

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)

With a reggae beat ♩ = ca. 152

Ostinato

1

2 *mf*

We bring more than ___ a pay - check to our loved ones ___ and fam -

4

p *a few voices*

a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check,

- i - ly. We bring more than ___ a pay - check to ___ our

7

a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check,

mf

more than ___ a pay -

loved ones ___ and fam - i - ly. We bring more than ___ a pay -

* The G is optional.

10

a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check,

check to our loved ones and fam - i - ly.

- check to our loved ones and fam - i - ly. We bring

13

a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check,

more than a pay - check to our loved ones and fam -

more than a pay - check to our loved ones and fam -

16 *continue Ostinato to m. 70*

Ost. a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check, a pay-check,

1 - i - ly. more than a pay - check to our

2 - i - ly. We bring more than a pay - check to our

3 *mf* more than a pay - check to our

for rehearsal only

19

loved ones and fam - i - ly. more than a pay -

loved ones and fam - i - ly. We bring more than a pay -

loved ones and fam - i - ly. We bring more than a pay -

22

1 check to our loved ones and fam - i - ly.

2 - check to our loved ones and fam - i - ly. We bring

3 - check to our loved ones and fam - i - ly.

4 *mf* I want - ed

25 *mp*

more than__ a pay - check to our loved ones__ and fam - i - ly.

mp

more than__ a pay - check to our loved ones__ and fam - i - ly. We bring

mp

more than__ a pay - check to our loved ones__ and fam - i - ly. We bring

more____ pay____ but what I've got to - day____ is more than I

29

more than__ a pay - check to__ our loved ones__ and fam - i - ly.

more than__ a pay - check to our loved ones__ and fam - i - ly. We bring

more than__ a pay - check to our loved ones__ and fam - i - ly.

bar - gain__ for____ when I walked thru that__ door.____ I bring home

33 *mf*

as - bes-to - sis, sil - li-co - sis, brown lung, black lung dis-ease, and

mf

as - bes-to - sis, sil - li-co - sis, brown lung, black lung dis-ease, and

mf

as - bes-to - sis, sil - li-co - sis, brown lung, black lung dis-ease, and

more, more, more, more,

37

ra - di - a - tion, hits the chil - dren be - fore they've real - ly been

ra - di - a - tion, hits the chil - dren be - fore they've real - ly been

ra - di - a - tion, hits the chil - dren be - fore they've real - ly been

more, more, more,

40



— con-ceived. more than — a pay - check,

— con-ceived. We bring more than — a pay - check, to our

— con-ceived. more than — a pay - check, to — our

Empty staff

Piano accompaniment

43



loved ones — and fam - i - ly. more than — a pay -

loved ones — and fam - i - ly. We bring more than — a pay -

loved ones — and fam - i - ly. more than — a pay -

Empty staff

Piano accompaniment

46

check, loved ones___ and fam - i - ly.

check, to our loved ones___ and fam - i - ly. We want

check, to___ our loved ones___ and fam - i - ly.

mf Well now

49

mp more than___ a pay-check, loved ones___ and fam - i - ly.

mp more than___ a pay-check, for our loved ones___ and fam - i - ly. We bring

mp more than___ a pay-check, for___ our loved ones___ and fam - i - ly.

mp work-ers lend___ an ear,___ 'cause it's im - por-tant that___ you know___ With ev - 'ry

more than a pay-check, loved ones and fam - i - ly.

more than a pay-check, to our loved ones and fam - i - ly. We bring

more than a pay-check, to our loved ones and fam - i - ly.

job there is the fear, that dis - ease will take its toll. If not dis -

more than a pay-check, loved ones and fam - i - ly.

more than a pay-check, to our loved ones and fam - i - ly. We want

more than a pay-check, to our loved ones and fam - i - ly.

ease then in - ju - ry may be-fall your lot, and if not

61

more than a pay - check, loved ones and fam -

more than a pay - check, for our loved ones and fam -

more than a pay - check, for our loved ones and fam -

in - ju - ry then stress is gon - na tie you up in knots.

64

f i - ly. More than a pay - check to our

f i - ly. More than a pay - check to our

f i - ly. More than a pay - check to our

f So we bring home more, more, more, more,

67

loved ones and fam - i - ly. more than a pay -

loved ones and fam - i - ly. We bring more than a pay -

loved ones and fam - i - ly. We bring more than a pay -

more, more, more, more, more, more,

70

check to our loved ones and fam - i - ly.

- check to our loved ones and fam - i - ly.

- check to our loved ones and fam - i - ly.

more, more, more, more,