

BREAK IT DOWN

TTB Voices *a cappella* with Percussion

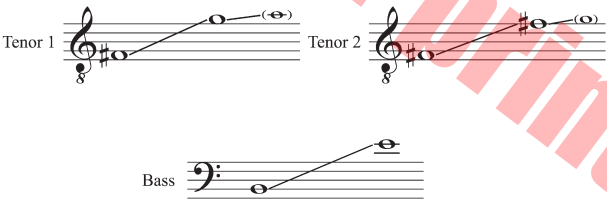
Jonathan Pilgrim

BriLee Music
Part-by-Part



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Range:



Language: English
Use: General/Festival
Time: Approx.
*Difficulty: Moderate

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Note from the Composer

When Jennie Crawford asked me to write this song for her varsity middle-school boys' choir, she asked for something up-tempo, fun, catchy, and percussive, referencing Paul Reardon's *Sound Off*. I tried to incorporate challenging, yet accessible rhythms and harmonic progressions, with some fun choreography (boys love to move, so we played to their strengths!)

I recommend teaching this piece almost exclusively by rote. The concepts are repetitive and will make more sense if the kids focus on hearing and feeling, rather than reading. No need to inundate their brains with counting rests for syncopation and polyrhythms! If possible, keep each part separate from each other, and teach via call-and-response by section. Kinesthetic gestures will help with some of the syncopated accents. If they can feel it, they can do it!

When choreographing, I recommend assigning “choreography captains” for each section. Find boy(s) in each section who aren't short on coordination and congeniality and let them lead. The sections will rally, and your moves will be relevant. Of course, you'll want to make sure the notes and changes are solidified before adding movement. Note: it will become more difficult to tune with the increased adrenaline from dancing.

As a percussion section, we sort of “jammed out” for a bit before finding the groove that worked. For the premiere, we used cajón, cabasa, and a big upside down industrial rubber garbage can with drum sticks. Feel free to deviate from these exact instrumental rhythms, but be sure to use something with some boom; improvisation from the printed percussion rhythm is welcome. Remember, we jammed; then notated, so do your thing.

Break It Down

for TTB Voices and Percussion**

Words and Music by
JONATHAN PILGRIM

Groove ♩ = 105

Tenor 1 *mf* Mu - sic can change the world, play it lo' - oud, -

Tenor 2 *mf* Mu - sic can change the world, play it lo' - oud, -

Bass *mf* (down,) Mu - sic can change the world play it lo' - oud, -

Groove ♩ = 105

Cabasa

Cajón

3

sing, shout and break it

sing, shout and break it down - down.

sing shout and break, brea-break it down - down.

* Ad lib percussion as an intro for two to four measures. Repeat mm. 1-4 four times: first time-bass, second time add T1, third time add T2, fourth time all. D.C.: only sing mm. 1-4 one time.

Percussion patterns are for reference; feel free to improvise and/or add any additional instruments.

** The parts for Percussion are available as downloads on <http://carlfischer.com>.

4

5

clap

Fin-gers down to your — wa - cka wan - na na wa — wa, —

clap

Fin-gers down to your feet, wa - cka wan - na na wa — wa, —

clap

Fin-gers down to your feet, wa - cka wan - na na wa — wa, —

7

stomp

front and back of the beat. Just what you need, —

stomp

front and back of the beat. We've got — just what you

stomp

front and back of the beat. We've got — just what you

9

— mu - sic to feed your fi - re,

need, mu - sic to fe - ed your fi - re,

need, the boom fit to fe - ed your fi - re,

8 Come with us — to the fun - ky zone, build-in' up un - til we break it

8 doo doom Build and break it

8 doo doom Build and break it

8 doo doom Build and break it

21 *mp* doo doom

8 *mp* doo doom

8 *f* Make it boom with lots — of bass — bum - pin and jum - pin

23 doo doom build and break it

8 doo doom build and break

8 beam it out — in your face, — build it up un - til we break it

25 *mp*
 doo doom doo doom
f
 Don't for - get the ten - or two's, keep it hot and fresh for you.
mp
 doo doom doo doom

27
 doo doom Sing it out and sell it to'-oo
 If you can feel it, sign it and seal it. Sing it out and sell it to'-oo
 doo doom Sing it out and sell it to'-oo

29 *f*
f
f
 su-per fun - ky syn - co - pate, dug up and drop-pin it to the ground.
 su-per fun - ky syn - co - pate, dug up and drop-pin it to the ground.
 su-per fun - ky syn - co - pate, dug up and drop-pin it to the ground.

Don't stop brea-kin' it right on Break it, break it, break it on

Don't stop brea-kin' it right on, Break it, break it, break it on

Don't stop brea-kin' it down. Break it, break it, break it on

dat dow dat down, 'EY! Mu - sic can

dat dow dat down, 'EY! Mu - sic can change,

dat dow dat down, 'EY! Mu - sic can

change, _____ brea-break it dow-down! -

change, _____ brea-break it dow-down! -

change, _____ brea-break it dow-down! -

All hit/stomp

* 1st time- small group or solo, 2nd time- larger group, 3rd and 4th time- whole choir

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