

How Can I Keep from Singing

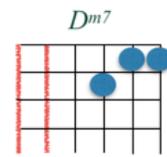
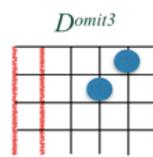
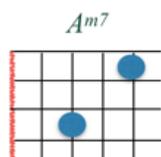
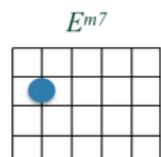
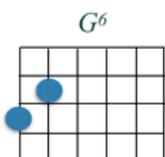
Music and lyrics by Robert Wadsworth Lowry, 1868, Lowry only ever claimed to have written the tune

C *F*
 My life goes on in endless song:
C *G7*
 Above earth's lamentation,
C *F*
 I catch the sweet, tho' far-off hymn,
C *G6* *C*
 That hails a new creation.
C *F* *C*
 No storm can shake my inmost calm,
C *G7*
 While to that rock I'm clinging;
C *Em7* *Am7* *Domit3* *C*
 Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth,
C *Em7* *Am7* *Dm7* *C*
 How can I keep from sing-ing?

C *F*
 Through all the tumult and the strife;
C *G7*
 I hear that music ringing;
C *F*
 It finds an echo in my soul;
C *G6* *C*
 How can I keep from singing?
C *F* *C*
 No storm can shake my inmost calm;
C *G7*
 While to that rock I'm clinging;
C *Em7* *Am7* *Domit3* *C*
 Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth,
C *Em7* *Am7* *Dm7* *C*
 How can I keep from sing-ing?

C *F*
 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;
C *G7*
 I see the blue above it;
C *F*
 And day-by-day this pathway smooths,
C *G6* *C*
 Since I first learned to love it.
C *F* *C*
 No storm can shake my inmost calm,
C *G7*
 While to that rock I'm clinging;
C *Em7* *Am7* *Domit3* *C*
 Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth,
C *Em7* *Am7* *Dm7* *C*
 How can I keep from sing-ing?

C *F*
 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
C *G7*
 A fountain ever springing;
C *F*
 All things are mine since I am his;
C *G6* *C*
 How can I keep from singing?
C *F* *C*
 No storm can shake my inmost calm,
C *G7*
 While to that rock I'm clinging;
C *Em7* *Am7* *Domit3* *C*
 Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth,
C *Em7* *Am7* *Dm7* *C*
 How can I keep from sing-ing?



History

Robert Lowry was born in Philadelphia, March 12, 1826. His fondness for music was exhibited in his earliest years. As a child he amused himself with the various musical instruments that came into his hands. At the age of seventeen he joined the First Baptist Church of Philadelphia, and soon became an active worker in the Sunday-school as teacher and chorister.

Robert began studies at the University of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania at the age of 22 with the intention of entering the ministry. He graduated with the highest honors at age 28. He then



serves served as pastor to congregations in Pennsylvania, and New York during the years 1851 to 1875. While pastor at Lewisburg, he was also professor of belles lettres in the University, and received the honorary degree of D. D. in 1875.

Dr. Lowry was a man of rare administrative ability, a most excellent preacher, a thorough Bible student, always a brilliant and interesting speaker. He was of a genial and pleasing disposition with a high sense of humor giving him the ability to thrill an audience with the power of his imagination.

While preaching the Gospel, in which he found great joy, was his life-work, music and hymnology were favorite studies, but were always a side issue, a recreation.

Messrs. Biglow & Main in the publishing business, selected Dr. Lowry for editor of their Sunday-school book, *Bright Jewels*. When he saw that the obligations of musical editorship were laid upon him, he began the study of music in earnest. He assembled one of the finest musical libraries in the country. It abounded in works on the philosophy and science of musical sounds.

A reporter once asked him what was his method of composition. His reply was, "I have no method. I watch my moods, and when anything good strikes me, whether words or music, and no matter where I am, at home or on the street, I jot it down. My brain is a sort of spinning machine, I think, for there is music running through it all the time.

Rev. Robert Lowry, D. D., died at his residence in Plainfield, NJ, November 25, 1899. Dead, yet he lives and his sermons in gospel song are still heard and are doing good. Dr. Lowry was a great and good man, and his life, well spent, is highly worthy of a place among the world's greatest gospel song and hymn writers.

Biography of Gospel Song and Hymn Writers and find much more on Reverend Robert Lowry at hymnary.org.