

Arranger's Note

Johnny Mercer (1909–1976) was one of the most prolific songwriters of the 20th century, and one of my favorite songwriters of that era, along with George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Irving Berlin. Born in Savannah, Georgia, Mr. Mercer moved to New York City at the age of 19. In his 50-year career, he wrote the music, lyrics, or both for over 1,000 songs. “Dream” was written in 1944 for his radio show, and it went on to be sung by many popular singers, including Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Etta James, and Michael Bublé. It was also the title of a 1997 Broadway musical featuring the songs of Johnny Mercer with musicians John Pizzarelli and Margaret Whiting.

This accessible a cappella arrangement captures Mr. Mercer's original melody and chord structures, while maximizing the beauty of a cappella voices. I have also tried to make it relatively easy to learn by using sensible voice leading. It begins with a rubato opening before the tune begins in measure 4. The beginning (until measure 33) is in a “straight” duple feel. Then, at measure 34, it incorporates an up-tempo swing feel (with finger snaps on beats 2 and 4). There is an opportunity to feature a soloist in this section. The swing section continues until the ritardando in measure 61, when it returns to a duple feel and slows down to the end with a decrescendo to pianissimo.

Notice that most of the same notes in the beginning section are incorporated into the second swing section, with scat syllables in the background voices for ease of reading and memory. Try to sing this style with a delayed vibrato, meaning long notes should start with a straight tone, then warm with vibrato as they proceed to the following notes or rests. Add a slight crescendo to all long notes for even greater interest, unless otherwise indicated. In the swing section, be sure to use crisp accents and articulations in a jazz style.

It is my hope that Johnny Mercer would love not only this arrangement, but the way you sing it as well.

Russell Robinson

DREAM

for S.S.A. voices, a cappella*

Performance time: approx. 3:00

Arranged by
RUSSELL ROBINSON

Words and Music by
JOHNNY MERCER

Moderately, with rubato (♩ = ca. 84)

p _____ *mf* , *rit.* _____ *p* ,

SOPRANO I
Dream, — dream, — dream, dream.

p _____ *mf* , *rit.* _____ *p* ,

SOPRANO II
Dream, — dream, — dream, dream.

p _____ *mf* , *rit.* _____ *p* ,

ALTO
Dream, — dream, — dream, dream.

Moderately, with rubato (♩ = ca. 84)

p _____ *mf* , *rit.* _____ *p* ,

PIANO
(for rehearsal only)

4 *a tempo*
mp ,

Dream — when you're feel - ing blue. _____

a tempo *mp* ,

Oh, dream when you're feel - ing blue. _____

a tempo *mp* ,

Oh, dream when you're feel - ing blue, so blue. _____

a tempo *mp* ,

*Also available for S.A.T.B. (46592).

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Dream, _____ that's the thing to do. _____

Dream, oh, dream, that's the thing to do, the thing to do.

Dream, oh, dream, that's the thing to do, the thing to do.

Just _____ watch the smoke rings rise in the air, _____

Just, you just watch, watch the smoke rings rise in the air, _____

Just, you just watch, watch the smoke rings rise in the air, _____

16

you'll find your share _____ of mem - o - ries there. _____ So, _____

you'll find your share _____ of mem - o - ries there. _____ So,

you'll find your share _____ of mem - o - ries there. _____ So.

20

dream _____ when the day is through. _____

so, dream when the day is through. _____

so, dream when the day is through, day is through. _____

Dream, _____ and they might come true. _____

Dream, oh, dream, and they might come true, they might come

Dream, oh, dream, and they might come true, they might come

_____ Things _____ nev - er are as

true. Things nev - er are, nev - er are as

true. Things nev - er are, nev - er are as

30

bad as they seem, — so dream, dream.

bad as they seem, — so dream, dream, dream.

bad as they seem, — so dream, dream, dream.

rit.

34

Swing (♩ = ca. 120) (♩♩ = ³♩)

mf opt. SOLO*

finger snaps on beats 2 and 4

Dream — when you're feel - ing blue. —

mp
Doo dot doo. — Doo dot doo. —

mp
Doo dot doo. — Doo dot doo. —

Swing (♩ = ca. 120) (♩♩ = ³♩)

rit.

* If using a soloist, first sopranos may be tacet or join the second sopranos through the middle of measure 49.

37

— Dream, ————— that's the thing to

— doo bah. — Doo dot doo. —

— doo bah. — Doo dot doo. —

40

do. ————— Just —————

Doo dot doo — doo bah. — Doo doo bah doo bah —

Doo dot doo — doo bah. — Doo doo bah doo bah —

43

— watch the smoke rings rise in the air, —

— doo bah doo bop. Doo bah — doo bah — bop.

— doo bah doo bop. Doo bah — doo bah — bop.

46

you'll find your share — of mem - o - ries there. — So, —

cresc. *, mf*

Doo dot doo bop bah — doo bah, — of mem - o - ries there. — So,

cresc. *, mf*

Doo dot doo bop bah — doo bah, — of mem - o - ries there. — So,

cresc. *, mf*

50

dream _____ when the day is through. _____

so, dream when the day is through. _____

so, dream when the day is through, day is through. _____

54

Dream, _____ and they might come true. _____

Dream, oh, dream, and they might come true, might come true. _____

Dream, oh, dream, and they might come true, might come true. _____

58 (end finger snaps)

rit.

Things _____ nev-er are as bad as they seem, _____ so

rit.

Things nev - er are, nev-er are as bad as they seem, _____ so

rit.

Things nev - er are, nev-er are as bad as they seem, _____ so

rit.

62

decresc.

dream, dream, dream, dream.

decresc.

dream, dream, dream, dream, dream, _____ dream.

decresc.

dream, dream, dream, dream, dream, _____ dream. _____

decresc.

66 **Tempo I** (♩ = ca. 84)

mp *straight eighths* , *rit.*
 Things _____ nev-er are as bad as they seem, _____ so

mp *straight eighths* , *rit.*
 Things nev - er are, nev-er are as bad as they seem, _____ so

mp *straight eighths* , *rit.*
 Things nev - er are, nev-er are as bad as they seem, _____ so

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 84)
mp *straight eighths* *rit.*

70 *rit. to end* , *decesc.* *pp*
 dream, dream, dream, _____

rit. to end *decesc.* *pp*
 dream, dream, dream, dream, dream, _____ dream. _____

rit. to end *decesc.* *pp*
 dream, dream, dream, dream, dream, _____ dream.

rit. to end *decesc.* *pp*