

MAGIC IN THE MIDDLE

ROGER EMERSON - PRESENTER

FORMERLY KNOWN AS....

**SOPRANO,
ALTO,
MUD!**

(OR...WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE BOYS!!!)



MIDDLE SCHOOL MADNESS!

(I'M NOT SURE THAT EVER CHANGES)

THEN...I HAD AN EPIPHANY!

***“THE RIGHT MUSIC MADE
ALL THE DIFFERENCE!”***

ROGER EMERSON

HOWEVER...EVERY SITUATION IS UNIQUE.

WHAT IS YOURS?

The Culture: School and Community

The Feeder Program

The History

The Schedule

The Budget

The Teacher

An Accompanist?

The Literature

THE ENSEMBLE

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Select

Y'all Come

Y'all HAVE to come

6th

7th

8th

Combination of the above

Treble/Tenor Bass

EACH HAS UNIQUE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

LET'S SING!

TODAY...YOU ARE MY ENSEMBLE!

GOOD NEWS!

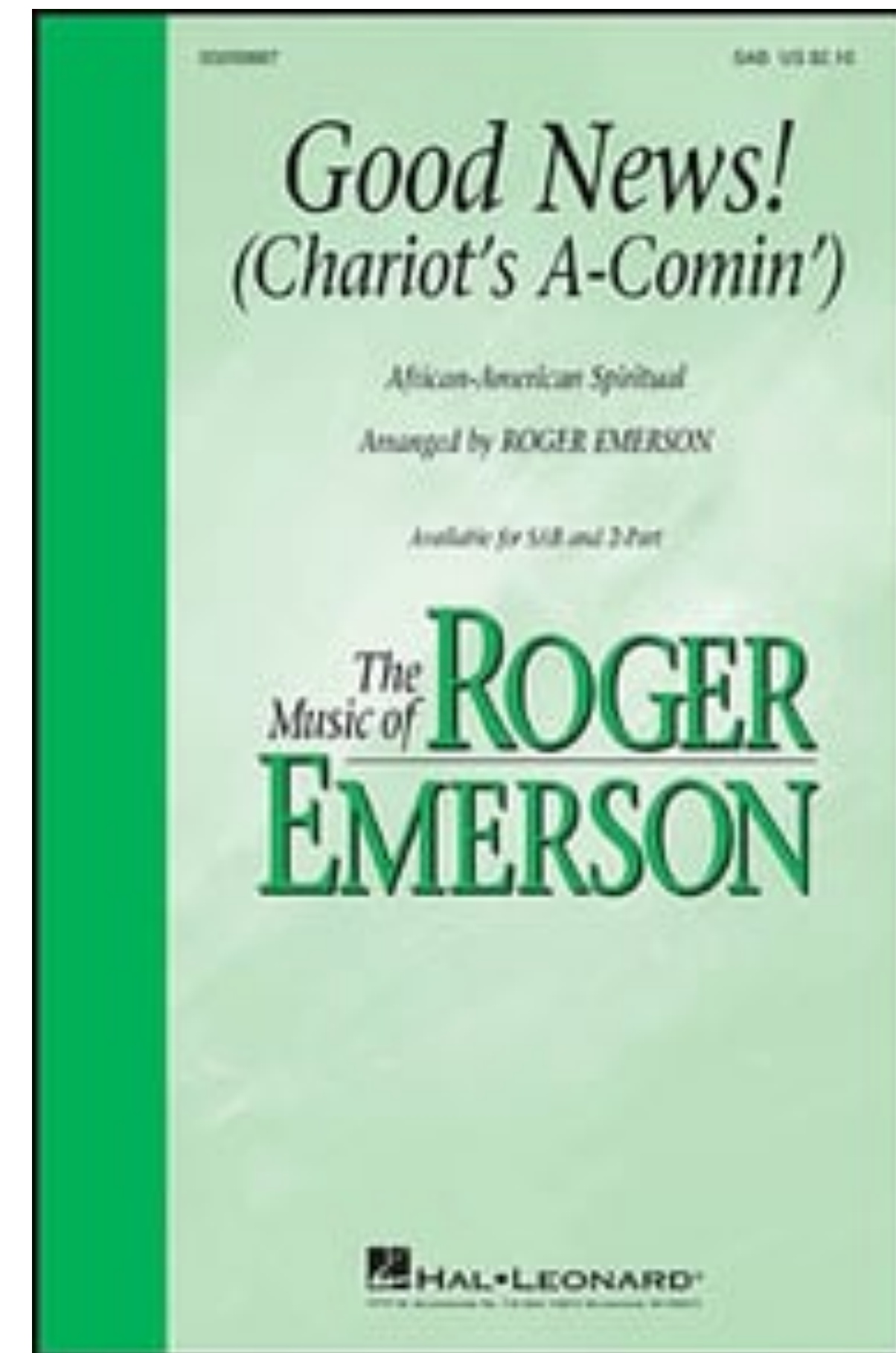
SAB

Mostly unison and call and response

True baritone range

Stacked harmony on the bridge

Full harmony only at end





**IF YOU WERE A REAL
MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR...**

WHERE WOULD I START?

ROUNDS PLUS +

A CAPPELLA



There may not be time for individual voice testing to determine range.

It may be intimidating to the inexperienced singer.

Rounds are great but often exceed the range of your “baritenors”.

Consider a repeated ostinato to accompany the round.

A repeated ostinato may be utilized in different keys in order to determine the “sweet spot” of your “baritenors”.

Chose your literature based upon this range.

Use the round as a performance piece.

STILL NO MAGIC???

