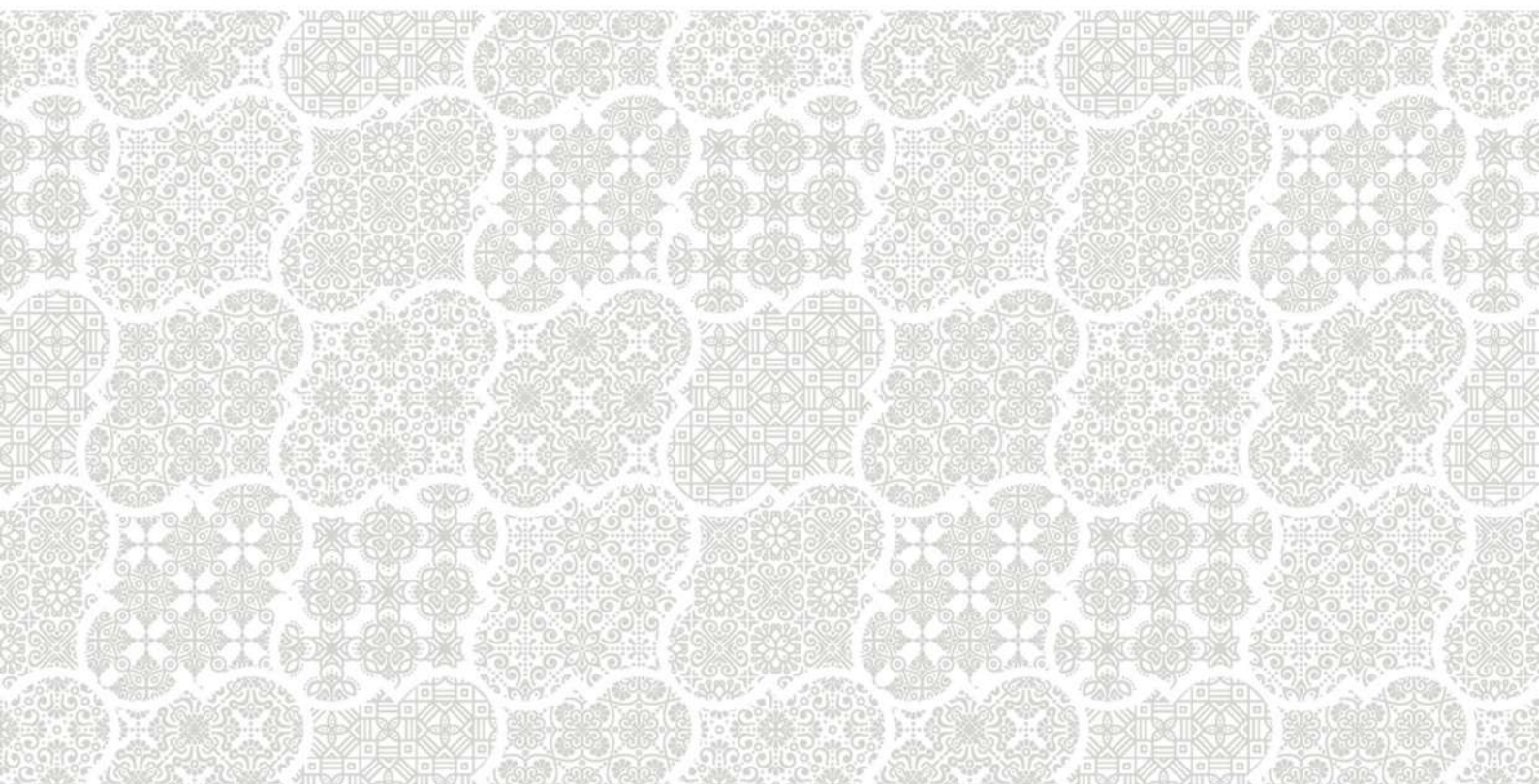


Benggong

Arr. Ken Steven

SATB *divisi*, unaccompanied



Arranger's Note

Benggong is a folk song from Manggarai, Flores, Indonesia, intimately tied to the region's tragic history of colonization and slavery under Portuguese rule during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The title derives from the phrase *bengt go*, meaning *now we are going to depart*, referring to the forced removal of individuals, often into slavery, from their homeland.

