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Stand by Me!
SSATB Choir and Assembly

Stephen M. Lee



THE SPIRITUALS SERIES



Stand by Me!

Stephen M. Lee

FROM THE COLLECTION

Stand by Me: A Celebration of African-American Song

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Stand by Me!

Stephen M. Lee

Pleading (♩ = ca. 50) *Breathing should be seamless*

Soprano I II

mp *mf*

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

mp *mf*

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

mp *mf*

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

mp *mf*

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) *mf*

mp *mf* *f*

1-7. Oh, mah Lawd!

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

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

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

1-7. Oh, Lawd!

1-7. Oh, Lawd!

1-7. Oh, Lawd!

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. 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. 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!

mp *mf* *f*

Assembly Edition

STAND BY ME! Stephen M. Lee

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!

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

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Composer Notes

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