HELPING BOYS FIND THEIR VOICE...

WORKING OUT FROM WHERE THEY ARE!

G below middle C upward, then downward.

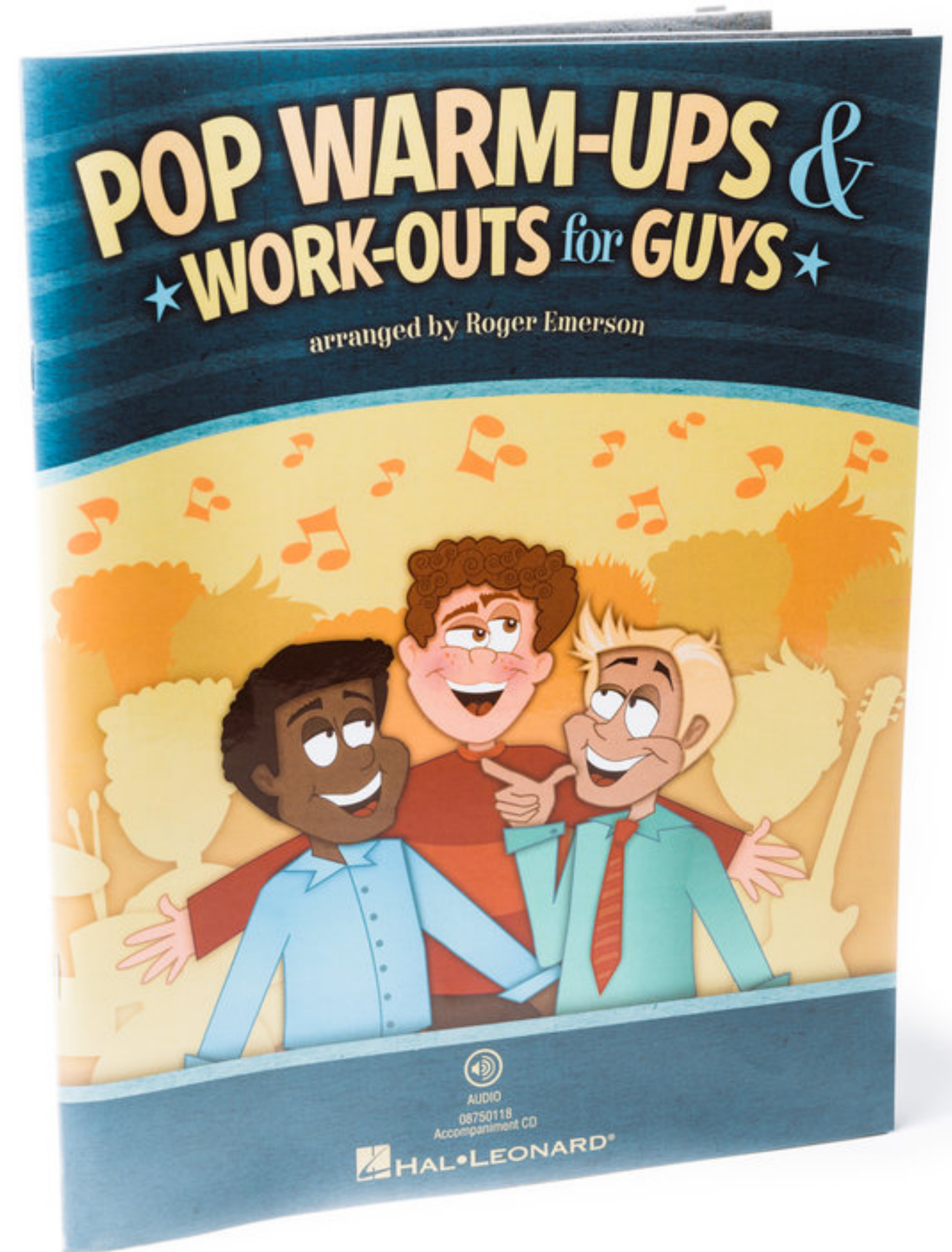
Fun, melodic pop tunes.

Young male vocal model on CD (separate)

Masculine themes

Easy to more challenging

The singer with the most notes wins!



WHERE DOES 2-PART WORK?

LOOK AT THE CONSTRUCTION

Call and Response vs Parallel Harmony

Mixed Voices?

What to do with the changed or changing voice?

Easy 3-part mixed might be a better choice!

How about SSA?

