

PROGRAM NOTES

I began composing this piece in 2017, when my choir professor Dr. Marie Bucoy-Calavan approached me with the poem. It resonated with her experience as a woman and person of color in America, and she thought it was something our community needed. Now, in a nation shaken by COVID-19, police brutality, and attacks on women's rights, I think Maya Angelou's work is ever more important. I have never experienced adversity to the level that the poem describes, but I think every human being can remember a time when they've felt worthless, downtrodden, and hated. Art can help us to understand these feelings, reflect upon them, and lift ourselves out of them. I hope this piece can do the same.

The opening counterpoint serves the same purpose as the overture to Mendelssohn's Elijah—to portray the passing of troubled times. The words "I'll rise" float overtop, as if someone is dreaming of a better future. We pass through various emotions, with compound meters representing the dream for a better tomorrow, and simple meters the troubled present. The climax comes when we switch tenses: from future "I'll rise" to present "I rise." I chose to end the piece with the same material as the troubled opening and the future tense, because I don't think we've arrived at an equal paradise yet. There is still so much work to be done.

—Mickey McGroarty

PERFORMANCE NOTE

It may be helpful in the opening and closing sections to sing on a light "doo" or "loo" to provide rhythmic clarity.

COMPOSER BIO

Mickey McGroarty is an emerging composer based in Akron, Ohio, where he lives with his fiancé and two cats. McGroarty earned his Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Akron after obtaining his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from the same institution studying under Dr. Marie Bucoy-Calavan. In 2022, he attended the Choral Arts Initiative PREMIERE|Project Festival, working with Brandon Elliott, Dominick DiOrio, Dale Trumbore, and Derrick Skye. Soon after, this piece was premiered at the 2023 ACDA National Conference.

Like Moons and Like Suns, I'll Rise

for SATB Chorus unaccompanied

Maya Angelou

Mickey McGroarty
(ASCAP)

“Like Moons and Like Suns, I’ll Rise”

Music by Michael D. McGroarty and Text by Dr. Maya Angelou

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[illegible]

10

This musical score is for the song 'The Rose Tree'. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: 'his - t'ry With your bit - ter, twist - ed'. The piano accompaniment is written in two staves, with the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef, both with a key signature of one flat. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and triplets. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'sample only' is overlaid on the right side of the page.

12

This musical score is for the song 'The Rose Tree'. It is written for a four-part vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 3/4. The score consists of two systems of staves. The first system contains the vocal parts and the beginning of the piano accompaniment. The lyrics 'lies, You may trod me in the' are written under the vocal staves. The second system continues the vocal parts and the piano accompaniment. The piano part features a prominent triplet in the right hand and a corresponding triplet in the left hand. The score is marked with a large 'Copyright' watermark.

Copyright

oo, I'll rise.

ve - ry dirt But still, like du - st, I'll rise.

oo, I'll rise.

oo, I'll rise.

oo, I'll rise.

oo, I'll rise.

17 Picking up steam (♩ = 56)

mf Just like moons and suns,

mf Just like the moons and suns,

mf Just like the moon, the moon, just like the sun, I'll

mf Just like the moon, just like the sun, I'll

Just like the moon, just like the sun, I'll

Picking up steam (♩ = 56)

19

With the cer-tain-ty of tides, Just like

With the cer-tain-ty of tides, Just like hope

rise, I'll rise, I'll rise, Just like hope, like

rise, I'll rise, I'll rise, Just like hope

rise, I'll rise, I'll, Just like hope, like

[illegible]

25 $\text{♩} = 56$ *p cresc. poco a poco* (to m. 38)

S I'll rise, _____ I'll rise, _____

A *p cresc. poco a poco* (to m. 38)
I'll rise, _____ I'll rise, _____

T *p cresc. poco a poco* (to m. 38)
rise, _____ I'll rise, _____ I'll

B *p cresc. poco a poco* (to m. 38)
rise, _____ I'll rise, _____ I'll

$\text{♩} = 56$

29

S I'll rise, _____ I'll rise, _____

A I'll rise, _____ I'll rise, _____

T rise, _____ I'll rise, _____ I'll

B rise, _____ I'll rise, _____ I'll

Slightly faster (♩. = 62)

9

33 *mp* (*cresc.*)

I'll rise, I'll rise,

mp (*cresc.*)

I'll rise, I'll rise, I'll

mp (*cresc.*)

rise, I'll rise, I'll

mp (*cresc.*)

rise, I'll rise, I'll

Slightly faster (♩. = 62)

37 (*cresc.*) I'll rise, I'll rise. (♩. = ♩) ♩ = 62

I'll rise, I'll rise.

(*cresc.*) *mf* *mp*

rise, I'll rise. Did you

(*cresc.*) *mf*

rise, I'll rise.

(*cresc.*) *mf*

rise, I'll rise.

