

Magpies

SATB divisi a cappella

composed by Sheena Phillips
for the Magpie Consort of Columbus, Ohio

duration c 2:00

perusal score – not for rehearsal or performance

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Magpies

One for sorrow
Two for joy
Three for a girl
Four for a boy

Traditional English counting rhyme

“Magpies only swoop for a few weeks in spring, but they sing all year long.”

NPR report about Australian magpies, 10/24/10

“The magpie swells from knoll or silent brake his loud sweet tune.”

T Heney, 1886

“Gay magpies chant the livelong day.”

B Hoare 1869

The phrase ‘murmurous note’ comes from the following anecdote by Mark Twain:

“He is a handsome large creature, with snowy white decorations, and is a singer; he has a murmurous rich note that is lovely. He was once modest, even diffident; but he lost all that when he found out that he was Australia's sole musical bird. He has talent, and cuteness, and impudence; and in his tame state he is a most satisfactory pet--never coming when he is called, always coming when he isn't, and studying disobedience as an accomplishment. He is not confined, but loafs all over the house and grounds, like the laughing jackass. I think he learns to talk, I know he learns to sing tunes, and his friends say that he knows how to steal without learning. I was acquainted with a tame magpie in Melbourne. He had lived in a lady's house several years, and believed he owned it. The lady had tamed him, and in return he had tamed the lady. He was always on deck when not wanted, always having his own way, always tyrannizing over the dog, and always making the cat's life a slow sorrow and a martyrdom. He knew a number of tunes and could sing them in perfect time and tune; and would do it, too, at any time that silence was wanted; and then encore himself and do it again; but if he was asked to sing he would go out and take a walk.”

from *Following The Equator* (1897)

The magpie is described as “a large, pied crow” by H. Kingsley (1859)

And finally, a magnificent Australian magpie in full throttle can be heard at:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQ_pkvO5ia8

for The Magpie Consort of Columbus, Ohio

Magpies

SSAATBB

Sheena Phillips

$\bullet = 96$ in swing rhythm

A1 *p*
Mag-pies on - ly swoop for a few weeks in spring, but they sing, they sing all year

S2 *mp*
Mag - pies on - ly swoop for a few weeks in spring, but they sing, they

A1 *mp*
long. Mag - pies on - ly swoop for a few weeks in

S1 *mf*
Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

S2
sing all year long. Mag - pies on - ly swoop for a few weeks in

A1
spring, but they sing, they sing all year long.

A2 *mp*
Mag-pies on - ly swoop for a few weeks in spring, but they sing, they

T

Bar *mf*
Gay mag - pies —

B *mf*
A large, pied crow. A large, pied crow.

14

S1
Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

S2
spring, but they sing, they sing all year long.

A1
Mag - pies on - ly swoop for a few weeks in spring, but they sing, they

A2
sing all year long. Mag-pies on - ly swoop for a few weeks in

T
8

Bar
chant the live-long day! Gay mag - pies

B
A large, pied crow. A large, pied crow.

18

S1
Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

S2
mf Mag - pies on - ly swoop for a few weeks in spring, but they sing, they—

A1
sing all year long. *f* One for sor - row,

A2
spring, but they sing, they sing all year long.

T
f One for sor - row, two for joy.

Bar
chant the live-long day! *mp* Gay mag - pies—

B
A hand - some bird. A large, pied crow.

22

S1 Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

S2 sing all year long. Three for a girl, —

A1 two for joy. Three for a girl, —

A2 Mag - pies on - ly swoop for a few weeks in spring, but they sing, they —

T 8 Three for a girl, — four for a boy.

Bar chant the live-long day! Gay mag - pies

B A hand - some bird. A large, pied crow.

26

S1 **B** *mf* One for sor - row, *mp* two for joy.

S2 four for a boy. *mp* One for sor - row,

A1 four for a boy. *mp* One for sor-row,

A2 sing all year long. *mf* *mp* One for sor-row, *mf* two for joy.

T 8 One for sor - row, *mp* two for joy.

Bar chant the live-long day! *mp* One for sor - row,

B *mf* — A large, pied crow with a mur-mur-ous note. A large, pied crow with a mur-mur-ous

30

S1 Three for a girl, — four for a boy.

S2 two for joy. Three for a girl, — four for a boy.

A1 two for joy. Three for a girl, — four for a boy.

A2 Three for a girl, — four for a boy.

T Three for a girl, — four for a boy.

Bar and two for joy. Three for a girl, and four for a boy.

B note. A large, pied crow with a mur-mur-ous note. A large, pied crow.

35

S1 Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

S2 Mag - pies on - ly

A1 Mag - pies on - ly swoop for a few weeks in

A2 Mag - pies on - ly swoop for a few weeks in spring, but they

T Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

Bar The mag - pie — swells from knoll or sil - ent — brake his loud sweet tune.

B The mag - pie — swells from knoll or sil - ent — brake his loud sweet tune.

39

S1 *mp* 3 Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

S2 swoop for a few weeks in spring, but they sing, they sing all year

A1 *mf* *p* 3 spring, but they sing, they — sing all year long. Gay mag - pies

A2 *mf* *mp* sing, they sing all year long. Mag - pies on - ly

T 8 Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

Bar The mag - pie — swells from knoll or sil - ent — brake his loud sweet tune.

B The mag - pie — swells from knoll or sil - ent — brake his loud sweet tune.

43

S1 *mf* 3 Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

S2 *p* 3 *mp* 3 long. Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day! Gay mag - pies

A1 *mf* 3 chant the live - long day! Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

A2 swoop for a few weeks in spring, but they sing, they — sing all year

T 8 *p* 3 Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

Bar *mf* A cle-ver bird.

B *mf* *p* A cle-ver bird. A

47

S1

S2 *mf* 3
chant the live - long day! Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

A1 *mf* 3
Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

A2 *mp* 3 *mf* 3
long. Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day! Gay mag - pies

T *mp* 3 *mf* 3
Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day! Gay mag - pies

Bar *p* *mp*
A ve-ry cle-ver bird. A ve-ry cle-ver bird.

B *mp* *mf*
ve-ry cle-ver bird. A ve-ry cle-ver bird. A

51

S1 *f* 3
Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

S2 *f* 3
Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

A1 *f* 3
Gay mag - pies chant the live - long day!

A2 *f*
chant the live - long day! a ve-ry cle-ver bird!

T *f*
chant the live - long day! a ve-ry cle-ver bird!

Bar *f*
Ve-ry cle-ver, ve - ry cle-ver, a ve-ry cle-ver bird!

B *f*
ve-ry cle-ver bird. Ve-ry cle-ver, ve - ry cle-ver, a ve-ry cle-ver bird!