TWO-PART SONGS

FOR EVERY OCCASION

**Festival, Popular, Holiday, Patriotic, and
Graduation**

Mostly call and response

Part II generally utilizes a boy alto range

Easy



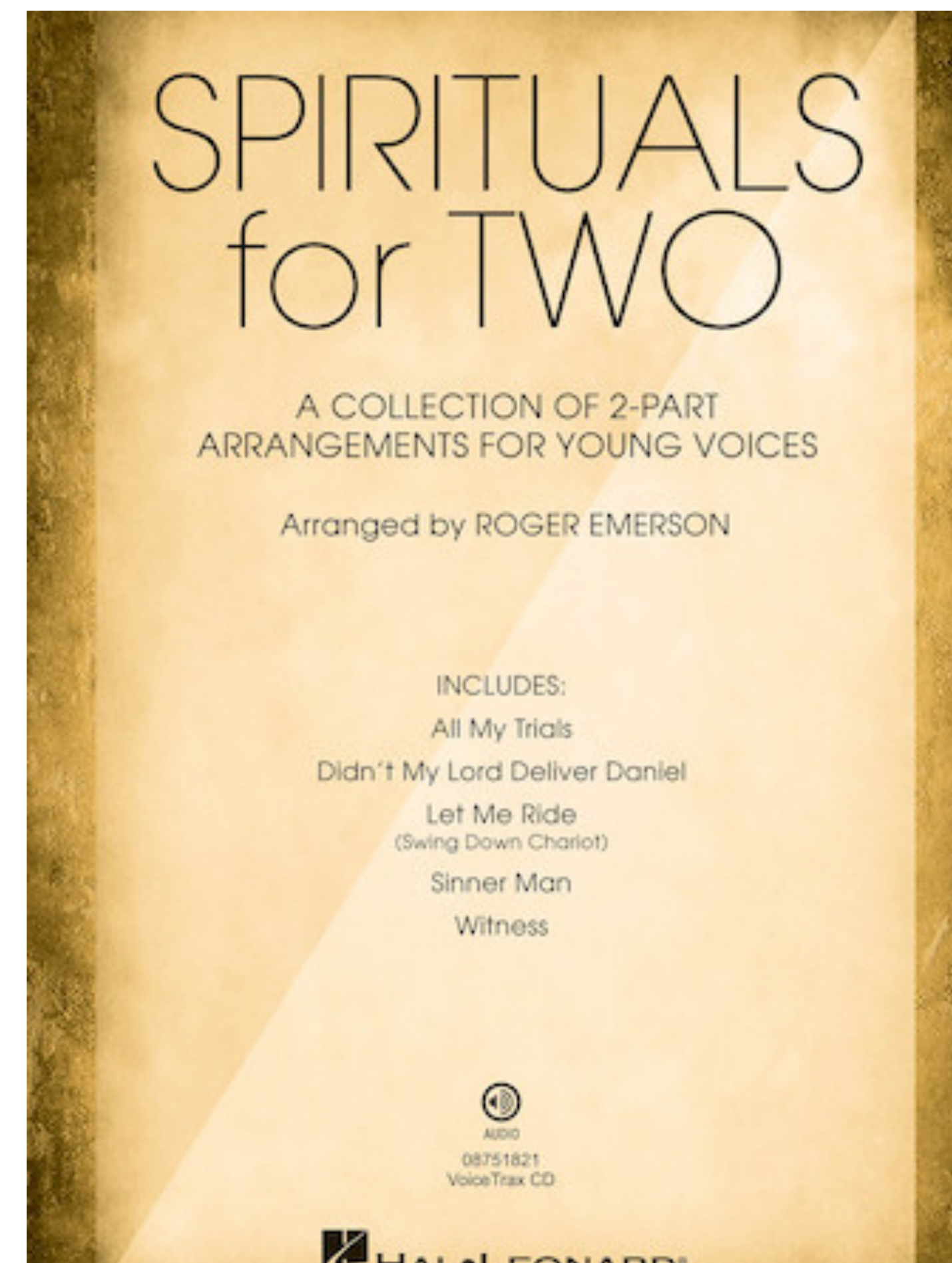
SPIRITUALS FOR TWO

TRIED AND TRUE...

Mostly call and response.

Rock beats.

Minor modes.



SORRY...NOT IN THE PACKET :(

3-PART MIXED VS SAB

YOU MUST LOOK AT EACH PIECE!

3-part mixed voicing should be an F to D range for part III.

The part should also be melodic!

SAB should have a wider range for the baritones (C to C) or (D to D)

Watch out! Many publishers and music retailers lump them all together.

There are levels of difficulty within each voicing which you must determine.

Let's sing each!

