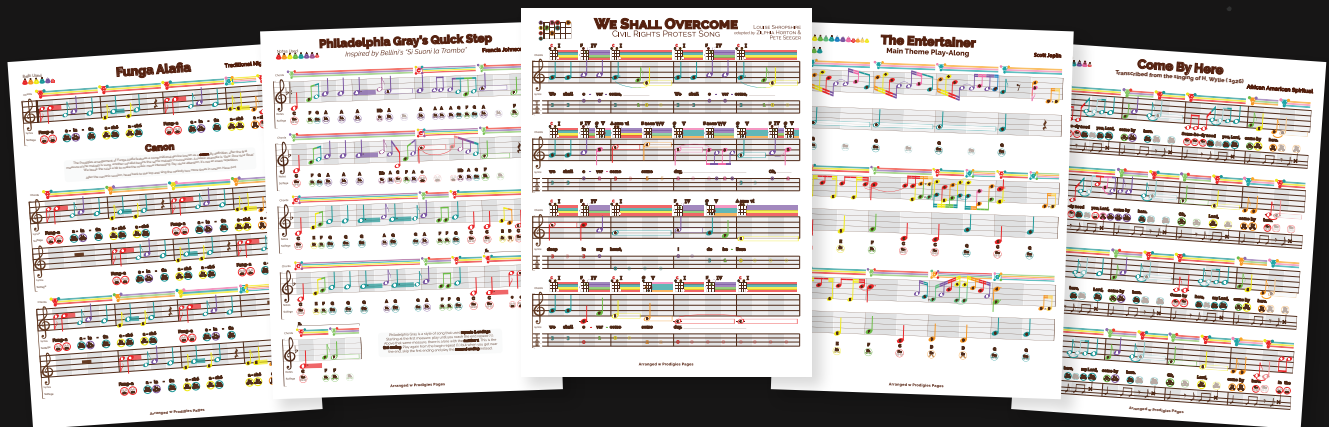


FREE SHEET MUSIC CELEBRATING BLACK COMPOSERS





CHANT

CLARENCE CAMERON WHITE

You may recognize the melody from Chant as the spiritual song, Nobody Knows the Trouble I Seen. This song is a moving tribute highlighting the way Black composers honored their heritage, keeping alive the memories of their ancestors and their plight.

The harmonic structure of the spiritual by Clarence Cameron White adds weight and complexity with dissonant chords and melancholy string arrangements. Chant is arranged in the key of F Major and includes solfege.



COME BY HERE TRADITIONAL

You may know Come By Here as “Kumbaya,” but did you ever wonder where it came from?

Reading suggests Come By Yuh or Yah, a Gullah word meaning “here,” is the phrase that morphed into Kumbaya over time. Despite common misconceptions, “Kum ba yah” are not African language words. This song is most likely an African American spiritual which originated somewhere in the American south, then traveled all over the world.

Come By Here is truly a global folksong.

Come By Here is arranged in the Key of C Major and includes Lyrics + Solfege. This version of Come By Here is fun, syncopated and should be played at a lively tempo.

Notes Played:



Come By Here

Transcribed from the singing of H. Wylie (1926)

African American Spiritual

Chords

Lyrics **Some-bo-dy need** you, Lord, **come by** here.

Solfège **Do Do Do** Sol Sol Sol Sol **Fa La** Sol Sol Sol

Perc 4/4

Chords

Lyrics **Some-bo-dy need** you, Lord, **come by** here. Oh, Lord, **come by** here.

Solfège **Do Do Do** Sol Sol do Ti La La La Sol Sol Sol **Fa Fa** Mi Mi **Re Re** Do Do Do

Perc 4/4

Chords

Lyrics **Come by** here, Lord, **come by** here. **Come by** here, my Lord, **come by** here.

Solfège **Do Do** Sol Sol Sol **Fa La** Sol Sol Sol **Do Do** Sol Sol Sol Sol **Fa Mi** **Re Re** Re

Perc 4/4

Chords

Lyrics **Come by** here, my Lord, **come by** here. Oh, Lord, **come by** here. In the

Solfège **Do Do** Sol Sol Sol Sol **Fa La** Sol Sol Sol **Fa Fa** Mi Mi **Re Re** Do Do do do

Perc 4/4

Chords

Lyrics

morn - in' see Lord, come by here. In the morn - in' do Lord, come by here. In the

Solfege

Perc

Chords

Lyrics

morn - in' see Lord, come by here. Oh, Lord, come by here.