(♩. = ♩) ♩ = 62

3

41 *pp cresc.*

S Oo,

A want to see me bro-ken? Bowed head and low-ered eyes? Shoul-ders

43 *p cresc.*

S oo,

A fall - ing down like tear - drops, Weak-ened by my soul - ful cries? Did you

T oo Did you

B1 You may shoo - (t) me, cu - (t) me, kill me.

B2 You may shoo - (t) me, cu - (t) me, kill me.

45

S1

S2 *mf* 3 Out of the huts _____ of his-to - ry's shame, _

A want to see me bro - ken? Bowed head and _____ low - ered eyes? Shoul - ders

T want to see me bro - ken? Bowed head and _____ low - ered eyes? Shoul - ders

B1 *mf* 3 Up from a past root - ed in pain, _____

B2 *mf* Oh, _____

Copyright is my friend

47

f
3

Did you

Up from a past _____ of his-to-ry's pain. _____

fall - ing _____ down like tear-drops, Weak-ened by my soul - ful cries?

fall - ing _____ down like tear-drops, Weak-ened by my soul - ful cries?

Out of the huts _____ of his-to-ry's shame, _____

oh _____

49

49

want to see me bro-ken? Bowed head and low-ered eyes? Shoul-ders

f Shoot me, You may cut me, kill me,

f Shoot me with your words, cut me with your eyes, You may

f You may shoot me, You may cut me with your eyes, You may

f Up from a past root-ed in pain,

f Shoot me, cut me, shoot me, kill me,

8

51

Sop. Solo

S1

fall-ing down like tear-drops. Weak-ened by my soul-ful cries? Did you

S2

shoot me, You may cut me, kill me,

A

kill me with your hate-ful-ness, But still, I rise.

T

kill me with your hate-ful-ness, But still, I rise.

B1

Out of the huts of his-to-ry's shame.

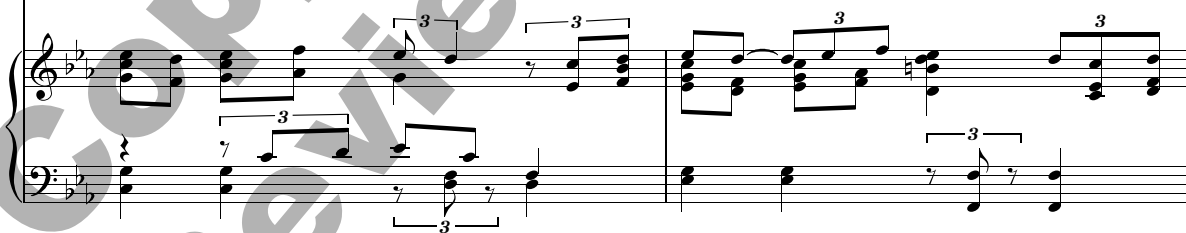
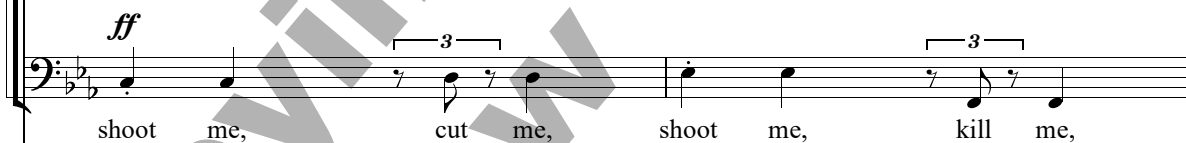
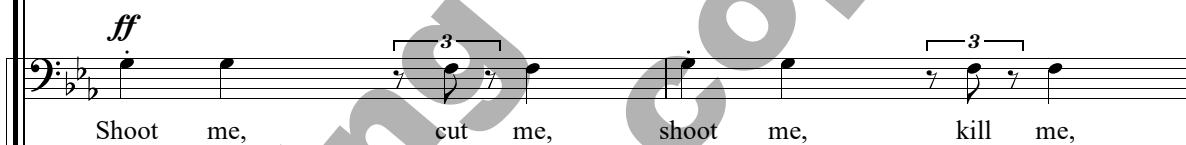
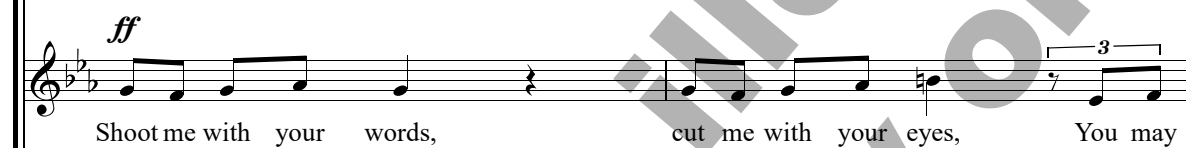
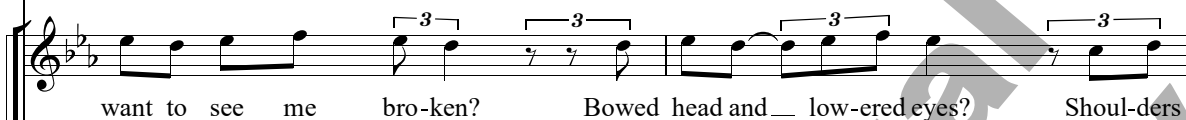
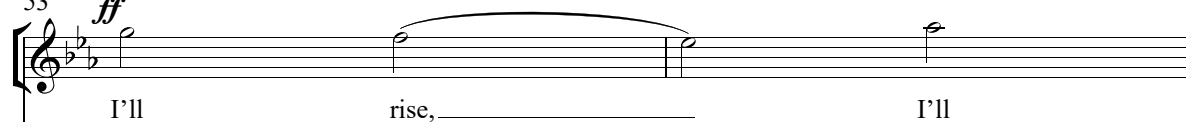
B2

