

Recorded by THE BEATLES
Blackbird

For 3-Part Mixed* and Piano

Duration: ca. 2:15

Arranged by
AUDREY SNYDER

Words and Music by JOHN LENNON
and PAUL McCARTNEY

Ballad (♩ = 92)

Piano

The piano introduction consists of two measures. The first measure is in 3/4 time with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic, featuring a bass line of quarter notes (F, C, F, C) and a treble line of quarter notes (G, D, G, D). The second measure is in 4/4 time with a piano (p) dynamic, featuring a bass line of eighth notes (F, G, A, B, A, G, F, E) and a treble line of a whole note chord (F, C).

Part III Solo or Unison

mf

Black - bird sing-ing in the dead of night,

The vocal line begins in 3/4 time with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic, singing the words "Black - bird sing-ing in the dead of night,". The piano accompaniment mirrors the introduction, with a bass line of quarter notes (F, C, F, C) and a treble line of quarter notes (G, D, G, D) in 3/4 time, transitioning to 4/4 time in the second measure with a piano (p) dynamic.

take these brok-en wings and learn to fly.

The vocal line continues in 4/4 time with a piano (p) dynamic, singing the words "take these brok-en wings and learn to fly.". The piano accompaniment features a bass line of quarter notes (F, C, F, C) and a treble line of eighth notes (G, A, B, A, G, F, E, D) in 4/4 time.

* Available separately:
3-Part Mixed, 2-Part, VoiceTrax CD



7

All your life, _____

mf

p

9

you were on - ly wait - ing for this mo - ment to a - rise..

mf

end solo

13

Part I *mf*

Part II *mp*

Part III *mp*

Black - bird sing - ing in the dead of night,

Tm tm tm tm

Tm tm tm tm

13

mf continue sim. dynamic pattern

12

* Sing cue note instead only if range is more comfortable

take these sun-ken eyes and learn to see.

tm tm tm tm tm tm tm tm

tm tm tm tm tm tm tm tm

15

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 and 16. It features three staves: a vocal line, a tenor line, and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the lyrics 'take these sun-ken eyes and learn to see.' and ends with a fermata. The tenor and piano parts provide harmonic support with 'tm' (tenor) markings. The piano accompaniment includes a bass line and a treble line with a melodic flourish in measure 16.

All your life,

tm tm tm tm tm tm

tm tm tm tm tm tm

17

Detailed description: This system contains measures 17 and 18. It features three staves: a vocal line, a tenor line, and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the lyrics 'All your life,' and ends with a fermata. The tenor and piano parts provide harmonic support with 'tm' (tenor) markings. The piano accompaniment includes a bass line and a treble line with a melodic flourish in measure 18.

you were on - ly wait - ing for this mo - ment to be free...

tm tm tm tm tm tm tm

tm tm tm tm tm tm tm

19

21 Black - bird, fly. Black - bird, fly.

mf Black - bird, fly. Black - bird, fly.

mf Black - bird, fly. Black - bird, fly.

21

* Optional harmony if range is not a problem

fly in - to the light of the dark black_

fly.

fly.

24

Detailed description: This system contains measures 24 and 25. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a bass line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 and back to 3/4. The piano part has a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The vocal line has a melodic line with lyrics. The bass line has a single note in measure 24 and rests in measure 25.

night.

tm tm tm tm

Black - bird sing-ing in the dead of night,

mf

26

Detailed description: This system contains measures 26 and 27. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a bass line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4. The piano part has a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The vocal line has a melodic line with lyrics. The bass line has a single note in measure 26 and rests in measure 27.

Musical score for measures 28-30. The score is in 4/4 time and features three vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo/mood is marked 'Mm'. Measure 28 is marked with a box containing the number 28. The piano accompaniment includes a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the bass line.

Musical score for measures 31-33. The score is in 4/4 time and features three vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo/mood is marked 'Mm'. Measure 31 is marked with a box containing the number 31. The piano accompaniment includes a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the bass line.

f
Black - bird, fly. Black - bird,
f
Black - bird, fly. Black - bird.
Black - bird, fly. Black - bird,

34

fly in - to the light of the dark black night.
fly.
fly.

mf

37

Three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Bass) in 4/4 time, measures 37-39. All notes are rests.

