

NOTES FROM THE ARRANGER

Kawouno Wan Gi Pi is a song from Kenya, in the Dholuo language. The words express joy and gratitude for receiving the gift of water, and the importance of making peace with our surroundings and with ourselves. This is a highly rhythmic song, and calls for rhythmic rather than lyrical singing. Singers should emphasize consonants for their percussive quality, and use a brassy, forward tonal quality. Light scooping in the soprano and alto parts in the section beginning at m. 33 and m. 53 and the scoop/fall combination at m. 61 will give the song a loose, free, and authentic style. Above all, the song should be celebratory and joyous. Singers should feel free to move with the rhythm, either in a choreographed manner, or ad lib.

Pronunciation & Translation:

(All "r's" are soft and "flipped")

Kawouno wan gi pi (Kah-woo-noh wahng gi pee)

Today we have water

Erokamano (Eh-roh-kah-mah-noh)

Thank you

Wololore (Woh-loh-loh-reh)

La la la la

Kawouno wan gi pi (Kah-woo-noh wahng gi pee)

Today we have water

Erokamano (Eh-roh-kah-mah-noh)

Thank you

Wamor ahinya (Wah-mohr-ah-een-yah)

We are so happy

Imiyo wan gi pi (Ih-mee-yo wahng gi pee)

You've given us water

Erokamano (Eh-roh-kah-mah-noh)

Thank you

Wololore (Woh-loh-loh-reh)

La la la la

Imiyo wan gi pi (Ih-mee-yo wahng gi pee)

You've given us water

Erokamano (Eh-roh-kah-mah-noh)

Thank you

Wamor ahinya (Wah-mohr-ah-een-yah)

We are so happy

Percussion:

I have scored this arrangement for double bell (or high and low bell), gourd shaker, djembe, and several rainsticks. The rhythmic percussion parts may be used as written or modified as desired.

Brian Tate