shoot me, cut me, shoot me, kill me,

ff

Soprano Solo

53

ff

55

rise, by my soul-ful cries?

fall-ing down like tear - drops, Weak - ened by my soul-ful cries?

shoot me, cut me, by my soul-ful cries?

kill me with your hate - ful - ness. Weak - ened by my soul-ful cries?

kill me with your hate - ful - ness. Weak - ened by my soul-ful cries?

shoot me, cut me, by my soul-ful cries?

shoot me, cut me, by my soul-ful cries?

58 **Triumphantly** (♩. = 68)Sop. 2 *p cresc. poco a poco*

S *p cresc. poco a poco*
I rise, I

A *p cresc. poco a poco*
I rise, I

T *f*
Out of the huts of his-to-ry's shame Up from a past that's root-ed in pain

B *f*
Out of the huts of his-to-ry's shame Up from a past that's root-ed in pain

Triumphantly (♩. = 68)

Piano accompaniment for measures 58-59.

60 (S2)

+Sop. 1 *mp*

S rise, I

A rise, I

T *mp*
I'm a black o-cean, leap-ing and wide, Well-ing and swell-ing I bear in the tide.

B *mp*
I'm a black o-cean, leap-ing and wide, Well-ing and swell-ing I bear in the tide.

Piano accompaniment for measures 60-61.

62 *mf*

rise, _____ I rise, I

mf

rise, _____ I rise, I

8 Leav-ing be-hind nights of ter-ror and fear in-to a day-break that's won-drous-ly clear.

Leav-ing be-hind nights of ter-ror and fear in-to a day-break that's won-drous-ly clear.

64 *f* *mp*

rise. _____ I am the hope and the dream of the slave.

f *mp*

rise. _____ I am the hope and the dream of the slave.

8 Bring-ing the gifts that my an-ces-tors gave, I am the hope and the dream of the slave.

mp

Bring-ing the gifts that my an-ces-tors gave, I am the hope and the dream of the slave.

mp

66 *f*

Rise, _____ I _____ rise, _____ I _____

f

Rise, _____ I _____ rise, _____ I _____

f

8 Out of the huts of his - to - ry's shame Up from a past that's root - ed in pain

f

Out of the huts of his - to - ry's shame Up from a past that's root - ed in pain

68

rise, _____ I _____ rise, _____ I _____

rise, _____ I _____ rise, _____ I _____

8 I'm a black o - cean, leap - ing and wide, Well - ing and swell - ing I bear in the tide.

I'm a black o - cean, leap - ing and wide, Well - ing and swell - ing I bear in the tide.

70

rise, _____ I rise, _____ I _____

rise, _____ I rise, _____ I _____

8 Leav-ing be-hind nights of ter-ror and fear In-to a day-break that's won-drous-ly clear

Leav-ing be-hind nights of ter-ror and fear In-to a day-break that's won-drous-ly clear

72

ff

rise. _____

ff

rise. _____

ff

8 Bring-ing the gifts that my an-ces-tors gave,

ff

Bring-ing the gifts that my an-ces-tors gave,

rit.

73 *f dim poco a poco* ($\text{♩} = \text{♩}$) *molto rit.*

I am the hope and the dream of the slave. I'll

f dim poco a poco

I am the hope and the dream of the slave. I'll

unis. f dim poco a poco

ah I'll

f dim poco a poco

ah I'll

rit. ($\text{♩} = \text{♩}$) *molto rit.*

a tempo ($\text{♩} = 52$)

75 *mp*

rise, I'll rise, I'll rise, I'll

mp 3

rise, I'll rise, I'll rise, I'll

mp 3

rise, rise, I'll rise, I'll

mp

rise, I'll rise, I'll rise, I'll

a tempo ($\text{♩} = 52$)

3 3 3

[illegible]

81

rit.

p *pp*

I'll rise, I rise.

p *pp*

I'll rise, I rise.

pp

oo, ah, rise.

pp

oo, ah, rise.

pp

oo, ah, rise.

pp

oo, ah, rise.

rit.

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