

# Circlesong

John Thomas Higgins

*f* ♩ = 100

Congas

4/4 time signature. Conga part notation showing a rhythmic pattern of eighth and quarter notes.

5

Continuation of the Conga part notation.

Vocal line notation with lyrics: See... His

Vocal line notation with lyrics: Da da da da da da da

Vocal line notation with lyrics: Da da da da

Vocal line notation with lyrics: Da da da da

9

Congas part notation with triplets.

Vocal line notation with lyrics: Beaut - y See the Bless - ed

Vocal line notation with lyrics: da da da da da da da

Vocal line notation with lyrics: da da

Vocal line notation with lyrics: da da

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11

Musical score for measures 11-13. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It features four staves: a vocal line, a soprano line, an alto line, and a bass line. The vocal line contains the lyrics: "Beaut - y — feel the flame of that meet - ing. —". The soprano line contains "da da da", the alto line contains "da da da", and the bass line contains "da". The music includes triplet markings over groups of three notes in several places.

14

Musical score for measures 14-17. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats. It features four staves: a vocal line, a soprano line, an alto line, and a bass line. The vocal line contains the lyrics: "Glo-ri-fied be our Lord, — glo-ri-fied be our Lord. —". The soprano line contains "Glo-ri-fied be our Lord, — glo-ri-fied be our Lord.", the alto line contains "Glo-ri-fied be our Lord. — da da da", and the bass line contains "Glor - i - fied be our Lord, — Lord.". The music includes triplet markings over groups of three notes in several places.

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18

Glo-ri-fied be our Lord, glo-ri-fied be our Lord.

Glo-ri-fied be our Lord, glo-ri-fied be our Lord.

Glo-ri-fied be our Lord. Da da da

Glo - ri-fied be our Lord, Lord.

22

**B** SOLO  
See His Beaut-y See the Bless-ed

da da da da da da

Da da da

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25

Beaut-y\_\_\_\_\_ Feel the flame of that meet - ing.\_\_\_\_\_

da da da da da da da da da

da da da

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 25-27. It features four staves: a vocal line with lyrics, a soprano line with triplets, an alto line with triplets, and a bass line with lyrics. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 7/8. The lyrics are 'Beaut-y\_\_\_\_\_ Feel the flame of that meet - ing.\_\_\_\_\_'. The vocal line includes triplets of eighth notes. The alto and bass lines also feature triplets. The lyrics 'da da da' are repeated under the instrumental parts.

28

SATB

Glo-ri-fied be our Lord,\_\_\_\_\_ glo-ri-fied be our Lord.\_\_\_\_\_

Glo-ri-fied be our Lord,\_\_\_\_\_ glo-ri-fied be our Lord.

Glo-ri-fied be our Lord.\_\_\_\_\_ da da da

Glor - i - fied be our Lord,\_\_\_\_\_ Lord.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 28-30. It features four staves: a vocal line with lyrics, a soprano line with triplets, an alto line with triplets, and a bass line with lyrics. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 7/8. The lyrics are 'Glo-ri-fied be our Lord,\_\_\_\_\_ glo-ri-fied be our Lord.\_\_\_\_\_'. The vocal line includes triplets of eighth notes. The alto and bass lines also feature triplets. The lyrics 'Glo-ri-fied be our Lord' are repeated under the instrumental parts. The label 'SATB' is placed above the soprano staff.

32

Glo - ri - fied be our Lord,

Glo - ri - fied be our Lord,

Glo - ri - fied be our Lord.

Glor - i - fied be our Lord,

34

glo - ri - fied be our Lord. See His

glo - ri - fied be our Lord. Repeat until all soloists have completed an improvisation.

Da da da

Lord. See...

37

The musical score consists of five staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a double bar line and contains four notes: a quarter note G4, a dotted quarter note F4, a half note E4, and a quarter rest. The second, third, and fourth staves are empty treble clef staves with a key signature of three flats. The fifth staff is a bass clef staff with a key signature of three flats, containing a dotted quarter note G3 and a quarter rest. A large bracket on the left side groups all five staves together.

da.

**Performance Notes:**

This song is intended to repeat indefinitely, hence the title, "Circlesong".

Soloists will improvise on the notes Eb F, G, Ab, and Bb, using the same text. Two examples are given in the piece. The verses start at A and B (boxed text).

If my memory of statistics serves me well, there are 120 possible combinations of those five notes.

The text is inspired by the Words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá: "Let them (the Bahá'ís) behold the Blessed Beauty, and feel the flame and rapture of that meeting, and be struck dumb with awe and wonder."

*Selections From The Writings Of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, p. 203

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