

SESERE EEYE

for 3-part mixed voices and percussion*

Traditional Torres Strait Islands Song

Arranged, with additional Music, by **GREG GILPIN**

With rhythmic energy (♩ = ca. 104)

SHAKER

STICKS

LOW DRUM

mp

5

P. I *mp*

P. II

P. III *mp*

Se - se - re ee - ye, se - se - re ee - ye nar in ar in a ro - par - te.

9

Ro - par - te mar - ow - si am - ma te se - se - re ee - ye. Ro - par - te mar -

* Also available for S.A.T.B. (51118) and 2-part (51120). Visit alfred.com for digital scores and audio.
Visit alfred.com/choralparts to download free parts for shaker, sticks, and low drum.

See page 8 for background and pronunciation.

13 *cresc.*

ow - si am - ma te se - se - re ee - ye.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

17 **19** *mf*

Se - se - re ee - ye, se - se - re ee - ye

mf

mf

mf

21 **23**

nar in a in a ro - par - te. Ro - par - te mar - ow - si am - ma

$\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

25

te se - se-re ee - ye. Ro - par - te mar - ow - si am - ma te se - se-re

3/4 2/4 3/4 2/4

29

cresc.

ee - ye.

cresc.

cresc. *cresc.* *cresc.*

33

f Se - se re ee - ye.

f

Ro - par - te mar - ow - si am - ma.

f *f* *f*

37 *sub. mp**cresc.*

Se - se - re ee - ye. _____

mp cresc.

Ro - par - te mar - ow - si am - ma.

*sub. mp**cresc.**sub. mp**cresc.**sub. mp**cresc.*

41

f

Se - se - re ee - ye, se - se - re ee - ye, Se - se - re ee - ye, se - se - re ee - ye.

*f**f**f*

45

*sub. mp**cresc.*

Se - se - re ee - ye, se - se - re ee - ye nar in ar in a ro - par - te. _____

sub. mp cresc.

*sub. mp**cresc.**sub. mp**cresc.**sub. mp**cresc.*

49

51 *mf-f*

Se - se - re ee - ye, se - se - re ee - ye

mf-f

Se - se - re ee - ye,

mf-f

mf-f

53

nar in ar in a ro - par - te. Se - se - re ee - ye, se - se - re ee - ye

hmm, ro - par - te. Se - se - re ee - ye,

57

59

nar in ar in a ro - par - te. Ro - par - te mar - ow - si am - ma

hmm, ro - par - te. Ro - par - te,

61

te se - se-re ee - ye. Ro - par - te mar - ow - si am - ma te se - se-re

te se - se-re ee - ye. Ro - par - te, _____ se - se-re

65

1. ee - ye. 2. ee - ye. *cresc.* *ff* Woo!

ee - ye. ee - ye. *cresc.* *ff* Woo!

1. 2. *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.*

BACKGROUND

“Sesere Eeye” is a traditional song from the Torres Strait Islands, a group of over 270 small islands that separate mainland Australia from New Guinea. Songs from this region are traditionally short, and are usually repeated a handful of times with improvised harmony.

This arrangement captures the traditional repeat structure—beginning in unison and then unfolding into more voice parts. A bridge of original music punctuates these repeated sections.

Percussion instruments like the *warup* (an hourglass-shaped low drum), the *lumut* (a bamboo log drum played with thin bamboo sticks), and the *gor* (a rattle made of halved bean-like seeds) were traditionally used to accompany this folk song. Today, islanders sometimes use other similar-sounding found instruments. Likewise, you may improvise your own patterns using percussion instruments that you have.

“Sesere Eeye,” like many folk songs, has been passed on by oral tradition. As languages and cultures have evolved through time, so too has this song’s meaning. Some say the text is about the wind blowing on the mountains. Others say it’s the story of a Kingfisher bird that dives in and out of the water catching fish.

Traditional, easy-to-learn movement ideas are readily found online and will enhance any performance.

PRONUNCIATION

Sesere eeye

seh-seh-reh ee-yeh

nar in ar in a roparte.

nahr een ahr een ah roh-pahr-teh.

Roparte marowski amma

Roh-pahr-teh mah-roh-see ahm-mah

te sesere eeye.

teh seh-seh-reh ee-yeh.