

WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN? | ARR. TEMPLETON | SATB



# WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN?

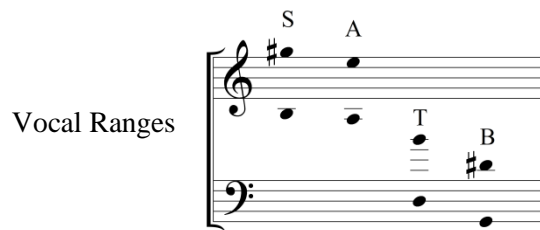
for SATB, a cappella

Arranged by

MARK D. TEMPLETON



This arrangement of *Will the Circle Be Unbroken?* was commissioned in 2003 by the choir of St. John's Episcopal Church in Charleston, West Virginia. The original hymn, written by Ada Habershon and Charles Gabriel and published in 1907, became popular amongst congregations in the southern United States. Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was arranged and rearranged many times by numerous gospel groups and folk artists. In 1972, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band famously used the song as the title to one of their albums featuring various bluegrass and country-western musicians. The text used in that album was written by A. P. Carter of the Carter Family and was significantly different from Ada Habershon's original text. The text I used for this arrangement is also different but still emotes the same sentiment of leaving loved ones behind. All the verses are taken from either the *Southern Harmony* or the *Sacred Harp* and are appropriately suited to compliment the refrain. The syncopated and driving rhythms juxtaposed with the straight forward melody make this a fun song to sing. The slow barbershop style harmonies of the fifth verse also give a welcome contrast to the overall flair of the piece. With an ever increasing climactic ending, this song is sure to bring down the house.



## WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN

Lyrics for the refrain by Ada R. Habershon (1861-1918)

1st, 2nd, and 5th verses from the *Southern Harmony, Imandra New & Separation*  
 3rd and 4th verses from the *Sacred Harp, Ragan. L.M.*

1. Farewell, my dear brethren, the time is at hand,  
 When we must be parted from this social band.  
 Refrain:  
 Will the circle be unbroken by and by, Lord, by and by,  
 There's a better home a-waitin' in the sky, Lord, in the sky.
2. Our sev'ral engagements now call us away.  
 Our parting is needful, and we must obey.
3. Farewell, vain world, I'm going home; I belong to this band. Halleluia.  
 My Savior smiles and bids me come; I belong to this band. Halleluia.  
 Refrain
4. Sweet angels beckon me away; I belong to this band. Halleluia.  
 To sing God's praise in endless days, I belong to this band. Halleluia.  
 Refrain
5. For I must go and leave you all, it fills my heart with pain;  
 Although we part, perhaps in tears, I hope we'll meet again.  
 Refrain

For Brenda Vanderford and the choir of St. John's Episcopal Church in Charleston, WV.

# Will the Circle Be Unbroken?

for SATB choir *a cappella*

Lyrics for the chorus by Ada R. Habershon (1861-1918)  
1st, 2nd, and 5th verses from the *Southern Harmony, Imandra New & Separation*  
3rd and 4th verses from the *Sacred Harp, Ragan. L.M.*

Original music by Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932)  
Arranged by Mark D. Templeton

With Precision and Energy  $\text{♩} = 72$

Soprano *fp* Hal - le - lū - ia, (HaHe - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, (HaHe - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! *f*

Alto *fp* Hal - le - lū - ia, (HaHe - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, (HaHe - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! *f*

Tenor *fp* Ha - le - lu - ia, (HaHe - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, (HaHe - lu!) Hal - le - lu! *mf* 1. Fare -

Bass *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, (HaHe - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, (HaHe - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! *f*

7

S *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lū - ia, (Ha-le-

A *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lū - ia, (Ha-le-

T well, my dear breth - ren, the time is at

B *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, (Ha-le-



Will the Circle Be Unbroken?