The text expresses the profound sorrow of separation, the loss of loved ones, and the anguish of leaving behind all that is familiar. The rhythmic and melodic structure of the song is inspired by the sounds of traditional bamboo tubes, gongs, and drums, incorporating onomatopoeic elements that evoke Manggarai's percussive heritage.

The music begins with a serene atmosphere, symbolizing the land's tranquility before tragedy strikes. As the song unfolds, the mood shifts dramatically, embodying the tension and grief of those subjected to enslavement. The recurring word *rasung wa*, signifying deep sorrow, punctuates the piece, giving voice to the pain of the oppressed.

This arrangement interprets *Benggong* as an act of emotional surrender. Singers are invited to channel a fragile, grieving quality rather than rely on volume alone to convey intensity. Dynamic contrast is achieved through emotional depth and the gradual accumulation of tension, creating an experience that is both powerful and haunting.

Benggong is not merely a folk song, but a testament to the resilience of a people whose sorrow and spirit live on through music.

General Pronunciation Guide

- Plosives /p/, /t/, /k/ should be unaspirated (avoid /p^h/, /t^h/, /k^h/).
- Use a trilled /r/ instead of the English approximant /ɹ/.

Text and Translation

Benggong (from “*bengt go*” – “*now we are going to depart*”)

- Benggong, mbere lele benggong

Now we are going to depart, because you are going to be taken away (as a slave).

- Hostiga benggong rangkang lada benggong

To be delivered, at the time when the pepper blossoms bloom.

- Lako ko toe hi nan lupi nanga o haes teku wae betong benggong-banggong

And this song will accompany you as you go out to draw water (one of the tasks forced upon slaves).

- Rasung wa... rasung wa... toe ita ende go... ema go... betong benggong... banggong...

(This line portrays a final, tragic farewell—the last moment seeing parents and loved ones before being taken away.)

Benggong

a cappella SATB divisi

Indonesian Folksong - Manggarai Traditional

Arranged by Ken Steven

Freely and calm, chant-like

Soprano

he o ye he ya ra wa hei ya la-ko ko-to - e

Alto

he ra beng - gong

Tenor

he ra-sung wa

Bass

he he la-ko-to - e

**Imitate jungle animal sounds freely. Cease at the end of measure 12.*

S

o wa a

A

na na nga o wa a

T

cs..... La-ko ko to - e hi - na-na lu - pi na-nga o wa e sss

B

hm hi - na - na - nga



Unauthorised duplication
of this score is illegal

13 *Rubato, mysteriously*

S *fp* mbe-re le - le *mp* beng - gong

A *fp* mbe-re le - le

T *fp* Beng - gong *fp* Beng - gong *fp* mbe-re le - le

B *fp* Beng - gong *fp* Beng - gong *fp* mbe-re le - le

17

S *mp* beng - gong *fp* mbe-re le - le beng-gong!_

A *mp* beng - gong *fp* mbe-re le - le beng-gong!_

T *mf* beng - gong *fp* mbe-re le - le beng-gong!_

B *mf* beng - gong *fp* beng-gong mbe-re le - le beng-gong!_

21 Lively and with energy ♩ = 120

S

BP *Sopranos: snap on every first beat. Stop at bar 33.*

A

BP *Altos: clap on every second beat. Stop at bar 33*

T *f*
beng - gong mbe-re le le-le beng - gong mbe-re le le-le

BP *Tenors: snap on every first beat. Stop at bar 29*

B *f*
beng-gong mbe-re le le-le beng-gong mbe-re le le-le beng-gong mbe-re le le-le beng-gong mbe-re le le-le

BP *Basses: clap on every second beat. Stop in bar 29*

25 *f*

S Beng - gong mbe-re le-le beng - gong hos ti-ga beng - gong rangkangla-da beng-gong beng-gong!

