

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
sob-veh lah-vee mwehn
(Save my life)

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

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

Mwen kouri kay gangan, Similo.
Mwehn 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.

FÈY O!

for 2-part 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)

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(percussion continues)

* Also available for 3-part mixed (50168) and T.B.B. (50169).
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.

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

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PART I

mf

Musical staff for Part I, measures 4-5. The staff contains a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes.

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

PART II

mf

Musical staff for Part II, measures 4-5. The staff contains a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody is identical to Part I.

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

Piano accompaniment for measures 4-5. The right hand plays chords and eighth-note patterns, while the left hand plays a simple bass line.

Musical staff for Part I, measures 6-7. The staff contains a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes.

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o!

Musical staff for Part II, measures 6-7. The staff contains a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody is identical to Part I.

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o!

Piano accompaniment for measures 6-7. The right hand plays chords and eighth-note patterns, while the left hand plays a simple bass line.

9

mp

Musical staff for Part I, measures 8-9. The staff contains a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody features a half note followed by quarter notes.

nan mi - zè mwen__ ye__ o!__

mp

Musical staff for Part II, measures 8-9. The staff contains a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody is identical to Part I.

Fèy o, so - ve la - vi__ mwen nan mi - zè mwen__ ye__ o!__

Piano accompaniment for measures 8-9. The right hand plays chords and eighth-note patterns, while the left hand plays a simple bass line.

12 *mp*

Fèy o, so - ve la - vi mwen nan mi -

mp

nan mi -

mf mp

15 *mf*

zè mwen ye o!

zè mwen ye o! Pi - tit mwen ma - lad. Mwen kou - ri

mf

18 *p cresc. mf*

Si - mi - lo. Pi - tit

sub. p cresc.

kay gan - gan, Si - mi - lo.

sub. p cresc. mf

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21

mp cresc.

mwen ma - lad. Mwen kou-ri kay gan - gan. Si li bon gan - gan oua, so - ve

mp cresc.

Si li bon gan - gan oua, so - ve

mp cresc.

24

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

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

27

mf

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

mf

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

mf

29

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o!

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o!

31

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

34

mp
Fèy o, so-ve la-vi mwen nan mi-

mp
Fèy o, so-ve la-vi mwen nan mi-

mf *mp*

37 *mf* Pi - tit

zè mwen ye o!

zè mwen ye o! *mf* Pi - tit

39 *sub. p cresc.* Si - mi - lo.

mwen ma - lad mwen kou-ri kay gan gan.

sub. p cresc. Si - mi - lo.

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

sub. p cresc.

42 *mf* *mp*

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

mf *mp*

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

mf *mp*

45 *cresc.* *mf*

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

cresc. *mf*

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

cresc. *mf*

48 *mp*

Fèy ___ o, fèy ___ o,

mp

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

mp

51 *mf*

fèy ___ o, fèy o, ___ o, fèy o! Fèy ___ o,

mf

fèy o, ___ o, fèy o, fèy o, ___ o, fèy o! Fèy o, ___ o, fèy o,

mf

54

fèy o, fèy o, fèy o, o, fèy o!

fèy o, o, fèy o, fèy o, o, fèy o, fèy o, o, fèy o!

57 **DESCANT (optional)**

f

Fèy o! Fèy o! Fèy o! O, fèy o!

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

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

60

p

Fèy o! Fèy o! Fèy o!

sub. p

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

sub. p

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

sub. p

63

cresc. (rejoin section)

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o!

cresc.

Fèy o! O, fèy o! Fèy o, fèy o!

cresc.

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*

68

cresc. *ff*

Fèy ————— o!

cresc. *ff*

O, fèy ————— o!

cresc. *ff*