SINNER MAN

3-PART MIXED

Parts I, II, III easily allow assignment of parts

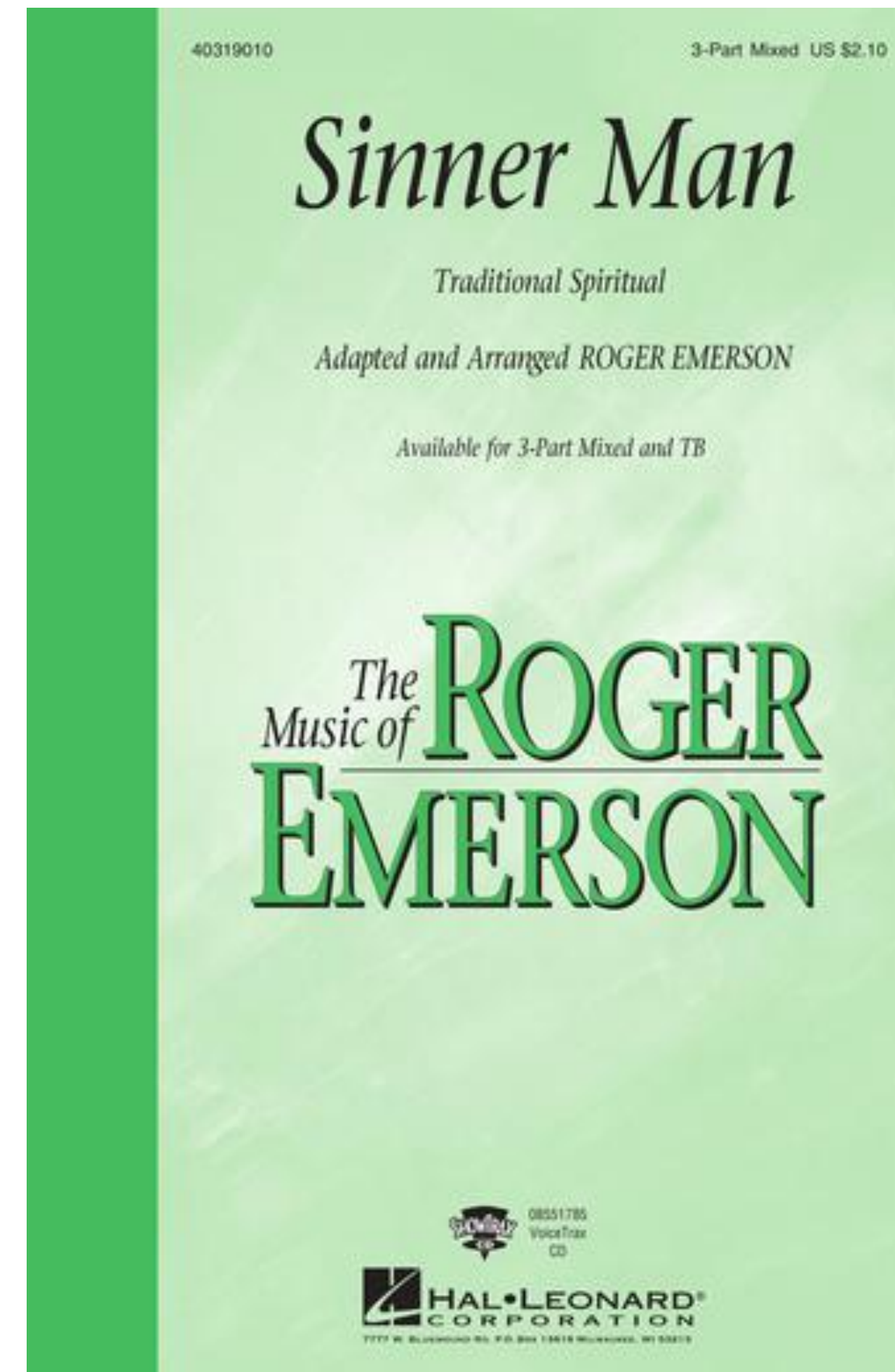
Call and response

Disparate melodies

minor mode to major

rock beat

Joyce Eilers: “Even the woodshop kids sounded good!”



SLOOP JOHN B.

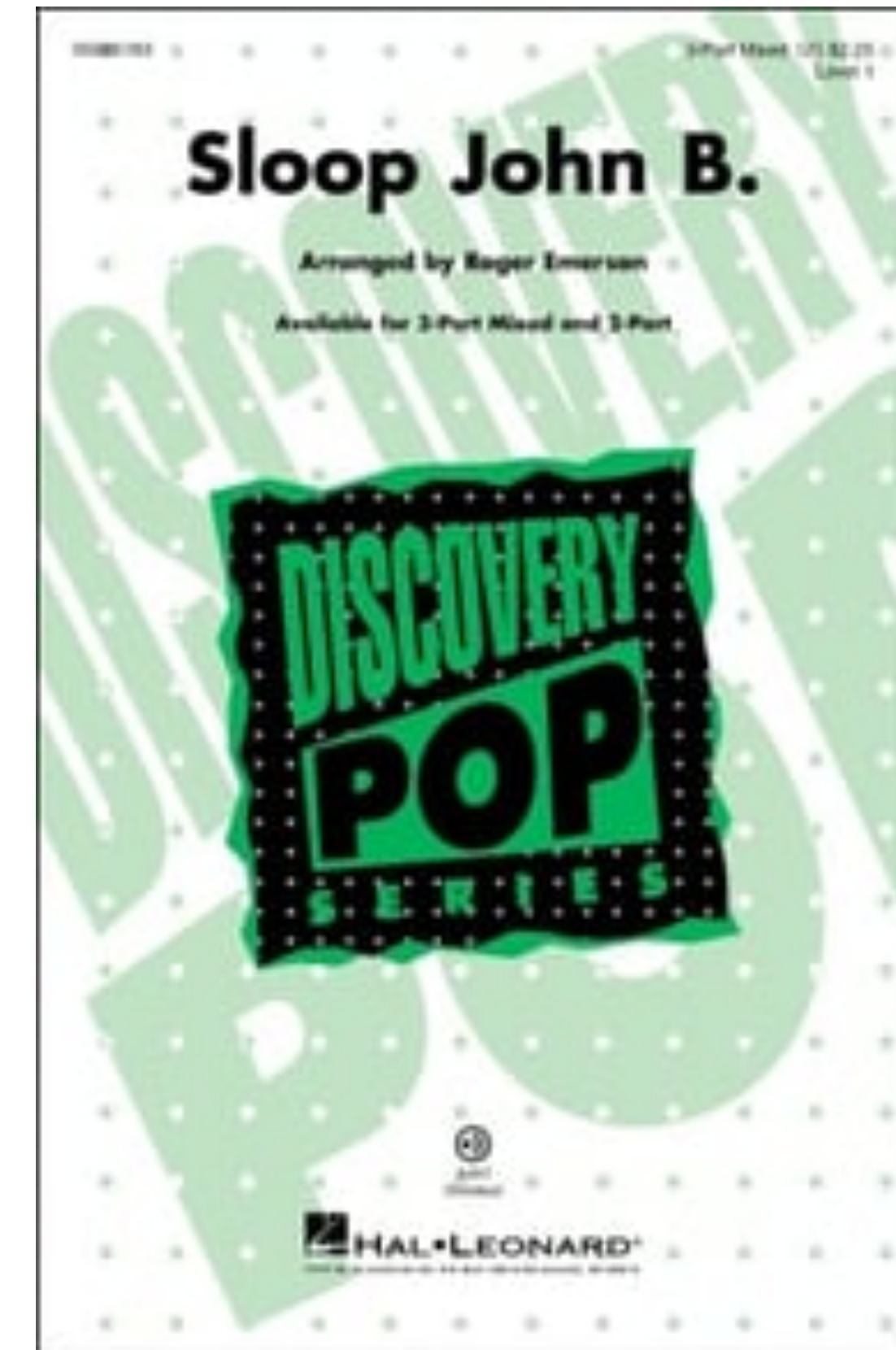
SEA CHANTY

3-part mixed

more challenging

parallel harmony (triads)

Sea Chantys are the rage thanks to Tik Tok !



ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

NEW FOR FESTIVAL AND CONCERT

3-Part Mixed

Mostly Unison

Disparate Melodies on Bridge (practice :)

Thank you Randall Thompson!



NINE HUNDRED MILES

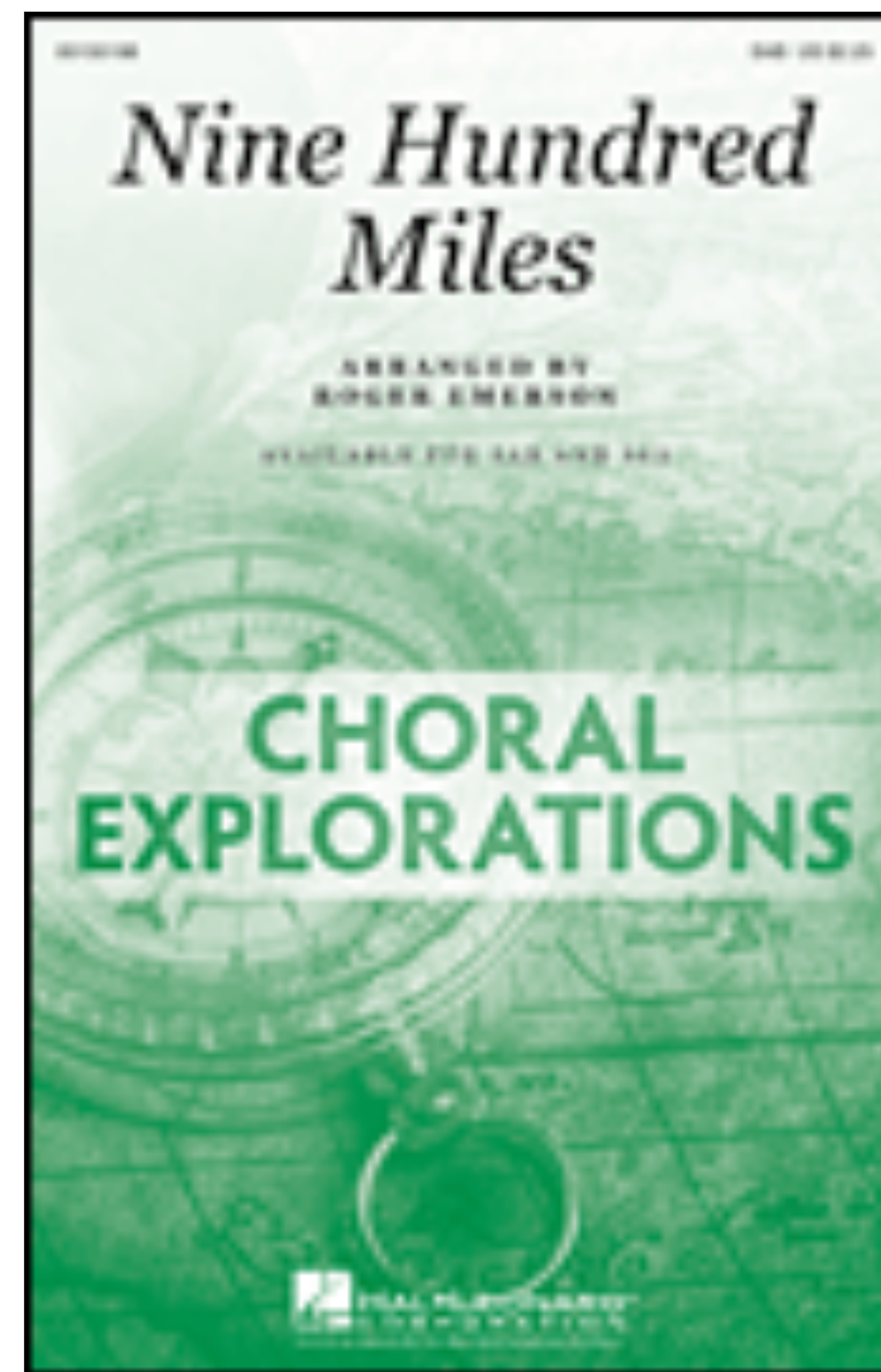
TRUE SAB!

**For baritone voices that have settled out.
(Generally 8th grade and up)**

True baritone range (C to C)

**New baritones have melody throughout
enhanced by Sopranos and Altos who have
more experience.**

**Others in this series: Red River Valley and
Good News**



“SATB AT MIDDLE LEVEL?”

YOU BETCHA!!!

ELIJAH ROCK!