A *f* Beng - gong mbe-re le-le beng - gong hos ti-ga beng - gong rangkangla-da beng - gong beng-gong *fp*

T *mp*
beng-gong mbe-re le le-le beng-gong mbe-re le le-le beng-gong mbe-re le le-le beng-gong mbe-re le le-le

B *mp*
beng-gong mbe-re le le-le beng-gong mbe-re le le-le beng-gong mbe-re le le-le beng-gong mbe-re le le-le

29 *mp*

S beng - gong mbe - re le - le beng - gong mbe - re le - le

A *mp*
be beng -gong mbe - re le - le be beng -gong mbe - re le - le

T *mp*
beng - gong mbe - re le le - le beng - gong mbe - re le le - le

B *f*
Beng - gong mbe - re le - le beng - gong hos ti - ga

31

S beng - gong mbe - re le - le beng - gong mbe - re le - le

A be beng -gong mbe - re le - le be beng -gong mbe - re le - le

T beng - gong mbe - re le le - le beng - gong mbe - re le le - le

B beng - gong rang - kang la - da beng - gong

33 *mp*

S La-ko to - e na-na na-nga ha-es wa - e gong beng-gong bang-gong

A *f*
La-ko ko to - e hi na-na lu-pi na-nga o ha-es te-ku wa - e be-tong beng - gong beng-gong bang-gong

T *mf*
La-ko ko to - e hi na-na lu-pi na-nga o ha-es te-ku wa - e be-tong beng-gong gong ba bang-gong

B *mf*
La-ko ko to - e hi na-na lu-pi na-nga o ha-es te-ku wa - e be-tong beng-gong gong ba bang-gong

37 *f*

S Ra - sung wa ra - sung wa to - e i - ta e e - ma go e - ma e - ma go en - de go e - ma

BP

A *f*

A Ra - sung wa to - e i - ta go e - ma e - ma go e - ma

BP

T *f*

T Ra - sung wa to - e i - ta go e - ma e - ma go e - ma

BP

B *f*

B Ra - sung wa to - e i - ta go e - ma e - ma go e - ma

BP

40 *With emotion* ♩ = 80 *mf*

S e - ma go en - de go *(A)hhh... we i e _____ he e yo o

A *mp*

A e - ma go en - de go *(A)hhh... we i ye o we i ye o

T *mp*

T e - ma go en - de go *(A)hhh... e _____

B

B e - ma go en - de go *(A)hhh... *Produce a long, breathy 'hhh...' sound. Sustain and gradually fade out

This page is intentionally left blank.

To purchase the score, please visit
www.muziksea.com

MUZIKSEA

Poco a poco accelerando and crescendo, building in intensity until bar 58

51 *f*

S
wee e yee yoo ye e we i

A
we i ye wei ya we wei yo

T
wei ya wei ya wei ya

B
i ye i ye i ye i ye i ye i ye

54 *fp*

S
a a wei ya wei i ye yo wei ya wei clap! wei i ye yo

BP
**

A
wei ya wei ya wei i ye yo wei ya wei clap! wei i ye yo *fp*

BP
**

T
wei ya wei ya wei ya wei ya wei ya wei ya we i ye yo *fp*

BP
**

B
i ye wei ya wei ya wei ya wei ya wei ya wei ya we i ye yo *fp*

BP
**

***Imitate the sound of a rolling drum by stomping or clapping freely on the hips*

58 *forcefully and wild* ♩ = 144

S *f* beng gong beng gong

A *f* beng - gong bang - gong beng - gong bang - gong beng - gong

T *f* beng-gong beng-gong be

BP

B beng-gong bang-gong beng gong bang gong beng gong bang gong

BP

63

S be beng-gong gong bang-gong beng-gong beng-gong beng - gong beng-gong bang-gong

BP

A bang - - gong beng - - gong beng - gong beng-gong bang-gong

BP

T beng-gong be beng-gong bang-gong beng-gong beng-gong be beng - gong beng-gong bang-gong

BP

B beng-gong bang-gong beng-gong bang-gong beng - gong beng-gong bang-gong

BP

66 *f* *Soprano and tenor duet. Tenor sings one octave below written pitch.

