redeemed us.
Though our offering is small, it's a song of love.
You are good! Hear our hearts, O Lord!

We are telling our joy to a hurting world,
love inspires us, love inspires.
Though our efforts are weak, will you speak through us?
Touch your world with our song, O Lord!

Hear Our Hearts, O Lord

KYLE MATTHEWS
Words and Music

♩ = 75

1. We are sing-ing our songs to the Lord of song,
 2. We are bring-ing our prayers to the Heal-ing One,
 3. We are lift-ing our praise to a wor-thy God,
 4. We are tell-ing our joy to a hurt-ing world,

3

you in - spi - re us, you in - spi - re.
 mer - cy calls to us, hope is call - ing.
 you cre - a - ted us and re-deemed us.
 love in - spi - res us, love in - spi - res.

3

5

Though our voi-ces are few, make them beau - ti - ful.
 Though our off-ring is flawed, we bring all we are.
 Though our off-ring is small, it's a song of love.
 Though our eff-orts are weak, will you speak through us?

5

7

As we sing, hear our hearts, O Lord.
 Heal our pain, hear our hearts, O Lord.
 You are good! Hear our hearts, O Lord!
 Touch your world with our song, O Lord!

7