Solfege

Perc



THE ENTERTAINER

SCOTT JOPLIN

"The King of Ragtime," Scott Joplin is a household name when talking piano, composition and the history of American music. Some of his most notable works are more than a century old and they still continue to dazzle listeners' ears. "The Entertainer" was composed in 1902 and can be identified as a classic rag. This strict standard of composition allowed Joplin and his publisher to market their sheet music to a more affluent audience and helped ragtime migrate from its earthy origins to the parlors of the middle class. (Source)

Joplin was instrumental in preserving aspects of African-American popular heritage through the post-Civil War years, fusing elements from his formal musical training with the syncopated rhythms of ragtime. "The Entertainer" features syncopated rhythms, chromatic voice leading and parallel intervals. This is an arrangement of the main theme with a 5-note accompaniment. It is in the key of C major with solfège.

Five colorful cartoon characters are shown in a row, each with a letter above its head: C (red), D (orange), E (yellow), F (green), and G (teal). They are all smiling and have a simple, rounded body shape.

The Entertainer

Main Theme Play-Along

Scott Joplin

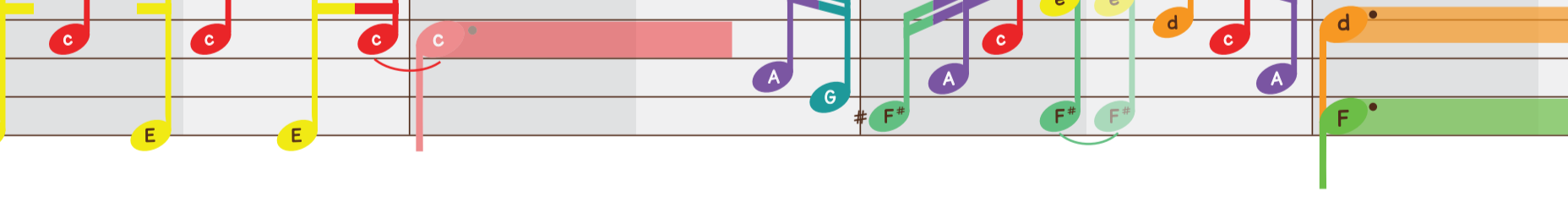
Chords

[illegible]

Chords

[illegible]

Chords



[illegible]

Chords

Lyrics

Solfege



FUNGA ALAFIA

TRADITIONAL

Funga Alafia (Song of Welcome) sheet music is arranged for a duet in the key of C and uses the C major pentatonic scale.

This song has only four measures, but it has so much to offer! Funga Alafia features call & response, syncopated rhythms and a compositional device known as a canon. In this section, the first measure of the melody is sung, then another vocalist begins the same melody in succession.

Funga Alafia is a traditional West African folk song. Funga or fanga, is a welcome dance or gesture, alafia offers a wish of health, peace or prosperity. The refrain or response ashé gives thanks to an omnipresent force that connects all things. Since there are over 2,000 languages in this region there are many translations. It could be literal, "We come to welcome you to this place" or figurative, "I welcome you into my heart today."



Funga Alafia

Traditional Nigerian Folk

Chords

Lyrics

Solfege

X4

Canon

The Prodigies arrangement of Funga Alafia features a compositional device known as a **canon**. By definition, after the first measure of the melody is sung, another vocalist begins the same melody in succession. A classic example is "Row, Row Your Boat." We break the rules a bit to make the music more interesting. Pay close attention, it's not an exact repetition.

After the canonic section, head back to the top and sing the melody two more times in unison. Have fun!