13

S *f* lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! — *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le-

A *f* lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! — *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le-

T hand, When we must be part - ed from

B *f* lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! — *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le-

19

S *fp* lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le-

A *fp* lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le-

T this so - cial band. (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le-

B *fp* lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, — (Hal-le-

25

S *f* lu!) Hal - le - lu! *mf* Will the cir - cle be un - brok - en by and

A *f* lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! — *fp* Will the cir - cle (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* be un - brok - en, — (Hal-le-

T *f* lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! — *fp* Will the cir - cle (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* be un - brok - en, — (Hal-le-

B *f* lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! — *fp* Will the cir - cle (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* be un - brok - en, — (Hal-le-

37

S by, Lord, by and by, *f* There's a bet - ter

A *fp* lu!) by and by, *f* Lord, (Hal - le - lu!) by and by, *fp* Lord! There's a

T *fp* lu!) by and by, *f* Lord, (Hal - le - lu!) by and by, *fp* Lord! There's a

B *fp* lu!) by and by, *f* Lord, (Hal - le - lu!) by and by, *fp* Lord! There's a

38

S home a - wait - in' in the sky, Lord, in the

A *fp* bet - ter (Hal - le - lu!) home a - wait - in' (Hal - le - lu!) in the sky, *fp* Lord, (Hal - le -

T *fp* bet - ter (Hal - le - lu!) home a - wait - in' (Hal - le - lu!) in the sky, *fp* Lord, (Hal - le -

B *fp* bet - ter (Hal - le - lu!) home a - wait - in' (Hal - le - lu!) in the sky, *fp* Lord, (Hal - le -

41

*mp* Smooth and Legato

S sky. 2. Our sev - ral en - gage - ments now call

A *fp* lu!) in the sky! *mp* Our sev - ral en - gage - - ments now call

T *fp* lu!) in the sky! *mp* Our sev - ral en - gage - - - ments now call

B *fp* lu!) in the sky! *mp* Our sev - ral en - gage - - ments call

## Will the Circle Be Unbroken?

48

S us a - way. Our part - ing is need - ful, and

A us a - way. Our part - ing is need - ful, and

T us a - way, and a - way. Our part - ing is need - ful,

B us a - way. Our part - ing is need - ful,

*mf*

55

S we must o - bey. Fare - well, I'm go - ing

A we must o - bey. Fare - well, I'm go - ing

T and we must, we must o - bey. Fare - well, I'm go - ing

B and we must, we must o - bey. 3. Fare - well, vain world, I'm go - ing home;

*mf*

62

S home. Hal - le - lu - ia. My Sa - vior

A home. Hal - le - lu - ia. My Sa - vior

T home. Hal - le - lu - ia. My Sa - vior

B I be - long to this band. Hal - le - lu - ia. My Sa - vior smiles and bids me

*mp* *f*

69

S bids me come; I be - long. *mf* Hal - le - lu - - - ia. *mp*

A bids me come; I be - long. *mf* Hal - le - lu - - - ia. *mp*

T bids me come; I be - long. *mf* Hal - le - lu - - - ia. *mp*

B come; I be - long to this band. Hal - le - lu - - - ia! *mp*

75 With Energy

S *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, *f* (Hal-le - lu!) *mf* Hal - le - lu! Will the

A *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, *f* (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia!

T *fp* Ha - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, *f* (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia!

B *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* Hal - le - lu - ia, *f* (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia!

81

S cir - cle be un - brok - en by and by, Lord,

A *fp* Will the cir - cle (Hal - le - lu!) *fp* un - brok - en, (Hal - le - lu!) *fp* by and

T *fp* Will the cir - cle (Hal - le - lu!) *fp* un - brok - en, (Hal - le - lu!) *fp* by and

B *fp* Will the cir - cle (Hal - le - lu!) *fp* un - brok - en, (Hal - le - lu!) *fp* by and

## Will the Circle Be Unbroken?

86

S by and by, *f* There's a bet - ter home a -

A by, Lord, (Hal-le - lu!) *f* by and by, Lord! *fp* There's a bet - ter (Hal-le-

T by, Lord, (Hal-le - lu!) *f* by and by, Lord! *fp* There's a bet - ter (Hal-le-

B by, Lord, (Hal-le - lu!) *f* by and by, Lord! *fp* There's a bet - ter (Hal-le-

91

S wait - in' in the sky, Lord, in the sky.

