

BNL1101

Lileng

SATB, unaccompanied

Benedict Lo



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About the piece

Lileng is one of the most beloved *belian dado'* songs of the Kenyah community in Sarawak, Borneo. Traditionally sung during relaxed communal gatherings on the longhouse veranda, *Lileng* is characterised by its flowing, memorable melody and gentle harmonies that invite everyone to join in the singing.

Belian dado' songs have long served as an important part of Kenyah communal life, bringing people together through song, dance, and celebration. This arrangement preserves the work's inherent simplicity and cultural charm while reimagining its communal spirit within a contemporary concert setting.

While remaining faithful to the traditional melody and harmonic language of the original *belian dado'*, the arrangement also incorporates contrapuntal writing and rhythmic elements inspired by Kenyah percussion traditions. In particular, Section E draws on patterns associated with the *jatung utang*, a pentatonic wooden xylophone, inspired by the traditional song *Lane*.

This arrangement is based on Chong Pek Lin's transcriptions of the traditional Kenyah songs *Lileng* and *Lane*.

Performance Notes

Singers should strive for a warm, natural vocal quality, avoiding an overly operatic or forced production. To capture the song's authentic roots, conductors are encouraged to have singers visualize the relaxed, inviting atmosphere of a longhouse veranda. Pay special attention to the parallel harmonies, which are highly characteristic of traditional Kenyah singing, ensuring they remain balanced and locked in intonation.

Kenyah Lyrics	English Translation
Alem ini telu tuyang pemong jaiee	Tonight my friends we gather
Pemong jaiee tawai uyan	We gather to remember days gone by
Lileng, lileng, lileng, lileng	<i>Refrain without direct translation</i>
Lileng uyau along lileng ne lan	<i>Refrain without direct translation</i>
Ayen saiee, telu tuyang pemong	Come my friends, do not be shy
Masat kuse, masat	Walk on, walk on
Uma luan	Along the longhouse verandah
Alem ini telu tuyang pemong lan jaiee	Tonight, my friends, we gather together
Pemong jaiee tawai	We gather together
Pemong jaiee tawai uyan	To remember the old days
Nelan-e, eh tuyang	Indeed, my friends
Nelan-e	Indeed

Based on transcriptions by Chong Pek Lin
Written for S'PS Chamber Choir (2018)

Lileng

for unaccompanied SATB divisi choir

Sarawak Kenyah folk tune
arranged by Benedict JC Lo

Mysterioso ♩ = 72

Soprano *p* *mf*
Li leng Li leng Li leng Li

Alto *p* *mf*
Li leng Li leng Li leng Li

Tenor *mp* *mf*
Li leng Li leng u yau a long li

Bass *mp* *mf*
Li leng Li leng u yau a long li

6 **A** **Swaying & Lyrical** ♩ = 84

S. *f* *mf*
leng Li leng, Li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, u yau a long, li leng, ne

A. *f* *mf*
leng Li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, u yau a long, li leng, ne

T. *f* *mf*
leng Li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, u yau a long, li leng, ne

B. *f* *mf*
leng Li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, u yau a long, li leng, ne



Unauthorised duplication
of this score is illegal

12 **B** *f*

S. lan. Li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng u yau a long li leng, ne

A. lan Li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng u yau a long, li leng, ne

T. 8 lan. Li leng, Li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, u yau a long li leng, ne -

B. lan. Li leng, Li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, u yau a long li leng, ne

18 **C** *mp*

S. lan I - ni tu - yang pe mong tu-yang pe-mong jai - ee__ pe-mong jai-ee ta-

A. *mf* lan. A-lem i - ni te-lu tu-yang pe mong jai - ee__ pe-mong jai-ee ta-

T. *mp* lan. Tu - yang pe - mong__ tu-yang pe - mong jai - ee__ pe-mong jai-ee ta-

B. *mp* lan. Ooo... tu - yang pe - mong, pe-mong jai-ee ta-

22 **D** *mp*

S. wai u - yan. Li leng li leng. li leng li leng, u yau li

A. *mf* wai u - yan. Li leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, li

T. wai u - yan. Li leng li leng, li leng, li - leng, li leng, li leng, li leng, u yau li

B. wai u - yan. Li leng li leng li leng li leng u yau li leng u yau li

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[illegible]

48

S. e. Ne - lan eh ne - lan

A. e eh ne - lan. Ne - lan eh ne - lan

T. eh... Ne - - lan

B. eh... Ne - - lan

Detailed description: This image shows the musical score for measures 48-50 of a vocal piece. It features four staves: Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), and Bass (B.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. In measure 48, the Soprano and Alto parts have a long note 'e' spanning the measure, while the Tenor and Bass parts have a long note 'eh...'. In measure 49, the Soprano and Alto parts sing 'Ne - lan' and 'eh' respectively, while the Tenor and Bass parts sing 'Ne - - lan'. In measure 50, the Soprano and Alto parts sing 'ne - lan' and 'ne - lan' respectively, while the Tenor and Bass parts sing 'lan'. The lyrics are written below the notes.

56 H ♩ = 72

S. leng u yau a long Li - leng Li - leng.

A. leng u yau a long Li - leng Li - leng.

T. ₈ t t t t t t t Li - leng Li - leng.

B. t t t t t t t Li - leng, Li - leng.