Chords

Lyrics

Solfege

Chords

Lyrics

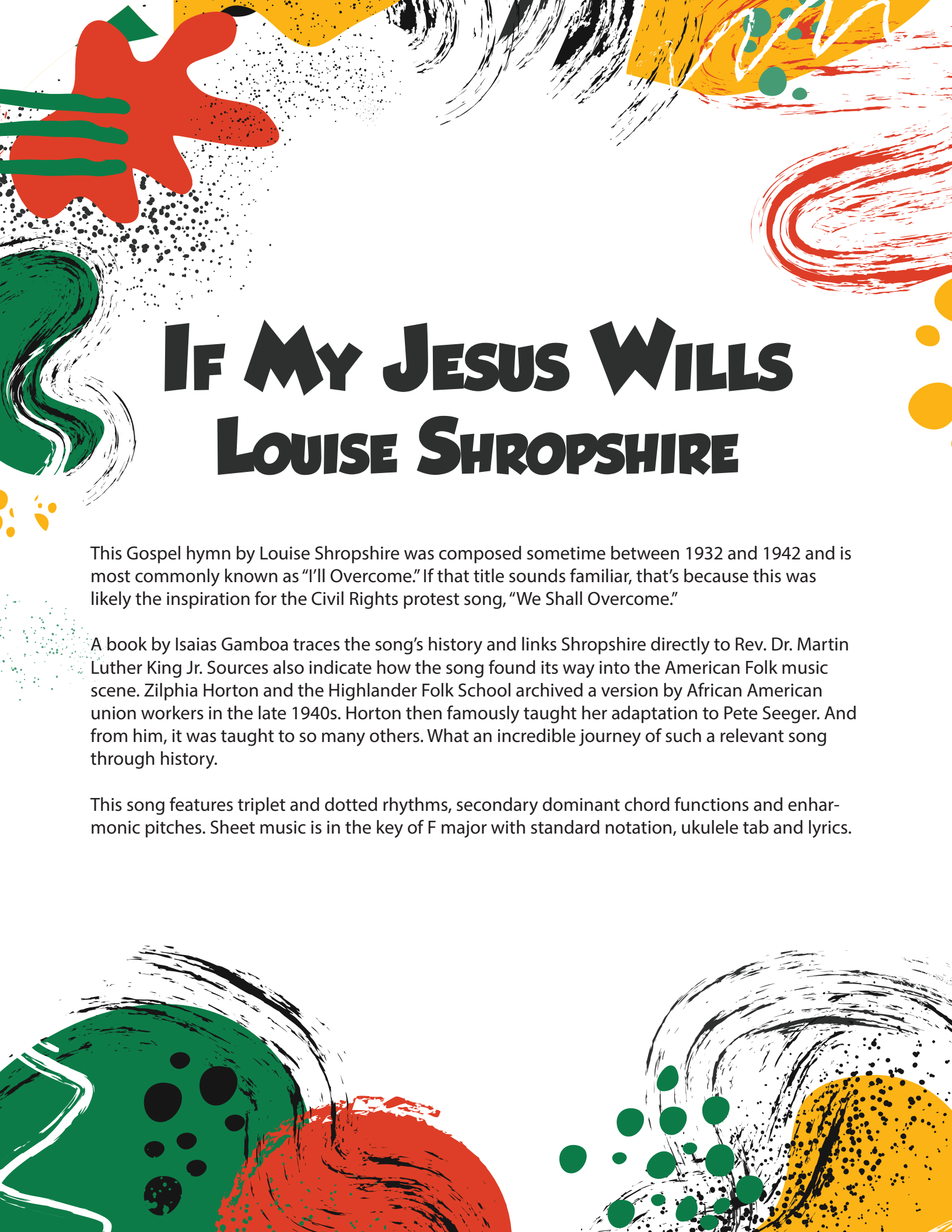
Solfege

Chords

Lyrics

Solfege

D.C.



IF MY JESUS WILLS

LOUISE SHROPSHIRE

This Gospel hymn by Louise Shropshire was composed sometime between 1932 and 1942 and is most commonly known as “I’ll Overcome.” If that title sounds familiar, that’s because this was likely the inspiration for the Civil Rights protest song, “We Shall Overcome.”

A book by Isaias Gamboa traces the song’s history and links Shropshire directly to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sources also indicate how the song found its way into the American Folk music scene. Zilphia Horton and the Highlander Folk School archived a version by African American union workers in the late 1940s. Horton then famously taught her adaptation to Pete Seeger. And from him, it was taught to so many others. What an incredible journey of such a relevant song through history.

