

Winner of the Euphonia! Choral Composition Competition

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

Zimbabwean proverb

TBB choir, piano and claves



Elizabeth Alexander

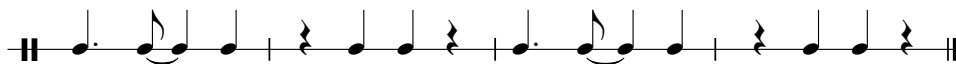


“If you can walk you can dance, if you can talk you can sing.”

Zimbabwean proverb

NOTE TO THE CLAVES PLAYER:

The claves part in this song, which may be played during the chorus, consists of a repeating two-measure ostinato pattern. It may either be played like this:



Or with the measures reversed, like this:



You may wish to alternate between these two pattern variations each time you begin a new chorus of the song!

* If you have bass and marimba players available, they may join in during the sections marked "CLAVES," playing the pianist's left and right hand parts, respectively.

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

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

Zimbabwean Proverb

Elizabeth Alexander

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

Piano

f

sempre senza pedale

Pno

Ten

8 *smoothly, sempre legato*
mp

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

Bar

smoothly, sempre legato
mp

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

Bass

smoothly, sempre legato
mp

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

Pno

CLAVES

mp

13

Ten Tenor vocal line with lyrics: walk you can dance, If you can talk you can sing. If you can

Bar Baritone vocal line with lyrics: walk you can dance, If you can talk you can sing. If you can

Bass Bass vocal line with lyrics: walk you can dance, If you can talk you can sing. If you can

Pno Piano accompaniment for measures 13-16

17

Ten Tenor vocal line with lyrics: walk you can dance, If you can talk you can sing. If you can

Bar Baritone vocal line with lyrics: walk you can dance, If you can talk you can sing. If you can

Bass Bass vocal line with lyrics: walk you can dance, If you can talk you can sing. If you can

Pno Piano accompaniment for measures 17-20

21

Ten Tenor vocal line with lyrics: walk you can dance, If you can talk you can sing.

Bar Baritone vocal line with lyrics: walk you can dance, If you can talk you can sing.

Bass Bass vocal line with lyrics: walk you can dance, If you can talk you can sing.

Pno Piano accompaniment for measures 21-24, ending with NO CLAVES

25

Ten *mp* If you can talk you can sing, — If you can

Bar *mp* If you can walk you can dance, *mp* If you can talk you can sing, — If you can

Bass *mp* yes, you can dance, — If you can

Pno *mp* (NO CLAVES)

Red. *

29

Ten *mp* walk, then you can dance, If you can *mp*

Bar *mp* walk, then you can dance, If you can

Bass *mp* walk, then you can dance,

Pno *p*

33

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

Bar walk you can dance, — If you can talk you can sing. — *mp*

Bass If you can

Pno *mp* 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 ◦ Peshia 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 S. Lockering Williams, 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 ◦ Peshia Gertler, poet ◦ 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 S. Lockering Williams, 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 ◦ Peshia Gertler, poet ◦ 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.

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(YOU KNOW WHY.)

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6

49

Ten *snap fingers:*

Bar *snap fingers:*

Bass *un poco marcato*
mp

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

53

Ten

Bar

Bass

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

57 *mp marcato*

Ten *mp marcato*

Bar *mp marcato*

Bass

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.

61

Ten

Bar

Bass

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.

65 *mp* *mf* 7

Ten
yes, you can dance, _____ If you can

Bar
If you can talk you can sing, — If you can

Bass
mp *mp* *mf*
If you can walk you can dance, If you can talk you can sing, — If you can

Pno
(NO CLAVES)
mp *mf*

69 *mp*

Ten Solo
and you can

Bar Solo
mp
then you can sing, _____

Ten
p subito
walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

Bar
p subito
walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

Bass
p subito
walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

Pno
p subito

73

Ten Solo
dance,

Bar Solo

Bass Solo
mp
Ossia yes, you can dance,
yes, you can dance,

Ten
p subito
walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

Bar
p subito
walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

Bass
p subito
walk, then you can dance, talk, then you can sing,

Pno

76

Bass Solo
— If you can walk, then you can dance, *f*

Ten
If you can walk, then you can dance, *f*

Bar
If you can walk, then you can dance, *f*

Bass
If you can walk, then you can dance, *f*

Pno

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*Descant parts may come in at any point during the repeating measures
Enunciation of text is less important than rhythm (Pretend you are claves!)*

95 *mf* (Solo or Small Group)

Ten Solo

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

mf (Solo or Small Group)

Bar Solo

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

(*mf*)

Ten

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

(*mf*)

Bar

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

(*mf*)

Bass

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

(CLAVES)

Pno

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

Senza misura
lunga: 5-8 seconds

99

Ten Solo

If you can, can talk,

Bar Solo

If you, if you walk, if you walk,

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

Ten

walk you can dance,— If you can talk,

Bar

walk you can dance,— If you can talk,

Bass

walk you can dance,— If you can talk,

Pno

NO CLAVES

Ped.

102 **a tempo**

Ten *f* If you can talk, you can sing!—

Bar *f* If you can talk, you can sing!—

Bass *f* If you can talk you can sing!—

Pno *(for rehearsal only)*

105

Ten

Bar

Bass

Pno *f*

(How can I keep from singing?)