I HAVE HAD SINGING

Words by Fred Mitchell
Music by Ron Jeffers

for
SATB, SSAA, and/or TTBB Chorus

In his book Akenfield, Portrait of an English Village, Ronald Blythe records the life stories of the inhabitants of a tiny (population 298) East Anglian village in Suffolk County, England. The names of the village and villagers have been changed, but the harshness, isolation, and beauty of their lives shine through their memories and observations. 74-year-old “Davie” remembers that “twenty men and boys scythed the corn and sang as they went.” “What was the song?” Blythe asks. “Never mind the song—it was the singing that counted” came the reply. “Fred Mitchell,” an 85-year-old horseman (ploughman), recalls his difficult childhood:

“I never did any playing in all my life. There was nothing in my childhood, only work. I never had pleasure. One day a year I went to Felixstowe along with the chapel women and children, and that was my pleasure. But I have forgotten one thing—the singing. There was such a lot of singing in the villages then, and this was my pleasure, too. Boys sang in the fields, and at night we all met at the Forge and sang. The chapels were full of singing. When the first war came, it was singing, singing all the time. So I lie; I have had pleasure. I have had singing.”

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Fred Mitchell

I HAVE HAD SINGING

Ron Jefferes

with a vibrant intensity

Sing - ing, sing - ing, oh the sing - ing!

There was so much sing - ing then! We all sang, and

this was my plea - sure too, poco f the cha - pels were

The boys in the fields, cha - pels

full of sing - ing, al - ways full of sing - ing.

full of sing - ing.

Here I lie, here I lie, I have had plea - sure e -

sufficient, I have had sing - ing, I have had sing - ing.
I HAVE HAD SINGING

Fred Mitchell

Ron Jeffers

Sing - ing, sing - ing, oh the sing - ing!

There was so much sing - ing then! We all sang,

this was my plea - sure too. poco f

the chap - els were

The boys in the fields,

full of sing - ing, al - ways full of sing - ing.

Here I lie, here I lie,

I have had plea - sure e -

nough, I have had sing - ing, I have had sing - ing.

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Fred Mitchell

I HAVE HAD SINGING

Ron Jeffers

Sing - ing, sing - ing, oh the sing - ing!

There was so much sing - ing then! We all sang, and

this was my plea - sure too. the cha - pels were

The boys in the fields, cha - pels

full of sing - ing, al - ways full of sing - ing.

full of sing - ing,

Here I lie, here I lie, I have had plea - sure e -

suddenly louder

I have had sing - ing, I have had sing - ing.

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