This song features triplet and dotted rhythms, secondary dominant chord functions and enharmonic pitches. Sheet music is in the key of F major with standard notation, ukulele tab and lyrics.

Chord diagram for F major (F, C, G) and G major (G, D, A).

If My Jesus Wills

INSPIRATION FOR "WE SHALL OVERCOME"

LOUISE SHROPSHIRE

Chords: F II, F II, F II, G⁷ V⁷/V, C⁷ V⁷

Lyrics: I'll o - ver - come I'll o - ver - come I'll o - ver - come some day!

TAB: 1 1 0 2 0 0 0 4 3 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Chords: F II, F II, F II, G⁷ V⁷/V, C⁷ V⁷, F II

Lyrics: If my Je - sus wills, I do be - lieve I'll o - ver - come some day!

TAB: 0 4 3 1 1 1 1 0 2 0 0 0 0 4 3 1 3 1 1 1 1

Chords: F II, Bb IV, F II, F II, Bb IV, F II, F II, C⁷ V⁷, F II, C⁷ V⁷, F II, C⁷ V⁷

Lyrics: Gon - na sing a new song, gon - na sing a new song, gon - na sing a new song some day! Some day! Oh!

TAB: 1 1 1 0 2 0 1 1 1 0 2 0 0 0 0 1 3 1 1 1 1 0 0 0

Chords: F II, F II, F II, G⁷ V⁷/V, C⁷ V⁷, F II

Lyrics: Yes, if my Je - sus wills I do be - lieve I'll o - ver - come some day!

TAB: 1 0 4 4 3 1 1 1 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 1 3 1 1 1 1



LIL LIZA JANE

TRADITIONAL

Li'l Liza Jane may seem like a simple, little ditty but it has an incredible history that spans centuries and transcends boundaries. The first version was published in 1916 but was most likely appropriated without consent. Thankfully, the work of BIPOC advocate and ethnomusicologist, Natalie Curtis, was able to link the origin of "Liza Jane" to an African-American song & dance.

Further than that, the chorus is presumably inspired by Funga Alafia, a traditional West African welcome song. Li'l Liza Jane has been adopted and adapted by many schools of music across multiple continents. It has stood an incredible test of time and its story grows stronger as we pass it along to you. To learn about the Li'l Liza Jane Documentary, [click here](#).

Li'l Liza Jane Sheet Music is arranged in the key of C major and features call & response, syncopated rhythms and rhyming couplets.



Li'l Liza Jane

Traditional American

Verse

Chords

Lyrics

There's a gal in Bal - ti - more, Li'l Li - za Jane,
And this gal gal that I a - dore, Li'l Li - za Jane,
Come, my friend and sing with me, Li'l Li - za Jane,

Solfege

Chords

Lyrics

Street - car runs right by her door, Li'l Li - za Jane.
Ain't no more than five - foot four, Li'l Li - za Jane.
Ask this gal to marry me, Li'l Li - za Jane.

Solfege

Chorus

Chords

Lyrics

Oh!, Li'l Li - za, Li'l Li - za Jane,

Solfege

Chords

Lyrics

Oh!, Li'l Li - za, Li'l Li - za Jane.

Solfege



LOVE WILL FIND A WAY

SISSEL/BLAKE

Sing and play along to Love Will Find A Way from the Broadway musical, Shuffle Along. Shuffle Along was the first Broadway musical that prominently featured syncopated jazz music.

The show also contributed to the desegregation of theaters in the 1920s, giving many black actors their first chance to appear on Broadway.

Love Will Find A Way sheet music is arranged in Eb Major and includes lyrics & solfege.



Love Will Find a Way

From the Broadway musical *Shuffle Along*

Eubie Blake
Noble Sissle (1921)

Chorus

Chords:

Lyrics: Love will find a way.

Solfege:

Perc: 4/4

Chords:

Lyrics: Though skies now are gray.

Solfege:

Perc: 4/4

Chords:

Lyrics: Love like ours can nev - er be ruled,

Solfege:

Perc: 4/4

Chords:

Lyrics: Cu - pid's not schooled that way.

Solfege:

Perc: 4/4

Chords

Lyrics

Dry each tear - dimmed eye.

