

Winner of the Euphonia! Choral Composition Competition

If You Can Walk You Can Dance
(If You Can Talk You Can Sing)

Zimbabwean proverb

SATB choir, piano and claves



Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

Commissioned by Farmington High School Friends of Music (CT),
in honor of Teacher of the Year, Scott Campbell

If you can walk you can dance (If you can talk you can sing)

Zimbabwean Proverb

Elizabeth Alexander

(♩ = 80) **With gentle marcato and precise rhythmic energy**

Piano

f

sempre senza pedale

Pno

8 *mp smoothly, sempre legato*

S
If you can walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing. — If you can

A
mp smoothly, sempre legato
If you can walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing. — If you can

T
mp smoothly, sempre legato
If you can walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing. — If you can

B
mp smoothly, sempre legato
If you can walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing. — If you can

Pno

CLAVES

mp

13

S
walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing, — If you can

A
walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing, — If you can

T
walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing, — If you can

B
walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing, — If you can

Pno

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 13 through 16. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing, — If you can". The piano part consists of chords in the right hand and a melodic line in the left hand. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

17

S
walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing. — If you can

A
walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing. — If you can

T
walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing. — If you can

B
walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing. — If you can

Pno

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 17 through 20. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing. — If you can". The piano part continues with chords and a melodic line. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

S
walk you can dance,— If you can talk you can sing.

A
walk you can dance,— If you can talk you can sing.

T
walk you can dance,— If you can talk you can sing.

B
walk you can dance,— If you can talk you can sing.

Pno
NO CLAVES

S
(mp)
If you can talk you can sing,— if you can

A
(mp)
yes, you can dance,— if you can

T
(mp)
yes, you can dance,— if you can

B
(mp)
If you can walk you can dance, If you can talk you can sing,— if you can

Pno
(mp)
Ped. *

29

S walk, then you can dance, If you can

A walk, then you can dance, If you can

T walk, then you can dance,

B walk, then you can dance,

Pno *p*

33

S walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing. —

A walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing. —

T

B If you can

Pno CLAVES *mp*

37 *p*

T you can dance, — you can sing.

B walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing.

Pno NO CLAVES

Opal Palmer Adisa, poet ◦ Margaret & George Alexander, parents ◦ Yehuda Amichai, poet ◦ Bjorn Arneson, generous web designer ◦ Scott Bates, poet ◦ Abbie Betinis, composer/colleague ◦ Dennis Blubaugh, music dealer ◦ Michael deVernon Boblett, poet ◦ Ray Bradbury, writer ◦ Norbert Capek, visionary ◦ e. e. cummings, poet ◦ Philip Dacey, poet ◦ Emily Dickinson, poet ◦ Evelyn Dudley, poet ◦ Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister/writer ◦ Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer ◦ Richard M. Fewkes, writer ◦ Peshya Gertler, poet ◦ Richard S. Gilbert, minister/writer ◦ Jack Gallagher, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Gerike, proofreader ◦ Steve Harper, technical advisor ◦ Steve Hawkins, generous web designer ◦ Edie Hill, composer/colleague ◦ Langston Hughes, poet ◦ Mark Humphrey, piano technician ◦ Karel Husa, composer/teacher ◦ Kalidasa, poet ◦ Garrison Keillor, storyteller ◦ Denise Levertov, poet ◦ George Ella Lyon, poet ◦ Jonathan Machen, artist ◦ Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet ◦ J. David Moore, composer/colleague ◦ Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet ◦ Gerald Rich, poet ◦ Carl Sandburg, poet ◦ King Sigismund III, religious reformer ◦ Steven Stucky, composer/teacher ◦ Rabindranath Tagore, poet ◦ Howard Thurman, civil rights leader/writer ◦ John Greenleaf Whittier, poet ◦ Theodore Sizer, poet ◦ Daniel Winter, pianist/teacher ◦ Nancy Wood, poet ◦ Yehudi Wyner, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Adams, technical advisor ◦ Opal Palmer Adisa, poet ◦ Margaret & George Alexander, parents ◦ Yehuda Amichai, poet ◦ Bjorn Arneson, generous web designer ◦ Scott Bates, poet ◦ Abbie Betinis, composer/colleague ◦ Dennis Blubaugh, music dealer ◦ Michael deVernon Boblett, poet ◦ Ray Bradbury, writer ◦ Norbert Capek, visionary ◦ e. e. cummings, poet ◦ Philip Dacey, poet ◦ Emily Dickinson, poet ◦ Evelyn Dudley, poet ◦ Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister/writer ◦ Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer ◦ Richard M. Fewkes, writer ◦ Peshya Gertler, poet ◦ Richard S. Gilbert, minister/writer ◦ Jack Gallagher, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Gerike, proofreader ◦ Steve Harper, technical advisor ◦ Steve Hawkins, generous web designer ◦ Edie Hill, composer/colleague ◦ Langston Hughes, poet ◦ Mark Humphrey, piano technician ◦ Karel Husa, composer/teacher ◦ Kalidasa, poet ◦ Garrison Keillor, storyteller ◦ Denise Levertov, poet ◦ George Ella Lyon, poet ◦ Jonathan Machen, artist ◦ Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet ◦ J. David Moore, composer/colleague ◦ Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet ◦ Gerald Rich, poet ◦ Carl Sandburg, poet ◦ King

A LOT OF HARD WORK & CREATIVITY WENT INTO BRINGING THIS MUSIC TO YOU...