Solo *f* Beng - gong mbe - re le - le beng - gong hos ti - ga

S *mf* beng - gong beng - gong be beng - gong gong bang - gong

A *mf* beng - - - gong bang - - - gong

T *mf* beng - gong beng - gong be beng - gong be beng - gong bang - gong

BP

B beng - gong bang - gong beng - gong bang - gong

BP

68

Solo beng - gong rang - kang la - da beng - gong bang - gong

S beng - gong beng - gong beng - gong beng - gong bang - gong

BP

A beng - - - gong beng - gong beng - gong bang - gong

BP

T beng - gong beng - gong be beng - gong beng - gong bang - gong

BP

B beng - gong bang - gong beng - gong beng - gong bang - gong

BP

sop. ten.

70 *sub. p* *f*

S Ra-sung wa ra-sung wa to-e i - ta e e - ma go e - ma e - ma go en-de go e - ma e - ma go en-de go Ei!

A *sub. p* *f*

A Ra-sung wa to-e i - ta go e - ma e - ma go e - ma e - ma go en-de go Ei!

T *sub. p* *f*

T Ra-sung wa to-e i - ta go e - ma e - ma go e - ma e - ma go en-de go Ei!

B *sub. p* *f*

B Ra-sung wa to-e i - ta go e - ma e - ma go e - ma e - ma go en-de go Ei!

*Soprano and tenor duet. Tenor sings one octave below written pitch.

74 *mf*

Solo *Mbe - re le - le beng - gong Mbe - re le - le beng - gong mbe -

crescendo poco a poco to the end

S *mf*

S mbe - re le - le mbe - re mbe - re le - le le mbe -

crescendo poco a poco to the end

A *mf*

A beng - gong bang - gong beng - gong bang - gong mbe -

crescendo poco a poco to the end

T *mf*

T beng - gong mbe - re le - le le - le le - le beng - gong mbe - re le - le mbe -

crescendo poco a poco to the end

B *mf*

B mbe - re O mbe - re le - le beng - gong O mbe - re le - le

76

1. 2.

fp

Solo

- re le - le beng-gong Mbe - re le - le beng-gong re le - le beng-gong

S

- re le - le beng-gong mbe - re le - le beng-gong! re le - le beng-gong!

A

- re le - le beng-gong mbe - re le - le beng-gong! re le - le beng-gong!

T

- re le - le beng-gong mbe - re le - le beng-gong! re le - le beng-gong!

B

beng-gong mbe - le beng-gong - mbe - re le - le beng-gong! re le - le beng-gong!

79

fp *fp* *ff*

Solo

beng-gong mbe-re le - le beng-gong mbe-re le - le bang-gong! beng-gong! hei!

S

beng-gong mbe-re le - le beng-gong mbe-re le - le bang-gong! beng-gong! hei!

BP

fp *fp* *ff*

A

beng-gong mbe-re le - le beng-gong mbe-re le - le bang-gong! beng-gong! hei!

BP

fp *fp* *ff*

T

beng-gong mbe-re le - le beng-gong mbe-re le - le bang-gong! beng-gong! hei!

BP

fp *fp* *ff*

B

beng-gong mbe-re le - le beng-gong mbe-re le - le bang-gong! beng-gong! hei!

BP

Lyrics and IPA

Benggong mbere lele benggong

bɛŋɡɔŋ mberɛ lɛlɛ bɛŋɡɔŋ

Hostiga benggong rangkang lada benggong

hɔstiga bɛŋɡɔŋ rɑŋkɑŋ lada bɛŋɡɔŋ

Lako ko toe hi nan lupi nanga

lako ko toe hi nan lupi naŋa

O haes tekü wae betong benggong banggong

o hæʂ tɛkʉ wæ bɛtɔŋ bɛŋɡɔŋ baŋɡɔŋ

Rasung wa rasung wa toe ita ende go ema go

rasuŋ wa rasuŋ wa toe ita ɛndɛ go əma go

betong benggong banggong

bɛtɔŋ bɛŋɡɔŋ baŋɡɔŋ

He We - i - ye - o Wei - ya I - ye - o