Solfege

Perc

Chords

Lyrics

Clouds will soon roll by. Though fate may

Solfege

Perc

Chords

Lyrics

lead us a - stray, my dear - ie, mark what I say

Solfege

Perc

Chords

Lyrics

Love will find a way.

Solfege

Perc



Love Will Find a Way

From the Broadway musical *Shuffle Along*

Eubie Blake
Noble Sissle (1921)

Chorus

Chords:

Lyrics: Love will find a way.

Solfege:

Perc: 4/4

Chords:

Lyrics: Though skies now are gray.

Solfege:

Perc: 4/4

Chords:

Lyrics: Love like ours can nev - er be ruled,

Solfege:

Perc: 4/4

Chords:

Lyrics: Cu - pid's not schooled that way.

Solfege:

Perc: 4/4

Chords

Dry

each

tear

-

dimmed

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Solfege

Perc

Chords

Clouds

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Though

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Solfege

Perc

Chords

lead

us

a -

stray,

my

dear -

ie,

mark

what

I

say

Solfege

Perc

Chords

Love

will

find

a

way.

Solfege

Perc



PHILADELPHIA GRAY'S QUICK STEP FRANCIS JOHNSON

Philadelphia Gray's Quick Step was written by American musician and prolific composer, Francis Johnson during the Antebellum period.

This style of song is reminiscent of jug band and string band music, which has become the sounds of modern folk and bluegrass. Philadelphia Gray's Quick Step is arranged in the key of F major and includes solfege.

Francis Johnson was the first Black composer to have his works published as sheet music and to participate in racially integrated public concerts in the United States.

Francis Johnson led the first American musical ensemble to present concerts abroad, and he introduced the promenade concert style to America.

Philadelphia Gray's Quick Step

Notes Used:



Inspired by Bellini's "Si Suoni la Tromba"

Francis Johnson (1837)

Chords:

Notes: C F G A A A Bb A A A A G F G A F

Solfege: Do Fa Sol La La La Te La La La La Sol Fa Sol La La Fa Fa

Chords:

Notes: C F G A A A Bb A C F A c Bb A G F

Solfege: Do Fa Sol La La La Te La Do Fa La do do do Te La Sol Fa Fa

Chords:

Notes: C E F G G G A G G A F F G C C E D C

Solfege: Do Mi Fa Sol Sol Sol La Sol Sol Fa Fa Sol Do Do Mi Re Do

Chords:

Notes: C E F G G G A G G A F F G C C c c

Solfege: Do Mi Fa Sol Sol Sol La Sol La Fa Fa Sol Do Do do do

2.

Chords:

Notes: C F F

Solfege: Do Fa Fa Fa

Philadelphia Gray is a style of song that uses **repeats & endings**. Starting at the first measure, play until you reach the end repeat (||). Above that same measure, there is a line with the **number 1**. This is the **first ending**. Play again from the begin repeat (||) but when you get near the end, skip the first ending and play the **second ending** instead.



SHOSHOLOZA

TRADITIONAL

Shosholoza began as a folk song for the gold and diamond miners traveling back and forth between Zimbabwe and South Africa.

The song Shosholoza features a repeating rhythmic pattern known as ostinato that is notated on the bottom of each sheet music page. Shosholoza is a song form known as call & response. After the initial measure, the call and response will coincide every 4th measure.

Listen to the harmony created when sung together!



SHOSHOLLOZA

TRADITIONAL

Shosholoza is a song form known as **call & response**. After the initial measure, the call and response will coincide every **4th** measure. Listen to the harmony created when sung together!

The song features a repeating rhythmic pattern known as **ostinato** that is notated on the bottom of each page.

At the final measure, we jump backwards using **D.S. (dal segno) al fine**. This means find the squiggly sign (%) and continue to the end (fine).

Chords

Lyrics

Sho - sho - lo - o - za,

Hand Signs

Chords

Lyrics

Sho - sho - lo - o - za,

Hand Signs

Chords

Lyrics

Ku lez - un ta - a - ba,

Hand Signs

Chords

Lyrics

Stim - e - la si pu - me South Af - ri

Hand Signs

Chords

Lyrics

za, Sho - sho - lo - o - za,

Hand Signs

Chords

Lyrics

Sho - sho - lo - o - za,

Hand Signs

OSTINATO

Chords

Chords

Lyrics

Ku lez - un ta - a - ba,

Hand Signs

Chords

Lyrics

Stim - e - la si pu - me South Af - ri

Hand Signs

Chords

Lyrics

ka!

