

# KERESIMESI ODUN DE O

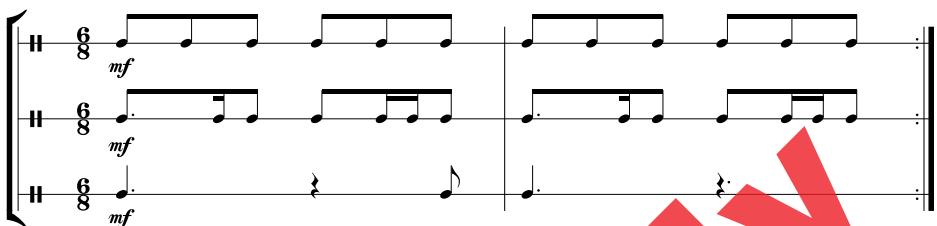
for 2-part voices, a cappella  
with percussion\*

Yoruba Text

Nigerian Christmas Song  
Arranged by ANDY BECK

Rhythmically (♩ = ca. 69)

SHAKER



SMALL DRUM

LOW DRUM

**[3]**

P. I *mf*

Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o. Ke - re - si - me - si o -

P. II *mf*

Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o. Ke - re - si - me - si o -

The musical score shows two staves for vocal parts. Staff 1 (P. I) starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. Staff 2 (P. II) starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. Both staves are in common time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The vocal parts are mostly eighth-note patterns.

**[6]**

dun de o, o - dun i - jo, o - dun a - yo.

dun de o, o, o - dun i - jo, o - dun a -

The musical score continues with two staves. Staff 1 (P. I) starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. Staff 2 (P. II) starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. Both staves are in common time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The vocal parts are mostly eighth-note patterns.

Background information and Yoruba pronunciation/translation is on page 8.

\* Also available for S.A.B. (51436), S.S.A. (51437), and T.T.B. (51438). Visit [alfred.com](http://alfred.com) for digital scores and audio.  
Download free percussion parts at [alfred.com/choralparts](http://alfred.com/choralparts).

9  
Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.  
yo. Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.

12 Optional: measures 12–13, 16–17, 20–21, and 24–25 may be solos

12 A bi Je-su Kris ti si-nu a-ye. Ke-re - si - me - si o - dun de o.  
Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.

16 Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.  
O wa s'a-ye fun t'e-mi ti - re. Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.

20 Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.  
Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.

[20]

Musical score for two voices (Soprano and Alto) and piano. The key signature is A major (two sharps). The vocal parts enter at measure 20. The piano accompaniment consists of eighth-note chords.

Soprano vocal line:

- Measure 20: Rest
- Measure 21: Rest
- Measure 22: Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.
- Measure 23: A bi Je - su Kris - ti si - nu a - ye. Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.

Alto vocal line:

- Measure 20: Rest
- Measure 21: Rest
- Measure 22: Rest
- Measure 23: Rest

24

O wa s'a-ye fun t'e-mi ti - re. Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.

Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.

Continuation of the musical score for two voices and piano. The vocal parts continue their lines, and the piano provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords.

Soprano vocal line:

- Measure 24: O wa s'a-ye fun t'e-mi ti - re. Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.
- Measure 25: Rest
- Measure 26: Rest
- Measure 27: Rest

Alto vocal line:

- Measure 24: Rest
- Measure 25: Rest
- Measure 26: Rest
- Measure 27: Rest

[28]

Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o. Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o,

Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o. Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o,

Continuation of the musical score for two voices and piano. The vocal parts continue their lines, and the piano provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords. The dynamic marking *f* (fortissimo) is present in the piano part.

Soprano vocal line:

- Measure 28: Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.
- Measure 29: Rest
- Measure 30: Rest
- Measure 31: Rest

Alto vocal line:

- Measure 28: Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o.
- Measure 29: Rest
- Measure 30: Rest
- Measure 31: Rest

32

This musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the voice (soprano) and the bottom staff is for the piano. The key signature is A major (two sharps). Measure 32 starts with eighth-note pairs followed by quarter notes. The lyrics are: "o - dun i - jo, o - dun a - yo. Ke - re - si - me - si o -". Measures 33 and 34 continue with similar patterns and lyrics: "o, o - dun i - jo, o - dun a - yo.". Measures 35 through 38 show a more complex harmonic progression with various dynamics (p, p, cresc., cresc.) and sustained notes. The lyrics include: "dun de o. O - mo Ma - ri - a, Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o. O,". Measures 39 and 40 conclude the section with sustained notes and dynamics: "o - ku fun wa. O - mo Jo - se - fu, o - ku fun wa. o - ku fun wa. O, o - ku fun wa. cresc. cresc. cresc. cresc. mf".

35

37 *p*

dun de o. O - mo Ma - ri - a,

*p*

Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o. O,

*p*

*p*

*p*

38

*cresc.*

o - ku fun wa. O - mo Jo - se - fu, o - ku fun wa.

*cresc.*

o - ku fun wa. O, o - ku fun wa. cresc. cresc. cresc. cresc. *mf*

41

O wa la - ti ba wa la I'o-wo e - še. Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o. —  
O wa la - ti ba wa la I'o-wo e - še. Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o. —

mf

mf

mf

mf

45

*opt. DESCANT (2nd time only)*

Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o. —  
Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o. — Ke - re - si - me - si o -  
Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o. — Ke - re - si - me - si o -

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48

Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o, \_\_\_\_\_  
dun de o, \_\_\_\_\_ o - dun i - jo, o - dun a - yo.  
dun de o, \_\_\_\_\_ o, o - dun i - jo, o - dun a -

51

(rejoin section)

yo. Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o, \_\_\_\_\_  
Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o, \_\_\_\_\_

2nd time—decrec.

yo. Ke - re - si - me - si o - dun de o, \_\_\_\_\_

2nd time—decrec.

2nd time—decrec.

2nd time—decrec.

2nd time—decrec.

**54**

Ke - re - si - me - si   o - dun   de   o!

Ke - re - si - me - si   o - dun   de,   Ke - re - si - me - si   o - dun   de   o!

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This joyous Christmas song comes from the Yoruba-speaking regions of Nigeria. The Yoruba are one of the major ethnic groups in Nigeria, and their music often features rich harmonies and lively rhythms. The lyrics of “Keresimesi Odun De O” reflect the festive spirit of the Christmas season and the song is typically performed in a bright rhythmic style, characteristic of traditional Yoruba music.

#### YORUBA PRONUNCIATION / TRANSLATION

**Keresimesi odun de o**

*keh-reh-see-meh-see oh-doон deh oh*

(Christmas is here)

**odun ijo, odun ayo**

*oh-doон ee-joh, oh-doон eye-oh*

(church year, joyous year)

**A bi Jesu Kristi sinu ave**

*ah bee jeh-zoo kree-stee see-noo eye-eh*

(Jesus Christ was born to the world)

**O wa s’aye fun t’emire**

*oh wah sah-yeh foon teh-mee tee-reh*

(he came to life for my soul)

**Omo Maria, o ku fun wa**

*oh-moh mah-ree-ah, oh koo foon wah*

(son of Mary, he died for us)

**Omo Josefú, o ku fun wa**

*oh-moh joh-seh-foo, oh koo foon wah*

(son of Joseph, he died for us)

**O wa lati ba wa la I’owo eṣé**

*oh wah lah-tee bah wa lah yoh-woh eh-sheh*

(he came to save us from sin)