A *fp* lu!) home a - wait - in' (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* in the sky, Lord, (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* in the

T *fp* lu!) home a - wait - in' (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* in the sky, Lord, (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* in the

B *fp* lu!) home a - wait - in' (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* in the sky, Lord, (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* in the

96

S *fp* Sweet an - gels (Hal-le-lu!) *fp* beck - on me a - way; (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* I be -

A sky! *fp* Sweet an - gels (Hal-le-lu!) *fp* beck - on me a - way; (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* I be -

T sky! *mf* 4. Sweet an - gels beck-on me a - way; I be - long to this

B sky! *fp* Sweet an - gels (Hal-le-lu!) *fp* beck - on me a - way; (Hal-le - lu!) *fp* I be -



102

S long to this band. Hal - le - lu - ia! To sing God's praise (Hal-le - lu!) in

A long to this band. Hal - le - lu - ia! To sing God's praise (Hal-le - lu!) in

T band. Hal-le - lu - ia! To sing God's praise in end - less

B long to this band. Hal - le - lu - ia! To sing God's praise (Hal-le - lu!) in

*f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *fp*

108

S end-less days, (Hal-le - lu!) I be - long. Hal - le - lu, Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le -

A end-less days, (Hal-le - lu!) I be - long. Hal - le - lu, Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le -

T days, I be - long to this band. Hal-le - lu - ia! (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le -

B end-less days, (Hal-le - lu!) I be - long. Hal - le - lu, Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le -

*fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

114

S lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia!

A lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia!

T lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia!

B lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia!

*f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

*rit.*

Will the Circle Be Unbroken?

Very Rubato

*a tempo*

127

S For I must go and leave you all,

A For I must go and leave you all,

T For I must go and leave you all,

B For I must go and leave you all,

*p* *mp* *pp* *p* *mp*

130

S It fills my heart with pain;

A It fills my heart with pain; Al -

T It fills my heart with pain;

B It fills my heart with pain;

*p* *mp* *p* *mp* *mp*

139

S Al - though we part, per - haps in tears, I

A though we part, per - haps in tears, I

T Al - though we part, per - haps in tears, I

B Al - though we part, per - haps in tears, I

*mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

147

S hope we'll meet a - gain in the sky. *mp*

A hope we'll meet a - gain in the sky. *mp*

T hope we'll meet a - gain in the sky. *mp*

B hope we'll meet a - gain in the sky. *mp*

156

With Energy

S *fp* Will the cir - cle (Hal - le - lu!) be un - brok - en, (Hal - le - lu!) by and *fp*

A *mf* Will the cir - cle be un - brok - en by and by, Lord, *fp*

T *fp* Will the cir - cle (Hal - le - lu!) be un - brok - en, (Hal - le - lu!) by and *fp*

B *fp* Will the cir - cle (Hal - le - lu!) be un - brok - en, (Hal - le - lu!) by and *fp*

162

S *f* by, Lord, (Hal - le - lu!) by and by, Lord! *fp* There's a bet - ter (HaLe-

A by and by and by, Lord! *f* There's a bet - ter home a -

T *f* by, Lord, (Hal - le - lu!) by and by, Lord! *fp* There's a bet - ter (HaLe-

B *f* by, Lord, (Hal - le - lu!) by and by, Lord! *fp* There's a bet - ter (HaLe-

## Will the Circle Be Unbroken?

167

*fp* *fp* *fp*

S lu!) home a - wait - in' (Hal-le - lu!) in the sky, Lord, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le -

A wait - in' in the sky, Lord, in the sky.

T *fp* *fp* *fp*  
8 lu!) home a - wait - in' (Hal-le - lu!) in the sky, Lord, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le -

B *fp* *fp* *fp*  
8 lu!) home a - wait - in' (Hal-le - lu!) in the sky, Lord, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le -

172

*fp* *f*

S lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! Hal-le-

A *fp* *f*  
(Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! Hal-le-

T *fp* *f*  
8 lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! Hal-le-

B *fp* *f*  
8 lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia, (Hal-le - lu!) Hal - le - lu - ia! Hal-le-

177

*rit.* *ff* *a tempo*

S lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia!

A *ff* lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia!

T *ff* lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia!

B *ff* lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia! Hal-le - lu - ia!