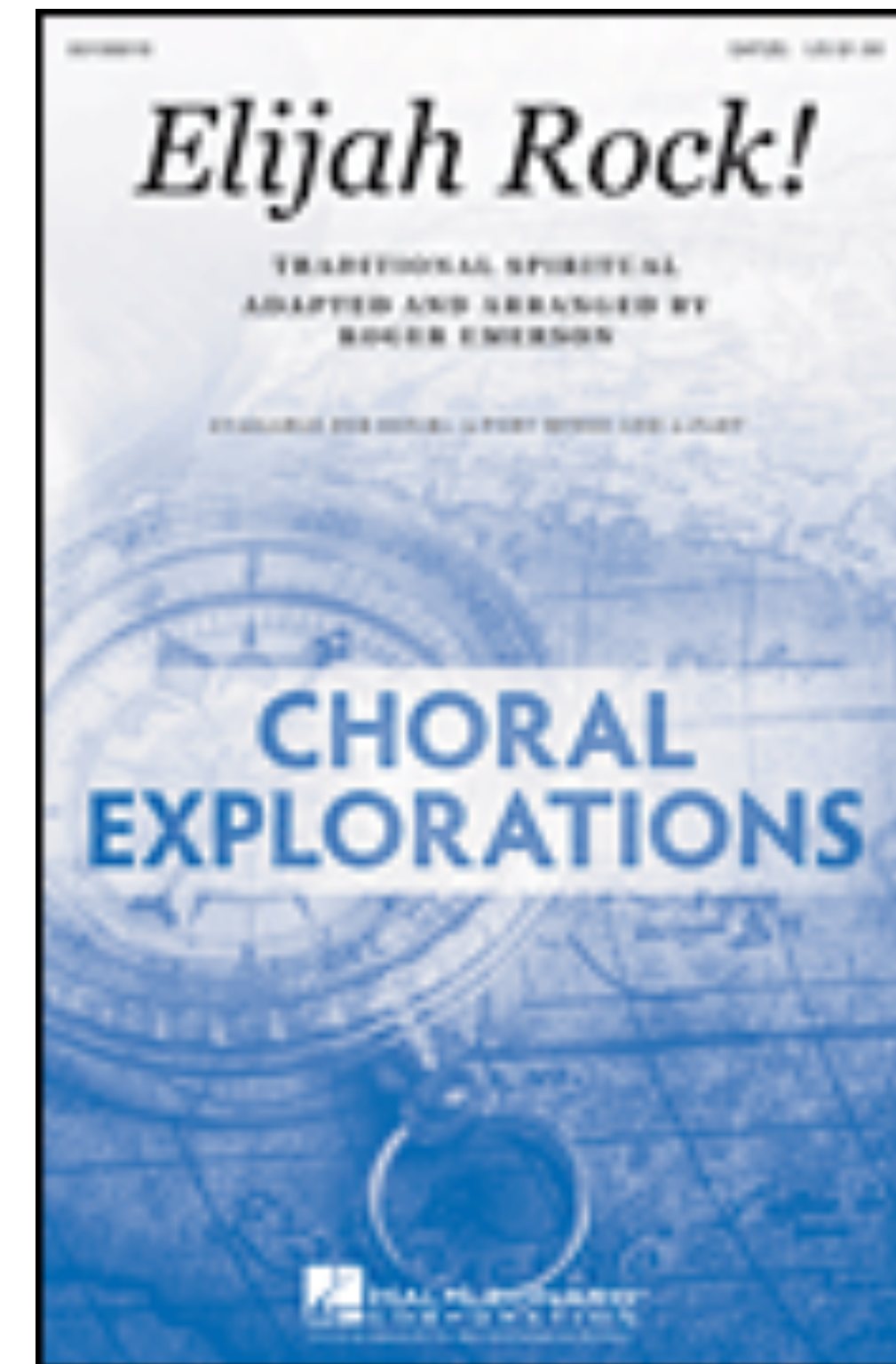
SAT(B)

