PROGRAM NOTES

One cannot run away from the direct nature of what is communicated in the music of Dr. Barnwell. She builds a vocal community by challenging the performer and the listener to think and to act as it regards the issues and injustices we encounter in our society. *More Than a Paycheck* is no exception.

More Than a Paycheck opens with a statement of the refrain in a solo voice crying out "We bring more than a paycheck to our loved ones and families." Underneath that melody emerges an ostinato drone that utilizes the embedded rhythm of words over and over in the text "a paycheck, a paycheck, a paycheck, etc..." This drone is woven throughout the work. In this edition, and at the advice of Dr. Eugene Rogers, the ostinato is given pitch so that it is sung and not simply spoken. This pitched ostinato is created based on performances and recordings of Sweet Honey in the Rock.

The vocal designation of Four-Part Treble is deliberate, since the ranges in each of the four parts cross and ranges are basically the same for each of the four parts. Familiar techniques found in other Barnwell works are found here with the layering of vocal lines, which ultimately form a trio under which the melody is sung in the booming bass voice of Dr. Barnwell (when performed by Sweet Honey in The Rock). The song builds up into a unified cry of the litany of hazards brought home by the industrial workers in steel, coal, and the like: "I bring home asbestosis, silicosis, brown lung, black lung disease, and radiation hits the children, before they've even been conceived."

Text excerpt: "We bring more than a paycheck to our loved ones and family. I wanted more pay but what I've got here today is more than I bargain for when I walked thru that door..."

Dr. Ysaÿe M. Barnwell is a commissioned composer, arranger, author, and actress. She began her 15-year violin instruction at age two and a half and went on to earn degrees in speech pathology (BS, MSEd), craniotomy-facial studies (Ph.D.) and public health (MSPH). In addition, she was awarded honorary doctoral degrees from theological seminaries in Illinois and Virginia.

Dr. Barnwell taught at Howard University College of Dentistry for over a decade, later moving on to overseeing public health projects. In 1979, she joined the Grammy winning African American female *a cappella* ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock.

She also served as teacher and choral clinician in African American cultural performance, leading a workshop entitled "Building a Vocal Community: Singing in the African American Tradition" both at home and abroad. Conducted in the oral tradition, it utilized an African world view and explored African American history, values, cultural, and vocal traditions to build communities of song among both singers and non-singers. Her pedagogy is highly respected among musicians, educators, health workers, activists, organizers, and members of both corporate and non-profit sectors.

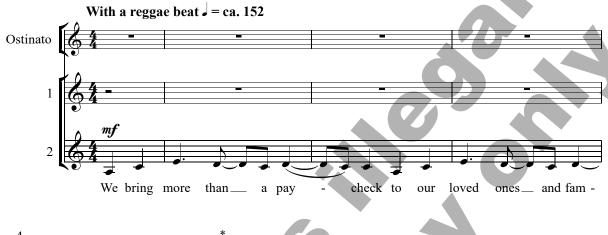
In addition, Dr. Barnwell has published books and made appearances on tv and in film. Composing music for dance, choral, film and video, she has received commissions from countless organizations including Sesame Street, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and the King's Singers among others.

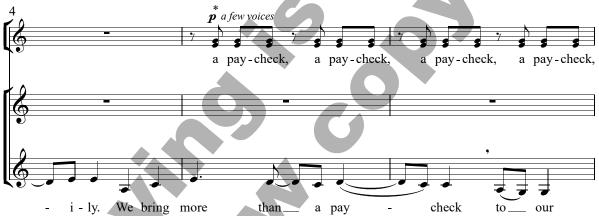
E. C. Schirmer Music Company is proud to be the publishing home for Dr. Barnwell's choral music. Please visit ecspublishing.com for a complete listing of her works.

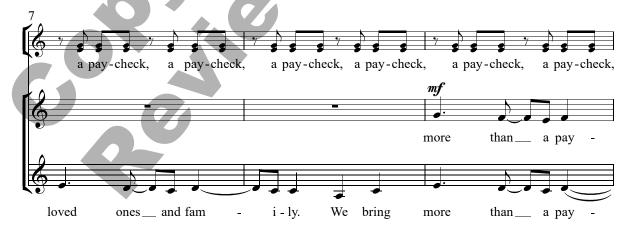
More Than a Paycheck

for Four-Part Treble Chorus unaccompanied

Words and Music by Ysaÿe M. Barnwell (BMI)







^{*} The G is optional.























