

# AARDVARKS ON THE ARK

(Or "How Did Noah Stand It?")

for unison or 2-part voices, accompanied,  
with opt. percussion\*

Incorporating the trad. spiritual **WHO BUILT THE ARK?**

Arranged by **MARY VAL MARSH**

Lively! (♩ = ca. 126)

(Roll downward)

ACCOMP.

## 3 UNISON VOICES

*mf*

Who built the ark? No - ah, No - ah! Who built the ark? Brother

1. No-ah built the ark. Say, No-ah built the ark.  
2. No-ah built the ark.

9 *slight ritard* He had an - i - mals of ev - 'ry size and shape! He had  
10 *a tempo*

\* A fully-orchestrated performance/accompaniment compact disc is available separately, No. 18376.  
Parts for bongos and woodblocks are notated in the score. For more information, please see page 8.

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12

1. , 2. *no ritard*

an - i - mals of ev - 'ry kind that you can name. He had you can name.

1. 2. *(tacet)*  
*no ritard*

15 VOICES (*Spoken, in rhythm with expressive inflection*)

GROUP I  
*mf gradual cresc.*

1. There were  
2. There were

BONGOS

*mf gradual cresc.*

17

crick - ets small, gi - raffes so tall, and an - te - loxes and liz - ards!  
big black bears and kan - ga - roos, and el - e - phants and AARD - VARKS!

*f* *>*

19 GROUP II  
*mf gradual cresc.*

*f* *>*

Ze - bras striped and pea - cocks bright, and an - i - mals with giz - zards!  
Small rac - coons and por - cu - pines, and cats and dogs, but NO SHARKS!

*mf gradual cresc.* *f*

21 (UNISON VOICES)

(BONGOS)

*mf*

*mf*

24 *slight ritard* *mf* **25** *a tempo*

Then it rained and rained and rained and rained and Oh! my, It

*a tempo*

*slight ritard*

*a tempo*

*slight ritard*

27 1. 2. *no ritard*

rained and rained and rained, and then it rained some more. Yes, it rained some more.

1. 2. *no ritard*

1. 2. (tacet)

*no ritard*

**30** VOICES (All) *p* *gradual cresc.*

Now once a-board that gi-ant boat they

WOODBLOCKS *p* *gradual cresc.*

BONGOS *p* *gradual cresc.*

**33** *f*

all be-gan to talk; The sound a-round was so in-tense it made the great ark rock.

*f*

*f*

36 (May be spoken by small groups or individuals.  
Add appropriate vocal and/or instrumental sound effects (SE) cumulatively.)

Ducks quacked! (SE)      Wolves howled! (SE)      Snakes hissed! (SE)

39  
Tigers growled! (SE)      Monkeys chattered! (SE)      Donkeys brayed! (SE)

42  
(All instruments silent) **pp**      **mf**      **ff**  
Horses clattered! (SE)      Mantises prayed.

44 (All sound effects above enter ad lib. to achieve crescendo as indicated.)

46 (VOICES)      (Sounds fade quickly)

(WOODBLOCKS)

(BONGOS)

DESCANT *mf*  
*slight ritard*

50 *a tempo*

Musical staff with notes and rests.

Then it rained and rained and rained and rained and Oh! my, It

MELODY *mf*

Musical staff with notes and rests.

Say, Who built the ark? No - ah, No - ah!

*a tempo*

Musical staff with notes and rests.

*slight ritard*

50 *a tempo*

Piano accompaniment musical staff with chords and bass line.

*mp slight ritard*

*mf*

52

Musical staff with notes and rests.

rained and rained and rained, and then it rained some more. Yes, it

Musical staff with notes and rests.

Who built the ark? Broth - er No - ah built the ark. Say!

Musical staff with notes and rests.

Piano accompaniment musical staff with chords and bass line.

52

1.



54 <sup>2.</sup> *no ritard* 55

rained some more. Broth-er

No-ah built the ark. Broth-er

<sup>2.</sup> *no ritard* *gradual cresc.*

54 <sup>2.</sup> 55 *no ritard* *gradual cresc.*

57 *ff*

No - ah built the ark! \_\_\_\_\_

*ff*

No - ah built the ark! \_\_\_\_\_

57 *ff* <sup>8va</sup>

**Aardvarks on the Ark** is a delightful partner song arrangement that incorporates *Who Built the Ark?*, a traditional spiritual. It may be performed by unison or 2-part voices and is appropriate for both school and church choirs.

This inventive number can be performed in as simple or as complex a manner as is desired:

1. It may be performed as an effective melody/countermelody (descant) choral arrangement without the suggested speaking and/or percussion parts. For performance by unison voices, omit the descant in mm. 49-60, or assign the descant to a solo voice.
2. Speaking parts may be assigned to solo voices or small groups.
3. Additional voices may be added to create the animal sounds.
4. Parts for bongos and woodblocks are notated in the score, but additional instruments may be improvised as necessary.
5. Dramatization and costumes may be used to create a more complete production number. In such cases, percussion and/or piano interludes may be lengthened to permit any staging desired.
6. The countermelody (descant, mm. 9-14, 24-29 & 49-54) easily accommodates the needs of the changing voice when performed down one octave.
7. A fully-orchestrated performance/accompaniment compact disc is available separately, No. 18376.

**Aardvarks on the Ark** is a wonderful spring concert closer or encore piece for school choirs. It is also suitable for performance by church choirs throughout the year and may be paired with readings from Genesis, chapters 6, 7 and 8.

**Mary Val Marsh** is an internationally acclaimed music educator, composer and arranger. She has authored a wide variety of choral materials, music textbooks and professional publications. Her most recent publications have focused on the needs of unchanged and changing voices.