3-Part Mixed with optional baritone

Mostly 3-part mixed until chorus when the 3-part range moves higher in range

Parallel harmony on chorus only

Disparate melody (ostinato) on bridge



SHOSHONE LOVE SONG

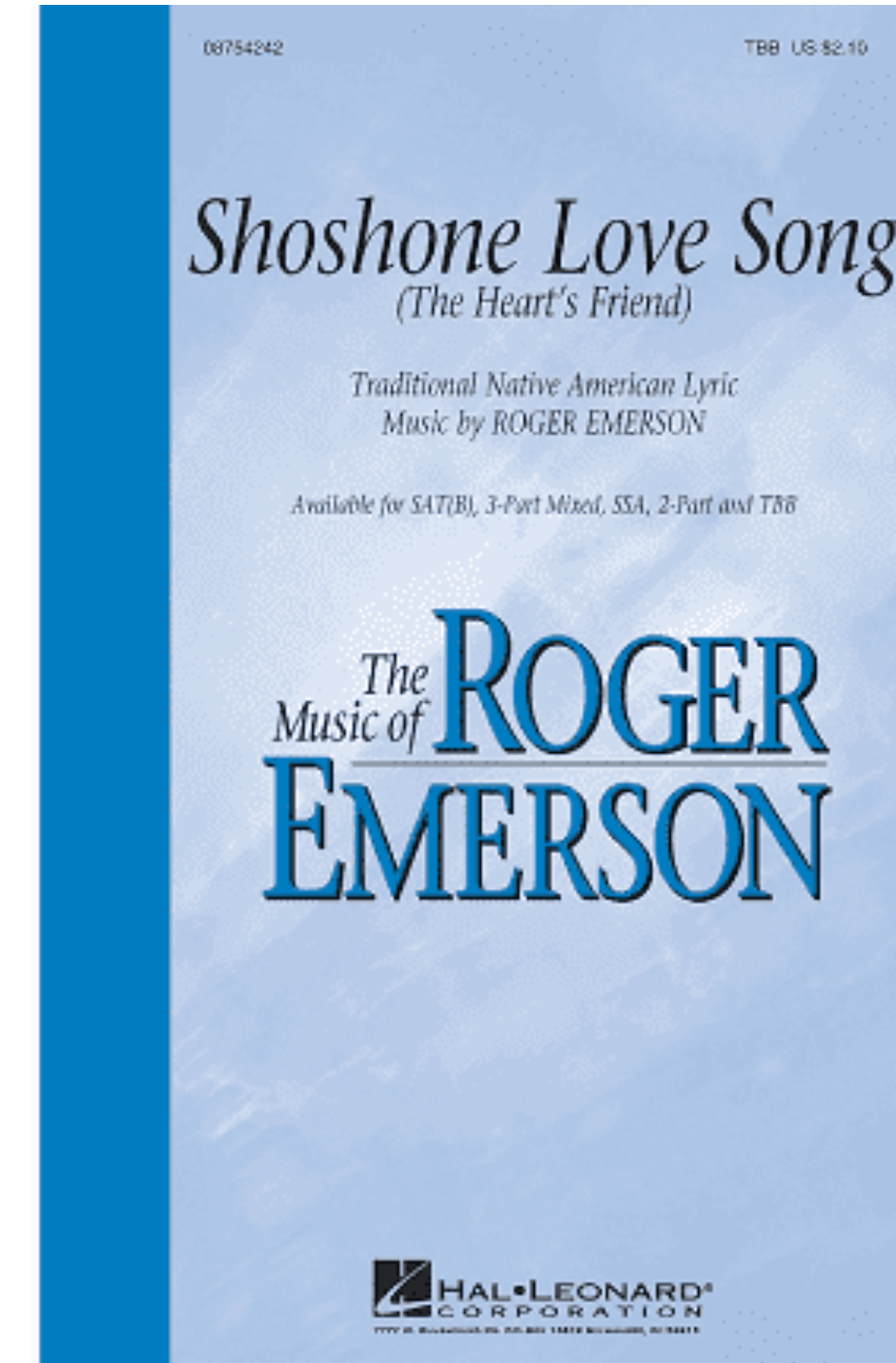
SAT(B)

Text is paramount

Underline important word(s) in each phrase

Mostly 2 and 3 part with baritone added on chorus.

He/She or They





BUILD YOUR BARITONE SECTION?

FEATURE THEM!!

