

to Philip Brunelle and VocalEssence on their 35th anniversary

SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A MOTHERLESS CHILD

for S.A.T.B. divisi voices, a cappella

African-American Spiritual

Adapted and arranged by
ROSEPHANYE POWELL

Slowly and mournful, with passion (♩ = 50-60)

Wailing
p

SOPRANO
Ooo

ALTO
p
Ooo

TENOR
p
Ooo

BASS
p
Ooo A

for rehearsal only

Feel free to sing more words as dialect. In West Africa, *Bokaya kaya kaya* means, "something terrible has happened." *Nu wo vinowo* means, "something has happened to mothers."

JG2327

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3 *mp* Ooo

mp A moth - er - less chil'.

3 *mp* From home, from home.

mp long ways from home, a

5 Ooo

5 Ooo

5 Ooo

5 long ways from home, a long ways from home. Ooo

7 *p*
Some - times ah feel like uh moth - er - less chil', —

This block contains the first system of music, measures 7 and 8. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a guitar accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The piano accompaniment is in the right hand, and the guitar accompaniment is in the left hand. The lyrics are: "Some - times ah feel like uh moth - er - less chil', —".

9
Some - times ah feel like uh moth - er - less chil', —
moth - er - less chil', —

This block contains the second system of music, measures 9 and 10. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a guitar accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The piano accompaniment is in the right hand, and the guitar accompaniment is in the left hand. The lyrics are: "Some - times ah feel like uh moth - er - less chil', —" and "moth - er - less chil', —".

11

Some-times ah feel like uh moth - er - less chil', — a

Ooo

13

long ways — from home, — a long ways — from,

A long ways — from home, — a long ways — from

A long ways — from home, — a long — ways from

Long ways — from home, — a long — ways — from

16 *mf* True be - liev - uh, *mp* A long ways — from

mf home. True be - liev - uh, *mp* A long ways — from

16 *mf* home. Be - liev - uh, *mp* A long ways — from

mp home. A long — ways from

18 home, a long ways — from

home, a long ways — from

18 home, a long ways from

home, a long — ways from,

20 Bo - ka - ya, Bo - ka -

home. Nu wo vin - o - wo he.

home. Bo - ka - ya, Bo - ka - ya,

home. Bo - ka - ya, Bo - ka - ya,

Bo - ka - ya ka - ya,

22 ya, Bo - ka - ya.

Nu wo vin - o - wo he.

Bo - ka - ya.

Bo - ka - ya.

Bo - ka - ya ka - ya.

24 *pp*
Ooo

24 *pp*
Ooo

24 *mp*
Some - times ah feel like ahm al - mos' gon', —

p
Some - times ah feel, some - times ah feel,

24 *pp*

mp

26 *mf*
Lawd, ahm al - mos' gon'.

26
Some - times ah feel like ahm al - mos' gon', —

some - times ah feel, some - times ah feel,

26

28 *pp* Ah _____ *mf* Way

Ah _____

28

Some - times ah feel like ahm al - mos' gon' —

Some - times ah feel al - mos' gon' — way

30 off in — duh heav'n - ly lan', way

mp Way off in — duh heav'n - ly lan', — way

30 way off in — duh heav'n - ly lan', — way

mp off in — duh heav'n - ly lan', way

30 *mp*

32

off in duh heav'n - ly, True be - liev - uh, Way
 off in duh heav'n - ly lan'. True be - liev - uh,
 off in duh heav'n - ly lan. Be - liev - uh,
 off in duh heav'n - ly lan', way

32

34

off in— duh heav'n - ly lan', A long ways— from
 Way off in— duh heav'n - ly lan',— A long ways— from
 Way off in— duh heav'n - ly lan',— A long ways from
 off in— duh heav'n - ly lan', A long— ways from

34

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first system (measures 37-38) features a vocal line and two piano accompaniment staves. The vocal line begins with the word "home." and is marked *mf*. The piano accompaniment also starts at *mf*. The second system (measures 39-40) continues the vocal line, which ends with a fermata on a note marked *mp*. The piano accompaniment includes a *rit.* (ritardando) marking and also ends with a fermata on a note marked *mp*. The third system (measures 41-42) continues the vocal line with a *rit.* marking and ends with a fermata on a note marked *mp*. The piano accompaniment also includes a *rit.* marking and ends with a fermata on a note marked *mp*. The fourth system (measures 43-44) continues the vocal line with a *rit.* marking and ends with a fermata on a note marked *mp*. The piano accompaniment also includes a *rit.* marking and ends with a fermata on a note marked *mp*.

p

Chant-like
p 3 3 3 3

Bo - ka - ya ka - ya, Nu wo vin - o - wo,

Chant-like
p 3 3 3 3

Bo - ka - ya ka - ya, Nu wo vin - o - wo,

Chant-like
p 3 3 3 3

pp

pppp

pp

pppp

pp

pppp

pp

pppp

pp

pppp

A - men. * (nn)

Nu wo vin - o - wo, A - men. * (nn)

Nu wo vin - o - wo, A - men. * (nn)

A - men. * (nn)

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*Move to the "n" and hum on *nn*
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