

FÈY O!

for T.B.B. voices and optional piano
with optional percussion and SoundTrax*

Traditional Haitian Folk Song
Arranged, with new Music, by
RUTH MORRIS GRAY

Lively (♩ = ca. 108)

PIANO
(optional)

CLAVES

CONGAS
(or TANBOU)

3

(percussion continues)

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system includes staves for Piano (optional), Claves, and Congas (or Tanbou). The piano part is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The Claves and Congas parts are in a simplified notation with stems and flags. The second system continues the piano and percussion parts. The third system begins with a measure number '3' and includes a '(percussion continues)' instruction. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the entire score.

* Also available for 3-part mixed (50168) and 2-part (50170).
SoundTrax CD available (50171). Visit alfred.com for digital scores and audio.

Please visit alfred.com/choralparts to download free parts for Claves, Congas, and Shaker.

See page 14 for background information, pronunciation, translation, and performance notes.

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To purchase a full-length performance recording of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads

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TENOR

mf

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

BAR.

mf

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

BASS

mf

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

8

9

Fèy o, fèy o!

mp

nan mi-

Fèy o, fèy o!

mp

nan mi-

Fèy o, fèy o! Fèy o, so-ve la - vi__ mwen nan mi-

mp
mp

11

zè mwen__ ye__ o! _____

zè mwen__ ye__ o! _____ *mp* Fèy o, so - ve

zè mwen__ ye__ o! _____

mf *mp*

14

mp nan mi - zè mwen__ ye__ o! _____ *mf* Pi - tit

la - vi__ mwen nan mi - zè mwen__ ye__ o! _____

mp nan mi - zè mwen__ ye__ o! _____

mf

17

sub. p *cresc.*

mwen ma - lad. Mwen kou-ri kay gan - gan, Si - mi - lo.

p *cresc.*

Si - mi - lo.

p *cresc.*

Si - mi - lo.

sub. p *cresc.*

20

mf *mp*

Pi - tit mwen ma - lad. Mwen kou-ri kay gan - gan. Si li

mp

Si li

mp

Si li

mf *mp*

23 *cresc.*

bon gan - gan oua, so - ve la - vi ___ mwen nan mi - zè mwen ___ ye ___ o! ___

cresc.

bon gan - gan oua, so - ve la - vi ___ mwen nan mi - zè mwen ___ ye ___ o! ___

cresc.

bon gan - gan oua, so - ve la - vi ___ mwen nan mi - zè mwen ___ ye ___ o! ___

26 *mf*

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

mf

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

mf

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

mf

29 31 *mp*

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o! Fèy o, so - ve

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o! Fèy o, so - ve

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o!

mp

mp

32

la - vi - mwen nan mi zè mwen - ye - o!

la - vi - mwen nan mi - zè mwen - ye - o!

mp

nan mi - zè mwen - ye - o!

mf

35 *mp*

Fèy o, so - ve la - vi ___ mwen nan mi - zè mwen ___ ye ___ o! ___

mp

Fèy o, so - ve la - vi ___ mwen nan mi - zè mwen ___ ye ___ o! ___

mp

nan mi - zè mwen ___ ye ___ o! ___

38 *mf* 39 *sub. p*

Pi - tit mwen ma - lad. Mwen kou-ri kay gan - gan, Si - mi -

p

Si - mi -

mf *sub. p*

Pi - tit mwen ma - lad. Mwen kou-ri kay gan - gan, Si - mi -

mf *sub. p*

41 *cresc.* *mf*

lo. Pi - tit mwen ma - lad. Mwen kou-ri

cresc. *mf*

lo. Pi - tit mwen ma - lad. Mwen kou-ri

cresc. *mf*

lo. Pi - tit mwen ma - lad. Mwen kou-ri

cresc. *mf*

44 *mp* *cresc.*

kay gan - gan. Si li bon gan - gan oua, so - ve la - vi__ mwen nan mi -

mp *cresc.*

kay gan - gan. Si li bon gan - gan oua, so - ve la - vi__ mwen nan mi -

mp *cresc.*

kay gan - gan. Si li bon gan - gan oua, so - ve la - vi__ mwen nan mi -

mp *cresc.*

47

mf zè mwen — ye — o! *mp* Fèy — o,

mf zè mwen — ye — o! *mp* Fèy o,

mf zè mwen — ye — o! *mp* Fèy o, — o, fèy

50

fèy — o, fèy o, fèy o, — o, fèy o!

fèy o, fèy — o, fèy o, — o, fèy o!

fèy o, — o, fèy o, fèy o, — o, fèy o!

53 *mf*

Fèy o, fèy o, fèy o,

mf

Fèy o, fèy o, fèy o,

mf

Fèy o, o, fèy o, fèy o, o, fèy o, fèy o, o, fèy o,

mf

56 DESCANT (optional) 57 *f*

Fèy o! Fèy o!

f

fèy o, o, fèy o! fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

f

fèy o, o, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

f

fèy o, o, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

p

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! Fèy o!

sub. p

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

sub. p

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

sub. p

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

sub. p

cresc. (rejoin section)

Fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o!

cresc.

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o!

cresc.

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o!

cresc.

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o!

cresc.

65

mf *f*

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

mf *f*

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

mf *f*

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

mf *f*

68

cresc. *ff*

Fèy — o! —

cresc. *ff*

O, fèy — o! —

cresc. *ff*

O, fèy — o! —

cresc. *ff*

Background Information

The folk song “Fèy O!” comes from Haiti and is sung in Haitian Creole. The lyrics tell the story of a parent who visits a Vodou doctor named Similo to obtain healing herbs for their sick child. While the word *fèy* literally translates to leaves, it is used in this case to refer to the healing remedy.

Vodou is an African-diaspora religion that began developing within Haiti’s enslaved population shortly after French colonization. It blends elements of traditional African religions with western beliefs. Not to be confused with *voodoo*, an inaccurate stereotype of such faiths, Haitian Vodou is not rooted in magic or witchcraft.

“Fèy O!” is a very well-known song in Haiti, and a quick YouTube search will reveal a wealth of covers. Because of Haitian Creole’s similarity to French, the song is often performed as “Feuilles O.” It has also crossed into the American pop space, most notably with a recording by Simon & Garfunkel on the rerelease of their album *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. This arrangement punctuates a faithful interpretation of the folk song with some new material.

Pronunciation Guide and Translation

Fèy o!
fay oh
(Leaves, oh!)

Sove lavi mwen
soh-veh lah-vee mwahn
(Save my life)

nan mizè mwen ye o!
nahn mee-zay mwahn yay oh
(from the misery, oh!)

Pitit mwen malad.
pee-teet mwahn mah-lahd
(My son is sick.)

Mwen kouri kay gangan, Similo.
Mwahn koo-ree kay gong-gong See-mee-loh
(I ran to the home of the healer, Similo.)

Si li bon gangan oua ...
See lee bohng gong-gong wah
(If you are a good healer ...)

Performance Notes

- This piece may be performed with or without the piano part.
- Visit alfred.com/choralparts to download free parts for Claves, Congas, and Shaker.
- For more interest, consider adding guitar in the style of Simon & Garfunkel.