Piano accompaniment for measures 37-39. Measure 37 has a whole note chord in the right hand and a quarter note accompaniment in the left. Measures 38-39 continue the accompaniment.

Three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Bass) in 3/4 time, measures 40-43. Includes lyrics: "Black - bird sing-ing in the dead of night," and drum notation "Tm tm tm tm".

Piano accompaniment for measures 40-43. Measure 40 has a quarter note accompaniment in the left hand. Measure 41 has a whole note chord in the right hand and a quarter note accompaniment in the left. Measures 42-43 continue the accompaniment.

take these brok-en wings_ and learn_ to fly. All your life,

take these brok-en wings_ and learn_ to fly. All your life,

take these brok-en wings_ and learn_ to fly. All your life,

45

— you were on - ly wait - ing for this

— you were on - ly wait - ing for this

— you were on - ly wait - ing for this

48

mo-ment to a - rise...
mo-ment to a - rise...
mo-ment to a - rise... *Solo or Unison* You were on - ly wait - ing for this mo-ment to a - rise... *end solo*

50

Slower
You were on - ly wait - ing for this mo - ment to a - rise... *rit.*
You were on - ly wait - ing for this mo - ment to a - rise... *rit.*
You were on - ly wait - ing for this mo - ment to a - rise... *rit.*

Slower
rit.

53

BLACKBIRD - 3-Part Mixed



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RANGES

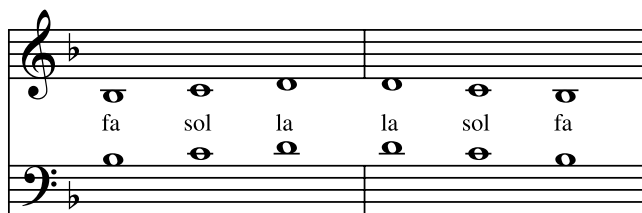


PERFORMANCE NOTES

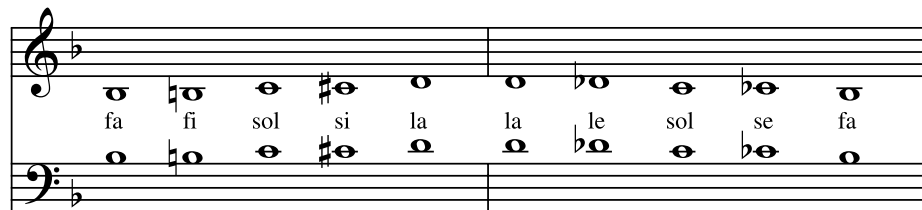
Paul McCartney, a member of The Beatles, wrote “Blackbird” in 1968. Although the song is about a blackbird, its underlying meaning parallels the racial tensions in America at the time. McCartney has acknowledged that his guitar accompaniment was inspired by Johann Sebastian Bach’s *Bourree in E Minor*, written three hundred years ago in 1708.

Choral Preparation

An *interval* is the difference in pitch between two notes. A *half step* is the smallest distance between two notes. A *whole step* is two half steps in succession. Sing the pattern below to practice moving in whole steps.



In this arrangement, the melodic lines for Parts II and III sometimes move in half steps. Sing the pattern below to practice moving in half steps. Half steps are very little steps, so strive to keep your pitch as accurate as possible.



ARRANGER

Audrey Snyder, a choral composer and arranger, is widely recognized as one of the top educational choral writers today. During her many successful years as a public school music teacher she began to write choral music for her own students, publishing her first choral piece in 1978. Since that time Audrey has published numerous original choral compositions and arrangements spanning the entire spectrum of choral music. Her music reflects a rare beauty, simplicity and charm.



AUDIO

The VoiceTrax CD includes a full performance with vocals of the primary voicing, an instrumental only version, and individual part predominant tracks. A pronunciation guide is included for non-English texts.