TAKE ME HOME, COUNTRY ROADS

DISCOVERY T/B

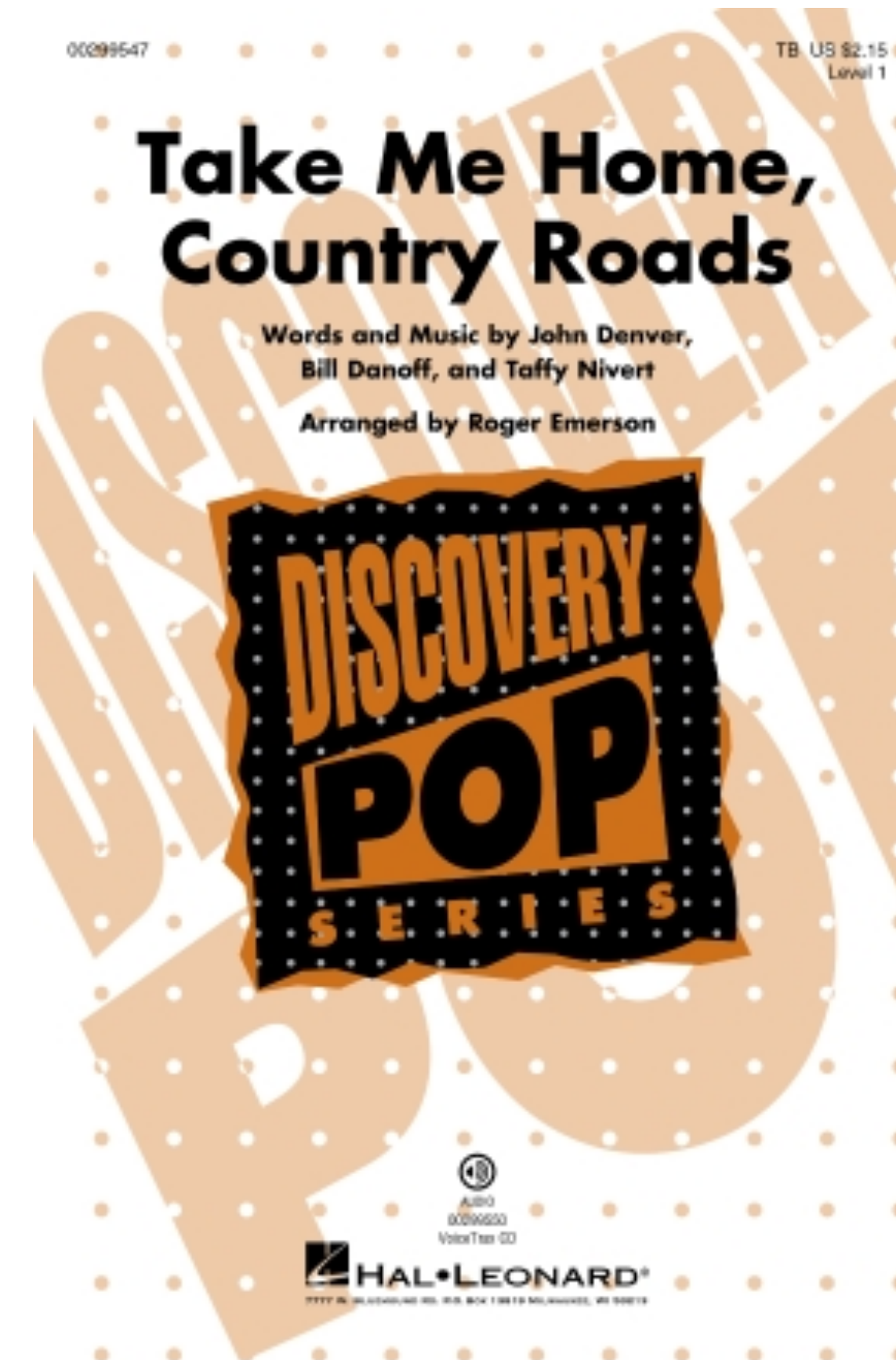
Arranged for middle school voices

Tenor is more alto like in range

Limited range baritone

Guitar friendly!

Discovery titles include part-predominant practice tracks!



WHAT'S NEW?

SMILE

3-PART MIXED AND 2-PART

The perfect ballad

Careful step-wise voice leading

Contemporary piano part

A wonderful closer or penultimate selection



FIREWORK

3-PART MIXED AND 2-PART

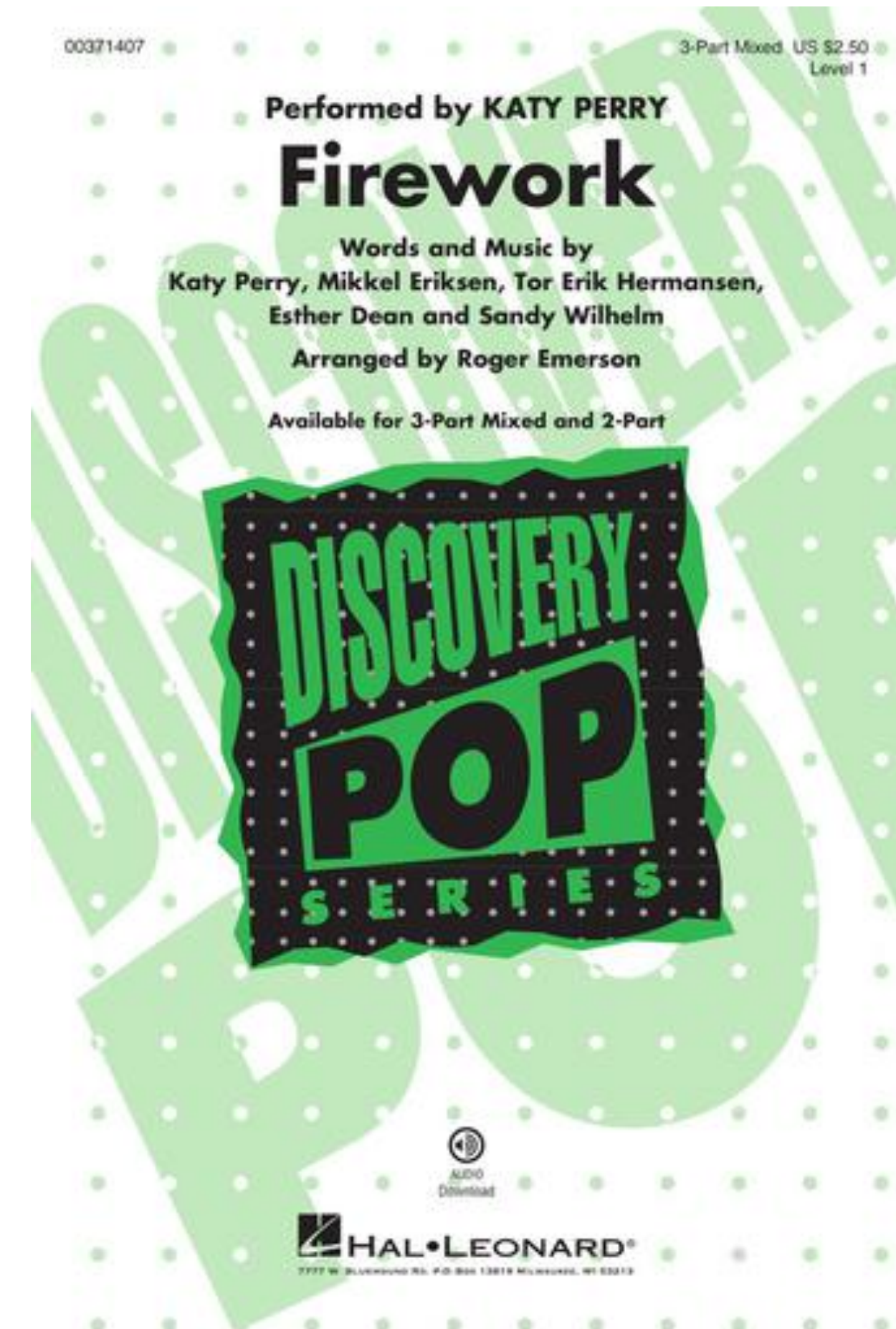
Positive lyric

Lots of unison

Keyed optimally for Middle School

Authentic accompaniment

Practice tracks available.



**FINALLY...BE POSITIVE ... BETTER DAYS
AHEAD!**

CONTACT ME:

ANYTIME...

Facebook Messenger

www.sing678.com

www.rogeremerson.com

sing678@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO HAL LEONARD AND YOUR MUSIC EDUCATOR'S ASSOCIATION!

