

About This Piece

In July 2009, along with a group of students and teachers from the Ft. Worth Academy of Fine Arts, I had the tremendous opportunity to teach at a fine arts camp for a group of students from the Tache Home and Balm of Gilead Home in Lusaka, Zambia, Africa. One of the songs of welcome the students sang to us was the traditional song, *Bonse Aba*. It was a festive, celebratory song and soon became one of our favorite opening songs for the duration of our time in Africa.

For this setting of the tune, I have freely adapted several psalm passages that seem to convey the spirit of the African original. The drum accompaniment which is included can be played “as is,” or you may add other instruments and rhythmic ideas to enhance the experience. Clapping and side-to-side swaying may also be added; however, it is important to keep the movements tasteful, in view of the sacred nature of the text.

Victor C. Johnson

African Psalm

SATB with opt. Percussion*

Words Adapted
from the Psalms

Arranged by **Victor C. Johnson**
Traditional Zambian Folk Song

① Rhythmically, with energy ♩ = ca. 96

Hand Drum (Treble Drum) $\frac{2}{4}$ *mf*

Djembe (Bass Drum) $\frac{2}{4}$

Shaker $\frac{2}{4}$

5

T.D. $\frac{2}{4}$

B.D. $\frac{2}{4}$ *mf*

Sh. $\frac{2}{4}$

9

T.D. $\frac{2}{4}$

B.D. $\frac{2}{4}$

Sh. $\frac{2}{4}$ *mf*

① indicates CD track number

*Percussion parts (hand or treble drum, djembe or bass drum, and shaker) are available as a free download. Visit www.lorenz.com and search for 10/4747L.

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13 S
A
T
B *f*

Lift your voic - es to God, all ye peo - ple! Praise the Lord—sing - ing

T.D.
B.D.
Sh.

16 *f*

Lift your voic - es to God, all ye peo - ple!

Lift your voic - es to God, all ye peo - ple!

Lift your voic - es to God, all ye peo - ple!

al - le - lu - ia!—

T.D.
B.D.
Sh.

19

Praise the Lord— sing - ing al - le - lu - ia!

Praise the Lord— sing - ing al - le - lu - ia!

Praise the Lord— sing - ing al - le - lu - ia! *f*

Lift your voic - es to

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

22

God, all ye peo - ple! Praise the Lord— sing - ing al - le - lu - ia!—

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

25

f

②

Lift your voic - es to God, all ye peo - ple! Praise the Lord— sing - ing

Lift your voic - es to God, all ye peo - ple! Praise the Lord— sing - ing

Lift your voic - es to God, all ye peo - ple! Praise the Lord— sing - ing

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

28

mf

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

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

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

Ev - 'ry - bod - y,

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

31

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

T.D.
B.D.
Sh.

34

sing to - geth - er al - le - lu - ia!
 Ev - 'ry - bod - y, al - le - lu - ia!
 Ev - 'ry - bod - y, al - le - lu - ia!
 Ev - 'ry - bod - y, al - le - lu - ia!

T.D.
B.D.
Sh.

37

f

Ev - 'ry - bod - y sing to - geth - er

Ev - 'ry - bod - y sing to - geth - er

Ev - 'ry - bod - y sing to - geth - er

f

Sing to - geth - er. Ev - 'ry - bod - y sing to - geth - er

T.D. *f*

B.D. *f*

Sh. *f*

40

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

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

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

al - le - lu - ia! Sing to - geth - er. Ev - 'ry - bod - y

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

43

③

sing to - geth - er al - le - lu - ia! Lift your voic - es to
 sing to - geth - er al - le - lu - ia!
 sing to - geth - er al - le - lu - ia!
 sing to - geth - er al - le - lu - ia!

T.D. *mf*

B.D. *mf*

Sh. *mf*

46

God, all ye peo - ple! Praise the Lord— sing - ing al - le - lu - ia!—

T.D. *mf*

B.D. *mf*

Sh. *mf*

49

mf Praise Him!— Praise the Lord,— sing

mf Lift your voices to God, all ye people! Praise the Lord— sing - ing

mf Lift your voices to God, all ye people! Praise the Lord— sing - ing

mf Lift your voices to God, all ye people! Praise the Lord— sing - ing

T.D. ||

B.D. ||

Sh. ||

52

al - le - lu - ia! Lift your voices to God, all ye people!

al - le - lu - ia!

al - le - lu - ia!

al - le - lu - ia!

al - le - lu - ia!

T.D. ||

B.D. ||

Sh. ||