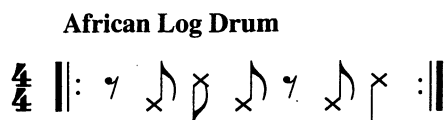


African Psalm is a free adaptation of a folk song from Kenya with a new text adapted from the Psalms by Patrick M. Liebergen. It is inspired by the African tradition of call and response and improvising layered textures. Call-and-response is evident in mm. 12-19, 20-28 and 44-51, in which the soloist or section sings a musical idea and the choir responds. The layering of the choral texture by section creates 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 recording (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, the singers 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.

Patrick M. Liebergen is Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin (Stout). 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 unison or 2-part voices and keyboard,*
with opt. 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)

UNISON VOICES

Lift your voices to God with singing!

Slowly, freely (♩ = ca. 112-116)
f +(opt. accompaniment mm. 1-7)

KEYBOARD

5

poco rit.

8 (♩ = ca. 126-138)

Praise the Lord with a joyful song!

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

poco rit.

(play)
f
(+ FL.)

* Also available for S.A.T.B. voices, No. 16024, S.A.B. voices, No. 16025, and 2-part voices, No. 16026.

A full performance/accompaniment compact disc 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.

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9

PART I (*melody*) OR SOLO *

12 *f*

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

PART II (*optional*)

(- FL.)

15 (*end solo*) (*f*)

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

f

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

(+ FL.)

* Unison voices sing Part I throughout.

20

mf

18

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

Praise the Lord with a joy - ful song!

(-FL.)
mf

21

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

24

cresc.

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

cresc.

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

cresc.

28

27 *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!

30 *mp*
 Praise the Lord _ with a joy - ful song! Lift your voic - es to
 Praise the Lord _ with a joy - ful song! Lift your voic - es to

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*
(+ FL.)

39

42 PART I OR SOLO *mf*

Shout with joy — to the

45 (end solo)

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

PART I *(mf)*

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

PART II *mf*

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



52



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



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



54



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



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



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

(- FL.)

mf

63

mf (opt. SOLO)

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

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

*"Yo."

66 *(end solo)* *cresc.*

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

Io, o, — sing al - le - lu! Io, o, —

cresc.

69

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

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

72

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

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 (+ FL.) *cresc.*

78 *f* **80**

Ev - 'ry-bod - y sing al - le - lu! Lift your voic - es to

f

Io, o, — sing al - le - lu! Lift your voic - es to

f (- FL.)

81 *ff*

God in song, in joy - ful song!

ff

God in song, for - ev - er in joy - ful song!

ff (+ FL.)

AFRICAN PSALM

FLUTE

Arranged from a Kenyan folksong by
PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

Slowly and freely (♩ = ca. 112-116) Lightly and energetically (♩ = ca. 126-138)

* (see below) 7

8

poco rit. *f*

11

12

3

f

18

20

8

28

8

36

37

41

44

45

49

52

f

54

sub. *mp*

60

16

mp

cresc.

79

80

3

ff

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

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