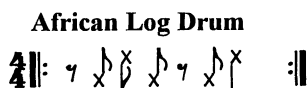
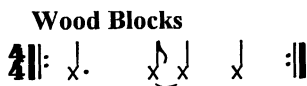


African Psalm is a free adaptation of a folk song from Kenya with a new text adapted from the Psalms by Patrick M. Liebergen. It is inspired by the African traditions of call and response and improvising layered textures. Call and response is evident in mm. 12-19 and 44-51, in which the soloist or section sings a musical idea and the choir responds. The layering of the choral texture is created by the pairing of two independent melodies in mm. 60-75, providing an improvisational effect.

Additional layering effects are created by the addition of both flute and percussion instruments (optional). A flute part is included in the choral score (please see p. 12). One or more percussion instruments may be improvised freely. A full performance/accompaniment cassette (available separately, No. 11879) employs four percussion instruments, alternating full sections of percussion writing with solo sections that gradually thicken through the "layering in" of additional instruments. The rhythms played by each instrument are simple 1-measure repeated patterns, as follows:



The introduction (mm. 1-7) is intended to be sung unaccompanied, slowly and very freely. Directors may wish to assign this section to a solo voice or small vocal ensemble. It may also be performed by keyboard only, or omitted entirely, beginning the performance at m. 8. In mm. 60-78, Part II should pronounce the traditional African syllable "Io" as "Yo."

In rehearsal, strive for precise diction and a light but intensive choral tone. Caution the choir against singing too loudly or heavily, which will result in sloppy rhythms and poor intonation. Beginning at m. 8, practice the anthem on staccato "doo" until rhythmic precision is achieved. In performance, sing with a legato articulation imbued with all of the energy of the staccato.

African Psalm is intended for performance by both school and church choirs. Appropriate for worship throughout the general church year, at Ascension, Eastertide and Christ the King Sunday, it may be coordinated with the following lectionary readings: Exodus 15: 1-2, Psalms 96, 98 and 100, Isaiah 12 and John 1: 1-14. One basic homiletical theme is singing joyful songs of praise to the God of all nations whose power and glory are boundless.

Patrick M. Liebergen is Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin (Stout) and Director of the Chancel Choir at United Methodist Church, Menomonie, Wisconsin. With music degrees from St. Norbert College in DePere, Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin (Madison), and the University of Colorado (Boulder), Dr. Liebergen frequently appears throughout the country as an adjudicator and clinician. His choral editions, arrangements and original works are widely published. Dr. Liebergen was the 1988 winner of the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association Composition Competition and the 1990 winner of the Anthem Contest sponsored by the Twin Cities Church Musicians Association.

AFRICAN PSALM

for 2-Part voices, accompanied,*
with optional flute and percussion**

Words adapted from the Psalms by
PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

Arranged from a Kenyan folksong by
PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

Slowly, freely (♩ = ca. 112-116)

f (opt. solo or duet)

PART I
Lift your voices to God with sing-ing!

PART II
Lift your voices to God with sing-ing!

Slowly, freely (♩ = ca. 112-116)

ACCOMP.
f † (opt. accompaniment mm. 1-7)

5 *poco rit.*

8 Lightly and energetically
(♩ = ca. 126-138)

Praise the Lord with a joy-ful song!

Praise the Lord with a joy-ful song!

poco rit.

f (+ flute)

* Also available for S.A.T.B. voices, No. 16024, and S.A.B. voices, No. 16025, and Unison or 2-part voices, No. 23743.

A full performance/accompaniment recording is available separately, No. 11879.

** Flute part may be found on page 12. Percussion may be freely improvised (please see the performance notes).

† Mm. 1-7 may be performed very freely by either an accompanist alone or by an unaccompanied soloist or choir.

9

12 PART I OR SOLO

f

Lift your voic - es to God with sing - ing! Praise the Lord_ with a

(- flute)

15 I. *(f)*
(lead solo)

joy - ful song! Lift your voic - es to God with sing - ing!

II. *f*

Lift your voic - es to God with sing - ing!

(+ flute)

18 20 *mf*

Praise the Lord— with a joy - ful song! Cel - e-brate!_ He is

Praise the Lord— with a joy - ful song!

mf (- flute)

21

Lord for-ev - er! Glo - ry be— to the might - y King!

24 *mf* *cresc.*

Cel - e-brate!_ He is Lord for-ev - er! Ev - 'ry-bod - y re -

cresc.

27

28

f

joyce and sing! Lift your voic - es to God with sing - ing!

joyce and sing! Lift your voic - es to God with sing - ing!

f

30

sub. mp

Praise the Lord— with a joy - ful song! Lift your voic - es to

sub. mp

Praise the Lord— with a joy - ful song! Lift your voic - es to

mp

33

God with sing - ing! Praise the Lord— with a joy - ful song!

God with sing - ing! Praise the Lord— with a joy - ful song!

36

mf (+flute)

Musical notation for measures 36-38, featuring a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and chords in the left hand.

39

Musical notation for measures 39-41, continuing the piano accompaniment.

42

PART I OR SOLO

44

Shout with joy — to the

Musical notation for measures 42-44, including a vocal line and piano accompaniment.

45

(end solo)

Lord who made — us; God cre-at - ed the earth and sky!

Musical notation for measures 45-47, including a vocal line and piano accompaniment.

48

I. *mf*

Shout with joy— to the Lord who made— us; Raise your hands— to the

II. *mf*

Shout with joy— to the Lord who made— us; Raise your hands— to the

51

52

Lord on high! Lift your voice - es to God with sing - ing!

Lord on high! Lift your voice - es to God with sing - ing!

54

Praise the Lord— with a joy - ful song! Lift your voice - es to

*sub. mp**sub. mp*

Praise the Lord— with a joy - ful song! Lift your voice - es to

mp

57

God with sing - ing! Praise the Lord — with a joy - ful song!

God with sing - ing! Praise the Lord — with a joy - ful song!

60

mf

*Io, o, — al - le - lu - ia! Io, o, — sing

(- flute)

mf

63

mf

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

al - le - lu! Io, o, — al - le - lu - ia!

Ev - 'ry-bod - y sing al - le - lu! Al - le - lu - ia, *cresc.*

Io, o, — sing al - le - lu! Io, o, — *cresc.*

cresc.

al - le - lu - ia! Ev - 'ry-bod - y sing al - le - lu!

al - le - lu - ia! Io, o, — sing al - le - lu!

f Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ev - 'ry-bod - y sing

f Io, o, — al - le - lu - ia! Io, o, — sing

f

75

sub. mp

cresc.

al - le - lu!

Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia!

sub. mp

cresc.

al - le - lu!

Io, o, —

al - le - lu - ia!

mp
(+ flute)

cresc.

78

80

Ev - 'ry - bod - y sing

al - le - lu!

Lift your voic - es to

Io, o, — sing

al - le - lu!

Lift your voic - es to

(- flute)

81

God

in song,

in joy - ful song!

God _____ in

song, for - ev - er in

joy - ful song!

ff (+ flute)

AFRICAN PSALM

FLUTE

Arranged from a Kenyan folksong by
PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

Slowly and freely
(♩ = ca. 112-116)
*(see below) 7

Lightly and energetically (♩ = ca. 126-138)

poco rit. **f**

f

mf

f

sub. mp

mp *cresc.*

f **ff**

* Mm. 1-7 may be performed very freely and unaccompanied by choir, soloist, or accompanist.

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