

Music for a While

a celebration of singing

Composed by Sheena Phillips
(including a quotation from Henry Purcell)

For SATB voices and percussion
(bongos / congas, egg shakers / maracas, shekere / cabasa, rainstick, optional marimba)

Lyrics: John Dryden, traditional Swahili, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and the composer

Commissioned in 2013 by VOICES, Princeton, New Jersey, Music Director Lyn Ransom, for the 25th anniversary of the founding of the chorus

Perusal score – not for rehearsal or performance

Duration c. 5:30

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Music for a While

Music for a while shall all your cares beguile.⁺

John Dryden (1631 – 1700)

haba na haba hujaza kibaba

Swahili proverb*

singer by singer we bring in our voices
little by little we build something bigger
cast off your cares and join in the chorus
drumming and dancing we sing out together

voices in time make music

free translations of the proverb and other lines by the composer

Silver key of the fountain of tears,
Where the Spirit drinks till the brain is wild;
Softest grave of a thousand fears,
Where their mother, Care, like a drowsy child,
Is laid asleep in flowers . . .

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792 – 1822)

⁺ the name (and first line) of a song in John Dryden and Nathaniel Lee's play *Oedipus*, for which Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695) composed the music. I quote Purcell's phrase, but give it a major tonality rather than the original minor.

* roughly "little by little, small things turn into something big"

Music For A While

a celebration of singing

lyrics: Dryden, Shelley, trad. Swahili, and the composer

music by Sheena Phillips

$\text{♩} = 108$
mf solo, freely *end solo*

T

Mu-sic for a while shall all your cares be-guile.

(about 5 secs. total)

Marimba

p \langle *mf* \rangle *p*

A

Pronunciation: hah-bah nah hah-bah hoo-jah-zah kee-bah-bah (j as in jam)

$\text{♩} = 108$ con brio *mp*

S

ha-ba na ha-ba hu-ja-za ki-ba-ba ha-ba na ha-ba

Mrb.

mf

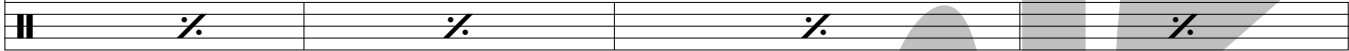
Perc.

shakers / maracas

12

S *mp sempre*
hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba ha - ba na ha - ba


A *mf*
sing - er by sing - er we bring in our

Perc. 

16

S
hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba ha - ba na ha - ba

A
voi - ces, sing - er by sing - er we bring in our

Perc. 

20

S
hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba ha - ba na ha - ba

A
voi - ces, sing - er by sing - er we bring in our

T
mf sing - er by sing - er we bring in our voi - ces,

B
mf sing - er by sing - er we bring in our voi - ces,

Mrb.
mf

Perc.
high bongo
low bongo

B

A
voi - ces
opt. soli *legato*

T
energico add more singers
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba ha - ba na ha - ba

B
energico add more singers
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba ha - ba na ha - ba

Perc.
2
2

30

S
sing-er by sing - er we bring in our voi - ces,

A
sing-er by sing - er we bring in our voi - ces,
f tutti

T
hu-ja-za ki - ba - ba ha - ba na ha - ba hu-ja-za ki - ba - ba
f tutti

B
hu-ja-za ki - ba - ba ha - ba na ha - ba hu-ja-za ki - ba - ba

Perc. **2** **2** **2**

36

S
sing - er by sing - er we bring in our voi - ces

A
sing - er by sing - er we bring in our voi - ces

T
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

B
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

Perc. **2** **2**

C

mp opt. soli

add more singers

B

lit-tle by lit - tle we build some-thing big - ger, lit-tle by lit - tle

Mrb.

p *mp*

Perc.

shekere

45

mf tutti

T

cast off your cares and join in the

B

we build some-thing big - ger, lit-tle by lit - tle

tutti *mp* sempre

Mrb.

p *mp*

Perc.

49

T
8 chor - us, cast off your cares and join in the

B
we build some-thing big - ger, *mf* lit-tle by lit - tle

Mrb.

Perc.

53 *mf*

S
cast off your cares and join in the chor - us,

A
mf
cast off your cares and join in the chor - us,

T
8 chor - us, cast off your cares and join in the

B
we build some-thing big - ger, lit-tle by lit - tle

Mrb.
mf

Perc.
high bongo (*shekere continues*)
low bongo

perusal score - not for rehearsal or performance

D

mp opt. soli *mf* tutti

S lit - tle by lit - tle we build some-thing big - ger, lit - tle by lit - tle

A *mp* opt. soli *mf* tutti
div. lit - tle by lit - tle we build some-thing big - ger, lit - tle by lit - tle

T chor - us,

B

Perc. *percussion tacet*

63

S we build some-thing big - ger, drum-ming and danc-ing we sing out to -

A we build some-thing big - ger, drum-ming and danc-ing we sing out to -

T *mf*
lit - tle by lit - tle we build some-thing

B *mf*
lit - tle by lit - tle we build some-thing

Perc. *percussion re-enters*

2

68

S
geth - er! drum-ming and danc - ing we sing out to - geth - er!

A
geth - er! drum-ming and danc - ing we sing out to - geth - er!

T
big - ger, lit - tle by lit - tle we build some-thing big - ger,

B
big - ger, lit - tle by lit - tle we build some-thing big - ger,

Perc. **2** **2**

E *mf cantando*

S
Mu - sic for a

A
mp
drum-ming and danc - ing we sing out to - geth - er!

T
p
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

B
p
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

Mrb. *mp*

Perc. **2** **2**

77

S while shall

A drum-ming and danc - ing we sing out to - geth - er!

T ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

B ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

Mrb.

