



Camina Conmigo (Walk With Me)

Submitted to the Mountain States Mennonite Conference
Anabaptist Songwriting Challenge

Music and Lyrics by Patrick Ressler

Songwriter Statement

In writing this song, I sought to musicalize the spiritual concept of *acompaniment*—a commitment to walking alongside oppressed and marginalized communities as a reflection of the way that God accompanies each of us. Moreover, it is important for oppressed and marginalized communities to walk alongside each other, recognizing the *intersectionality* that binds together their pursuit of liberation.

In several of my Mennonite communities, a dangerous myth exists about the Latino and LGBTQ communities not being able to coexist and “be church” with one another due to theological differences. This idea is painful to me as I think about my friends who claim identity as Latino, LGBTQ and Mennonite. Not only is there *intersectionality* in the way that the Latino and LGBTQ communities experience oppression, there are many people who identify as both Latino and LGBTQ.

With these two communities in mind, I set to write a song that speaks to the importance of *acompaniment*—walking alongside each other. The song includes English and Spanish lyrics that speak to the experience of these two communities in their pursuit of liberation and need for accompaniment (from other communities and from God).

While it’s important to walk together, it’s also important that our various communities find ways to sing together. For those whose tradition is contemporary worship with a single vocal line, I wrote a melody line that suits the range of any singer. For those whose tradition is four-part harmony, I wrote hymn parts for soprano, alto, tenor and bass. Both of these vocal styles (single line or four-part harmony) can be sung simultaneously in this song. There is also an optional a cappella section where the melody and hymn parts can be heard without piano accompaniment, symbolizing the need for communities to accompany and support each in order to break the silence.

In writing this song, I hope to provide a resource for church communities that acknowledges our spiritual commitment to walk (and sing) alongside each other until “el fin del viaje.”

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an intersectional song about solidarity and spiritual accompaniment

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Steady ♩ = 55

F B♭/F E♭(+9)/F F/A B♭(+9) E♭(+9)

Piano

5 F B♭/F E♭(+9)/F F B♭/F E♭(+9)/F F B♭/F

1. Walk with me past bor-ders and — walls, be-yond our
2. Walk with me to just-ice for — all, to-ward good

5

10 E♭(+9)/F F B♭/F E♭(+9)/F F/A B♭(+9) E♭(+9)

lim - it - ed view, walk with me. Walk with me,
will ov - er - due, walk with me. Walk with me,

10

15 F/A B♭(+9) E♭(+9) F/A B♭(+9) E♭(+9) F/A B♭(+9)

through stum-bles and — falls, through fear and work yet to do, walk with
in safe - ty and — peace, in God, who makes all things new, walk with

15

Pno.

20 Csus C F/G C B \flat /C C F Fmaj7/A B \flat B \flat maj7 Csus7 C

me. Ca - mi - na con - mi - go, will you walk with me?
me.

Pno. *cresc.* *mf*

*optional a cappella chorus second time through, m. 21 - 32

25 C B \flat /C C/B \flat F/A d m7 E E7 A A7 B \flat 6 B \flat /D C7/E

To - ma mi ma - no, hold my hand, my friend. Qué - da - te con -

Pno. *mp*

30 F Fmaj7/A g m7 F 6 E \flat (+9) B \flat /D C B \flat /C C/B \flat F/A d m7 a m/C

mi - go, stay with me un - til el fin del vi - a - je, walk with

Pno. *cresc.* *f* *mp*

35 $B\flat$ A+ A7 dm a m/C $B\flat$ $B\flat/C$ 7 F $B\flat/F$ $E\flat(+9)/F$ [repeat only once]

me till jour-ney's end, walk with me till jour-ney's end.

Pno. 35 [repeat only once]

mf

40 F $B\flat/F$ $E\flat(+9)$ F $B\flat/F$ $E\flat(+9)/F$ F/A $B\flat(+9)$

Walk with me, walk with

Pno. 40

dim. *mp*

45 $E\flat(+9)$ F $B\flat/F$ $E\flat(+9)/F$ F/A *rit.* $B\flat(+9)$ $E\flat(+9)$

me, Walk with me, walk with me.

Pno. 45

8vb-1