

HARAMBEE: A SONG FOR KWANZAA

for 3-part mixed voices and piano
with optional percussion and C-instruments
and optional SoundTrax CD*

Words and Music by

LOIS BROWNSEY and MARTI LUNN LANTZ

NARRATION: "Harambee is a Swahili word meaning "Let's pull together." This concept of unity, also known as "Umoja," is one of the principles of Kwanzaa.

With an African pulse (♩ = ca. 82)

PART I
PART II

PART III

PIANO

With an African pulse (♩ = ca. 82)

mf (+ percussion)

8va

5

mf

is a time of learn - ing, — of the

mf

Kwan - zaa, —

learn - ing, —

(-percussion)

*Harambee - Pronounced Hah - RAHM - bay
Also available for 2-part voices, Level Two (19188).
SoundTrax CD available (19189).

Parts for Percussion and C-Instruments are on pages 10-11.

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8

his - to - ry. look - ing to the fu - ture, -

Kwan - zaa, _____

11

our com - mu - ni - ty. light - ing

build - ing, _____ Kwan - zaa, _____

14

sev - en can dles, _____ with the fam - i - ly.

light them, _____

is a cel - e - bra - tion, _____ cre - a -

Kwan - zaa, _____ us - ing _____ cre - a -

Piano accompaniment for measures 17-19.

tiv - i - ty. Oo _____

tiv - i - ty. Oo _____

Piano accompaniment for measures 20-23, including a percussion section marked *loco* and *f*.

Let's sing a song _____ for Kwan - zaa. _____

Piano accompaniment for measures 24-25, including a forte section marked *f*.

27

Let's pull to - geth - er for u - ni - ty. A song _____ for

30

Kwan - zaa, — Ha - ram - bee. — Ha -

Ha - ram - bee, — Ha -

33

ram - bee.

ram - bee.

mp *mf*

8va

mf

stand - ing for the strug - gles, — for us

mf

Sym - bols, — shin - ing, —

mf (-percussion)

40

all to see. are the hope and prom - ise, —

Chil - dren, —

43

— of so - ci - e - ty. Oo —

prom - ise — of so - ci - e - ty. Oo —

(+ percussion)

loco

46

f

Let's sing a

f

49

song ——— for Kwan - zaa. ——— Let's pull to - geth - er for

52

u - nit - y. A song ——— for Kwan - zaa, ——— Ha -

55

ram - bee,— Ha - ram - bee.— Let's sing a

Ha - ram - bee,— Ha - ram - bee.— Ha -

59

song— for Kwan - zaa.— Let's pull to - geth - er for

ram - bee,— Ha - ram - bee,—

62

u - ni - ty A song— for Kwan - zaa.— Ha -

Ha - ram - bee,—

65

67

ram - bee, _____ Ha - ram - bee. _____ Ha -

Ha - ram - bee, — Ha - ram - bee. _____

8^{va}

69

ram - bee. _____ Ha - ram - bee. _____ Ha -

73

ram - bee. _____ Huh!

cresc.

cresc.

8^{va} ---, **ff**

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With an African pulse (♩. = ca. 82)

BELLS/RECORDER/FLUTE

mf

DRUMS*

mf

5

7

13

8

mf

mf

24

25

f

f

29

34

37

8

mf

mf

8

*See performance note, p. 12

46

49

f

51

56

59

61

66

67

71

ff

ff

PERFORMANCE NOTES

HARAMBEE: A SONG FOR KWANZAA has optional parts located on pages 10-11 for several instruments. Try different combinations of instruments on the pitched lines. Feel free to use Conga, Bongos, Tom Tom, etc. on the Drum part. Add additional appropriate rhythm instruments as desired.

As “Harambee” means “let’s pull together,” it would be appropriate to add some simple staging at meas. 30-34 and 64-68. On the word “Harambee,” singers reach both hands up, clasp hands above and lower. On the word “Harambee,” singers reach both hands up, clasp hands above and lower. On the third “Harambee” which is sung by all, reach both hands above, then clasp two neighbors’ hands above, then all lower held hands.

From meas. 59-64, singers repeating “Harambee” may first raise the right hand up, fist it and pull down, then repeat with left, and finally reach both up, clasp above then lower.

From meas. 68-end, all raise right hand up, fist and lower, repeat with left, then reach both hands up, clasp neighbors’ hands, lower, then raise up high on final “Huh!”

KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is a non-religious, non-political African-American holiday lasting seven days, from December 26 to January 1. It was created in 1966 by Maulana (Ron) Karenga. The name “Kwanzaa” means “first fruits of the harvest” in Swahili. Mr. Karenga took elements from many African harvest festivals to create this holiday which is now celebrated by millions of African-Americans.

Kwanzaa is based on seven principles, one for each of the seven days:

- 1. **Umoja** (oo-MOH-jah) - Unity. To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
- 2. **Kujichagulia** (koo-jee-cha-goo-LEE-ah) - Self-determination. To define, create, name and speak for ourselves as opposed to having others do this for us.
- 3. **Ujima** (oo-JEE-mah) - Collective work and responsibility. To build and maintain our community together and to solve our problems together.
- 4. **Ujamaa** (oo-JAH-mah) - Cooperative economics. To build and maintain our own businesses.
- 5. **Nia** (nee-AH) - Purpose. To collectively build and develop our community.
- 6. **Kuumba** (koo-OOM-bah) - Creativity. To do whatever we can to leave our community more beautiful than when we inherited it.
- 7. **Imani** (ee-MAH-nee) - Faith. To believe in our people.

In Kwanzaa, as in other December holidays such as Christmas and Hanukkah, the candle is an important symbol. Seven candles are arranged in this order: three green, one black, and three red. Each day a candle is lit beginning with the black candle in the center.

For more information on Kwanzaa, see *Kwanzaa: Everything You Always Wanted to Know But Didn't Know Where to Ask* by Cedric McClester (Gumbs and Thomas) and *Kwanzaa: An Everyday Resource and Instructional Guide* by David A. Anderson (Gumbs and Thomas). Or you can search the Internet for more about Kwanzaa.

