

## A NOTE FROM JOYCE.....

I dedicate this legacy of song to my children, **Tadd Onomowale Scott** and **Taryn JoLynn Upchurch** (pianists and vocalists, both) that they might be able to remember me through my music always. These songs have welled up from the depths of my heart and mirror the tenor of my soul. Thank you, **Arcellus Sykes** for bringing this "heart-dream" of mine to fruition with your brilliant transcription. What a joy it's been to work with you--consummate musician, transcriptionist, and all around "goodly soul"! <http://www.sykesttranscription.com>

Below is a brief description of songs included and why each holds especial meaning to me.

**"Song for My Brother"** (1975) was composed while on my maiden teaching job upon graduation from Stanford University. Hired as a vocal music specialist for a middle school in Menlo Park City School District, I created this choral work for the spring concert of the children's choir which I directed. In 2020 I have received a letter from an adult who had sung in that choir as a 12-year-old. She conducted an exhaustive internet search, found me, and wrote me a letter in which she stated, **"I wanted to tell you that the melody and the lyrics that you taught us 45 years ago have stayed with me my entire life, and I sing the song to myself often, and it gives me great comfort. It is like a hymn to me, and I believe it has made me a better person."**

**"My New Day"** (1993) is the song that launched my career as a professional singer and recording artist and IS the credo by which I live my life. **"I believe in my new day that's dawning, and I have hope for the future in me."**I was still actively teaching high school English in San Jose, CA when I released my debut CD, which included **"My New Day"**, and in 1995 the San Jose Mercury News graced me with a generous feature article of that release.  
<http://joycerandolph.com/press.htm>

**"Just a Little Blue"** (1995) is my favorite original song. As an artist, I was fulfilled to find this track from my **"Just a Little Blue"** CD (2004) receiving regular airplay across the country on jazz stations. When I saw that it was spinning regularly in New York City, I felt that my artistry as a lyricist, song writer, and vocalist was validated. Contained in this volume is the exact transcription of vocals and piano as recorded on that album. I was always mesmerized by the lush arrangements of ballads that my deceased and much beloved pianist, **Professor Bill Bell**, created for me. So, capturing his artful genius on paper enables my hands to trace where his have gone and to relive the artistic union that we shared in music.

**"How Great Thou Art"** is a transcription of an impromptu gospel performance which a church member captured on cell phone and sent to me. I thought to include it as it captures my impromptu vocal stylizing of the most beloved hymn of my family. I often heard my father and grandmother hum and sing it, and for over fifty years I've sung it at countless homecomings of family members. **Grace Thomas-Johnson** of Antioch Baptist Church, San Jose, CA is the pianist.

**"Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" (2020)** is my arrangement of the traditional Negro spiritual which one of my piano-vocal students (Kynneddy Clay) chose to use for her audition for admission into the Berklee College of Music. Our hearts leapt with joy at the notification that she had been accepted and is currently studying there.

**"Thank God for the Friend I've Found" (1974)** I include this one and refer to it as the "Wedding Song" because I sang it to my husband, Barney, at our wedding on Valentines' Day 1987.

**"I Send Him Roses" (1993)** This title track from my debut CD "I Send Him Roses" speaks to the wonderful notion of sending roses to a man for the "simple things" that he does-- a song befitting of Valentine's Day or any occasion.

**"To the Glory of My God, I'll Forever Sing" (1997)** was written in honor of my late mother, **Mable Moton Hurdle**, on the occasion of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Since her birthday fell on a Sunday, the Antioch Baptist Church Choir of San Jose, CA sang it to her at the morning church service. The famed Glide Memorial Choir of San Francisco also recorded it on its "The Sounds of Hope" CD in 2001.