Hand Signs

Chords

Lyrics

Wena - u - ya ba - le - eh - ka,

Hand Signs

Chords

Lyrics

Ku lez - un ta - a - ba,

Hand Signs

Chords

Lyrics

Stim - e - la si pu - me South Af - ri

Hand Signs

OSTINATO

Chords

Lyrics

ka!

Hand Signs

Wena - u - ya ba - le - eh - ka,

Sol

Chords

Lyrics

Ku lez - un ta - a - ba,

Hand Signs

Stim - e - la si pu - me South Af - ri

Sol

Chords

Lyrics

za,

Hand Signs

Sho - sho - lo - o - za,

Sho

D.S. AL FINE

OSTINATO



WE SHALL OVERCOME

LOUISE SHROPSHIRE

We Shall Overcome, which the US Library of Congress named, "The Most Powerful Song of the Twentieth Century" was the unofficial anthem of the African American Civil Rights Movement.

It was also the subject of an intense copyright dispute. In January 2018, author Isaias Gamboa and the We Shall Overcome Foundation won a class-action lawsuit releasing it to public domain. "Its spiritual strength has now been unshackled so that its full power may be used to strengthen those fearless warriors who fight for justice, equality and freedom against the forces of evil."

Research reveals the song was based on the hymn "If My Jesus Wills," by Louise Shropshire and was later adapted by Zilphia Horton and Pete Seeger. The song features "short, simple lyrics" and "may be some of the most influential words in the English language," adds the LOC. This version is in the key of C major and uses mostly diatonic harmony and implements a secondary dominant chord to give the song trajectory.

Play and sing along to We Shall Overcome on the Ukulele or bells and sing along with the lyrics.

Civil Rights Protest Song

adapted by Zilphia Horton &
Pete Seeger

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "We Shall Overcome". It is organized into four horizontal tracks:

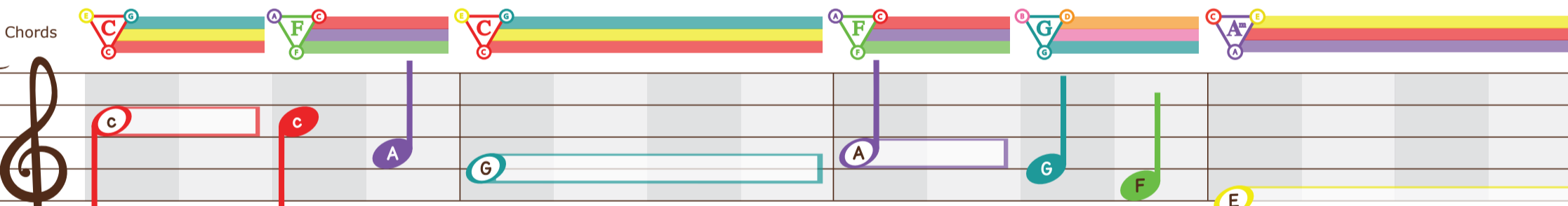
- Chords:** The top track shows a sequence of chords: C major (C-E-G), F major (F-A-C), C major (C-E-G), C major (C-E-G), F major (F-A-C), and C major (C-E-G). Each chord is represented by a multi-colored triangle with its constituent notes labeled.
- Lyrics:** The second track contains the lyrics: "We shall o - ver - come, _____ We shall o - ver - come, _____".
- Solfege:** The third track uses solfège symbols: "Sol" (teal circle with a treble clef), "La" (purple circle with a bass clef), "Fa" (green circle with a bass clef), and "Mi" (yellow circle with a bass clef). These are placed above the lyrics to indicate pitch.
- Perc:** The bottom track is a percussion line in 4/4 time. It features a steady rhythm of eighth notes, with some measures containing an 'x' to indicate a specific percussive sound.

The score is visually enhanced with a large treble clef on the left and a background of alternating light and dark gray vertical stripes.