...AND SOME OF IT WAS EVEN MINE.

THIS PAGE HAS BEEN INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

(YOU KNOW WHY.)

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49 snap fingers:

S

A

T

mp un poco marcato

B

If you, if you walk, If you walk, then you can dance, — You can dance.

53

S

A

mp un poco marcato

T

B

If you, if you walk, If you walk, then you can dance, — You can dance.

If you, if you walk, If you walk, then you can dance, — You can dance.

57 *mp marcato*

S

mp marcato

A

T

B

If you can, can talk, you can sing, you can,

If you can, can talk, you can sing, you can,

If you, if you walk, If you walk, then you can dance, — You can dance.

If you, if you walk, If you walk, then you can dance, — You can dance.

S
If you can, can talk, you can sing, you can,

A
If you can, can talk, you can sing, you can,

T
If you, if you walk, If you walk, then you can dance, — You can dance.

B
If you, if you walk, If you walk, then you can dance, — You can dance.

65

S
yes, you can dance, — If you can

A
If you can walk you can dance, If you can talk you can sing, — If you can

T
yes, you can dance, — If you can

B
If you can talk you can sing, — If you can

Pno
mp *mf*

69

(Solo or Small Group) *mp*

S Solo

A Solo

(Solo or Small Group) *mp* and you can

then you can sing,

p subito

S

walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

p subito

A

walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

p subito

T

walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

p subito

B

walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

p subito

Pno

p subito

73

S Solo

dance,

(Solo or Small Group) *mp*

B Solo

Ossia: yes, you can sing,

Ossia: yes, you can dance,

S

walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

A

walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

T

walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

B

walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

Pno

76 *f* ⁹

B Solo

Ossia

S

A

T

B

Pno

If you can walk, then you can dance, _____

If you can walk, then you can dance, _____

If you can walk, then you can dance, _____

If you can walk, then you can dance, _____

If you can walk, then you can dance, _____

79 *f*

Pno

82

Pno

**A LOT OF HARD WORK &
CREATIVITY
WENT INTO BRINGING
THIS MUSIC TO YOU...**



**...AND SOME OF IT
WAS EVEN MINE.**

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REPEAT AD LIBITUM - AUDIENCE SINGING IS WELCOME!

Descant parts may come in at any point during the repeating measures

mf (Solo or Small Group)
Enunciation of text is less important than rhythm (Pretend you are claves!)

95

S Solo
 If you can, can talk, you can sing, you can,

mf (Solo or Small Group)
Enunciation of text is less important than rhythm (Pretend you are claves!)

A Solo
 If you can, can talk, you can sing, you can,

mf (Solo or Small Group)

T Solo
 If you,if you walk, If you walk,then you can dance,— You candance.

(mf)

S
 walk you can dance,— If you can talk you can sing.— If you can

(mf)

A
 walk you can dance,— If you can talk you can sing.— If you can

(mf)

T
 walk you can dance,— If you can talk you can sing.— If you can

(mf)

B
 walk you can dance,— If you can talk you can sing.— If you can

(CLAVES)

Pno

Senza misura

lunga: 5-8 seconds

99

S Solo

If you can, can talk,

A Solo

If you can, can talk,

T Solo

If you, if you walk, If you walk,

***NOW EVERYBODY TALK,
SPEAKING OUT CLEARLY, AND
CUT OFF RIGHT WITH THE CONDUCTOR!***

S

walk you can dance,— If you can talk,

A

walk you can dance,— If you can talk,

T

walk you can dance,— If you can talk,

B

walk you can dance,— If you can talk,

Pno

NO CLAVES

Ped.

102 **a tempo**

S *f* If you can talk you can sing!—

A *f* If you can talk you can sing!—

T *f* If you can talk you can sing!—

B *f* If you can talk you can sing!—

Pno *(for rehearsal only)*

^
v
*

105

S

A

T

B

Pno *f*

(How can I keep from singing?)

If You Can Walk You Can Dance, SAB: SEA-022-03
If You Can Walk You Can Dance, TBB: SEA-022-05
If You Can Walk You Can Dance, SSA: SEA-022-06