Perc. 2 2

81

S all your cares be -

A drum-ming and danc - ing drum-ming and danc - ing

T ha - ba na ha - ba ha - ba na ha - ba

B ha - ba na ha - ba ha - ba na ha - ba

Mrb.

Perc. 2 2

85

S guile.

A drum-ming and danc - ing we sing out to - geth - er!

T ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

B ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

Mrb.

Perc. 2 2

F

S *mf* Sil - ver key of the

A *mf* Sil - ver key of the

T *p* Sil - ver key of the fount - ain,

B *p* Sil - ver, sil - ver key of the fount - ain, sil - ver key of the

Mrb. *mp*

shakers / maracas

Perc. rainstick

93

S
foun - tain of tears,

A
foun - tain of tears,

T
fount - - - ain, foun - tain of tears,

B
fount - ain, fount - ain of tears,

Mrb.

Perc.

97

S
Soft - - - est grave of a

A
Soft - - - est grave of a

T
Soft - - - est soft - est grave,

B
soft - est, soft - est grave of a thou - sand, soft - est grave of a

Mrb.
l.h. r.h.
p

Perc.

101

S thou - - - sand fears, where
mp dolce

A thou - - - sand fears, where

T 8 grave of a thou - sand fears,

B thou - sand, thous - and fears,

Mrb.

Perc. *percussion tacet*

105

S Care, like a drow - sy child

A Care, *mp dolce* like a drow - sy child

T 8 where Care, like a drow - sy

B where Care, like a drow - sy

Mrb.

112

S is laid a - sleep in flowers,

A is laid a - sleep in flowers,

T child is laid a - sleep, a -

B child is laid a - sleep, a -

Mrb.

118

S is laid a - sleep

A is laid a - sleep

T sleep in flowers.... is laid a -

B sleep in flowers.... is laid a -

Mrb.

124

S
in flowers....

A
in flowers....

T
8
sleep, in flowers....

B
sleep, in flowers....

Mrb.

G

p cresc. (repeat mf) *mf*

T
8
cast off your cares and join in the chor-us, cast off your cares and
egg shakers

Perc.
shekere (on repeat only)

134 *mf*

S drum-ming and danc-ing we sing out to-geth-er!

A drum-ming and danc-ing we sing out to-geth-er!

T join in the chor-us, cast off your cares and join in the

B *mf*
ha-ba na ha-ba hu-ja-za ki-ba-ba ha-ba na ha-ba

Mrb. *mf*

Perc. high bongo (*shekere continues*)
low bongo

139 *p*

S Sil - ver key of the fount-ain of tears, where the Spi - rit drinks

A Sil - ver key of the fount-ain of tears, where the Spi - rit drinks

T chor - us,

Mrb. *p*

Perc. 2

145 *mf* *p*

S till the brain is wild, drum-ming and danc - ing we sing out to -

A till the brain is wild, drum-ming and danc - ing we sing out to -

T Soft - est grave of a thous - and

B Soft - est grave of a thous - and

Mrb. *mf* *mp*

Perc. 2

150

S
geth - er! drum-ming and danc - ing we sing out to - geth - er!

A
geth - er! drum-ming and danc - ing we sing out to - geth - er!

T
8 fears where Care lies a - sleep like a drow - sy child,

B
fears where Care lies a - sleep like a drow - sy child,

Mrb.
mf

Perc.
2 2

mf cantando

S
mf
 Mu - - - - - sic for a

A
mf
 drum-ming and danc - ing we sing out to - geth - er!

T
mf
 ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

B
mf
 ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

Mrb.
mf

Perc.
 2 2

S
 159
 while shall

A
 drum-ming and danc - ing we sing out to - geth - er!

T
 ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

B
 ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

Mrb.

Perc.
 2 2

163

S all your cares be -

A drum-ming and danc - ing drum-ming and danc - ing

T ha - ba na ha - ba ha - ba na ha - ba

B ha - ba na ha - ba ha - ba na ha - ba

Mrb.

Perc. 2

167

S guile.

A drum-ming and danc - ing we sing out to - geth - er!

T ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

B ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

Mrb.

Perc. 2

Optional audience participation segment: sing Bass line on its own until "low voices" in the audience have picked it up and are singing along; add Tenors with "medium voices" in the audience and repeat until it is established; add Alto line with "higher voices". Once all three parts are working, add Soprano line (choir sopranos, no audience), repeat ad lib, and proceed to J. It doesn't matter if some audience members continue singing at J.

To perform without the audience: repeat 4 times, adding one line at a time (in order B, T, A, S). Repeat further ad lib and proceed to J.

I add audience claps on every beat (2 per bar)

S *f* voi - - - ces in time

A *f* sing - er by sing - er we bring in our voi - ces,

T *f* mu - sic for a while

B *f* ha - ba na ha - ba, ha - ba na

Perc. handclaps
drums tacet (shekere continues)

174

S make mu - - - sic,

A sing - er by sing - er we bring in our voi - ces,

T shall all your cares be - guile,

B ha - ba na ha - ba, ha - ba na

Perc. % % %

J

S
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

A
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

T
8
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

B
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

Perc. 

cue audience out
end claps

180

S
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

A
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

T
8
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

B
ha - ba na ha - ba hu - ja - za ki - ba - ba

Perc. 

183

S
voi - - - - ces,

A
voi - ces in time make mu - sic,

T
8
voi - - - - ces,

B
voi - ces in time make mu - sic,

Mrb.
f

Perc.

186

S
VOI - - - CES! *shouted*
Voic - es!
shouted

A
VOI - - - CES!
Voic - es!
shouted

T
VOI - - - CES!
Voic - es!
shouted

B
VOI - - - CES!
Voic - es!
shouted

Mrb.

Perc.