This musical score for 'We Shall Overcome' is presented in a multi-staff format. The top staff shows the chords for each measure, with notes and fingerings indicated. The second staff is the vocal melody in treble clef, with notes and lyrics aligned. The third staff shows the Solfege syllables (So, La, Ti, do) with corresponding hand gestures. The bottom staff is the percussion line, marked 4/4, using quarter and eighth notes and rests. The lyrics are: 'We shall o - ver - come some day, _____ Oh, _____'.

Chords	Lyrics	Solfege	Perc
C4-G4 (Fingering: E, G, C)	We	So (right hand)	4/4
G4-D4 (Fingering: A, G, D)	shall	So (right hand)	X
D4-A3 (Fingering: B, A, D)	o	La (left hand)	Quarter note
A3-E3 (Fingering: C, A, E)	-	Ti (left hand)	X
E3-C3 (Fingering: F, E, C)	ver	do (left hand)	Quarter note
C3-G2 (Fingering: D, C, G)	-	do (left hand)	X
G2-D2 (Fingering: F, G, D)	some	re (right hand)	Quarter note
D2-A1 (Fingering: B, D, A)		re (right hand)	X
A1-E1 (Fingering: G, A, E)	day,	Ti (left hand)	Quarter note
E1-C1 (Fingering: D, E, C)		Ti (left hand)	X
C1-G1 (Fingering: F, C, G)		Ti (left hand)	Quarter note
G1-D1 (Fingering: B, G, D)		La (left hand)	X
D1-A0 (Fingering: C, D, A)		Ti (left hand)	Quarter note
A0-E0 (Fingering: F, A, E)		La (left hand)	X
E0-C0 (Fingering: D, E, C)		So (right hand)	Quarter note
C0-G0 (Fingering: F, C, G)		So (right hand)	X
G0-D0 (Fingering: B, G, D)	Oh,	La (left hand)	Quarter note
D0-A0 (Fingering: C, D, A)		Ti (left hand)	X

Chords



deep in my heart, I do believe

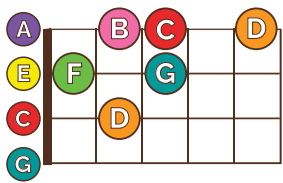
Solfège

Perc

4/4

The image displays a musical score for the song "We Shall Overcome". It is organized into four horizontal tracks: Chords, Lyrics, Solfege, and Percussion.

- Chords:** The top track shows a sequence of chords: E-G, A-F, E-G, D-G, E-G, A-F, E-G. Each chord is represented by a triangle with its constituent notes and a rainbow-colored bar below it.
- Lyrics:** The second track contains the lyrics: "We shall o - ver - come some day." The words "o", "ver", and "some" are hyphenated across measures.
- Solfege:** The third track uses solfège syllables: "Sol" (blue), "Sol" (blue), "Do" (red), "Fa" (green), "Mi" (yellow), "Mi" (yellow), "Re" (orange), "Re" (orange), "Do" (red), "Do" (pink), "Do" (pink), "Do" (pink), "Do" (pink). Each syllable is accompanied by a hand icon showing the correct finger placement.
- Percussion:** The bottom track shows a 4/4 time signature and a series of rhythmic notations, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests, indicating the beat structure for the song.



WE SHALL OVERCOME

CIVIL RIGHTS PROTEST SONG

LOUISE SHROPSHIRE
adapted by ZILPHIA HORTON &
PETE SEEGER

Chords: C I, F IV, C I, C I, F IV, C I

Lyrics: We shall o - ver - come, _____ We shall o - ver - come, _____

TAB: 1 3 3 0 0 3 1 0 0 3 3 0 0 3 1 0 0

Chords: C I, F IV, G V, A MINOR vi, D MAJOR V/V, G V, D MAJOR V/V, G V, F IV, G V

Lyrics: we shall o - ver - come some day, _____ Oh, _____

TAB: 1 3 3 0 2 3 3 5 5 2 2 2 0 2 0 3 3 0 2

Chords: C I, F IV, C I, F IV, G V, A MINOR vi

Lyrics: deep in my heart, I do be - lieve

TAB: 1 3 3 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 1 0 0 0 0

Chords: C I, F IV, C I, G V, C I, F IV, C I

Lyrics: we shall o - ver - come some day. _____

TAB: 1 3 3 0 1 0 0 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0