

SONGBIRD 

Take This Gift

Tracy Wong

SSA, piano, and hand drum

Difficulty level ● ● ○ ○

OXFORD

Commissioned for the Fort Wayne Children's Choir 50th Anniversary by family and friends
in memory of Dr James D. Ator (1938–2022)

Take This Gift

Tracy Wong (b. 1983) and
Cherie Chai (b. 1988)

TRACY WONG

Joyfully ♩ = 120

DRUM*

SOPRANO 1

Joyfully ♩ = 120
mf

My feet are root-ed to the ground *oh*

SOPRANO 2

mf

My feet are root-ed to the ground *oh*

ALTO

mf

My feet are root-ed to the ground *oh*

PIANO

Joyfully ♩ = 120
mp

*The drum part may be performed by cajón, djembe, or any similar hand percussion instrument. Drum patterns have been notated, but percussionists are encouraged to add embellishments or to improvise around them.

The work features a particular light-hearted vocal play motif—‘la la li la lay’—that is usually heard in ‘Canggung’, a Malay folk song. In this piece the ‘la la li la lay’ is often sung as ‘l-la la l-la la li la lay’, wherein the first ‘l’ in ‘l-la’ is a sung consonant. A demonstration of this may be found on the rehearsal/learning tracks available from the composer’s website <www.tracywongmusic.com>.

4

l - la la l - la la li la____ lay____ ah____

l - la la l - la la li la____ lay____ My voice is soar-ing in the skies____

l - la la l - la la li la____ lay____ My voice is soar-ing in the skies____

The musical score for measures 4-6 features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The vocal parts enter with a melodic line of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

7

l - la la l - la la li la____ I am

l - la la l - la la li la____ I am

l - la la l - la la li la____ I am

The musical score for measures 7-9 continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal parts have a short rest at the beginning of measure 7 before entering. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand at the start of measure 8. The lyrics "I am" are sung at the end of each vocal line.

10

tied to the past, beau-ti-ful-ly tan-gled with you

tied to the past, beau-ti-ful-ly tan-gled with you

tied to the past, beau-ti-ful-ly tan-gled with you

mf

13

Hand in hand we look to the

Hand in hand we look to the,

Hand in hand we look to the