

Choral Suite

from the opera “Treemonisha”

Scott Joplin

arr. Oliver Barton

We're in a plantation community in the Arkansas woods in 1884. Ned and Monisha found an abandoned baby under a tree and called her Treemonisha. She is now 18 and goes into the woods to find leaves to make a wreath. Zodzetrick, an elderly “conjurer” kidnaps her. The villagers frighten the conjurer away and rescue Treemonisha. She stops the villagers from beating Zodzetrick, instead promoting forgiveness. The villagers are so impressed that they ask Treemonisha to be leader of the community.

Scott Joplin wrote his grand opera Treemonisha in 1908. Producing and promoting it became his life's mission in order to prove himself more than the composer of “vulgar” music, but racism and indifference meant it was unrecognised in his lifetime. He died unhappy and frustrated in 1917 on the day that America entered World War I. It wasn't until 1975 that the opera was first produced.

The choral pieces in this suite are mostly dances. In “We will rest awhile”, weary cotton-pickers who Treemonisha meets on her way back from the forest have a rest from their work. Then Aunt Dinah blows her horn, telling them that the day's work is over, which they celebrate in a dance. The whole opera ends with A Real Slow Drag as Treemonisha, now the villagers' leader, leads her neighbours in the dance. “We're goin' around” comes from Act 1, again a dance performed by a group of corn-huskers on their way to work.

Suite from "Treemonisha"

1. We will rest awhile

Scott Joplin, arr. OB

Andante

Pno

mf

S We will rest a - while, — we will

A We will rest a - while, — we will

T We will rest a - while, — we will

B We will rest a - while, — we will

4

rest a - while, — 'Cause it makes us feel ve - ry good. — We will

rest a - while, — 'Cause it makes us feel ve - ry good. — We will

rest a - while, — 'Cause it makes us feel ve - ry good, ve - ry good. We will

rest a - while, — 'Cause it makes us feel ve - ry good, ve - ry good. We will

7

rest a - while, — we will rest a - while, — Soon we'll be at home chop - ping

rest a - while, — we will rest a - while, — Soon we'll be at home chop - ping

rest a - while, — we will rest a - while, — Soon we'll be at home chop - ping

rest a - while, — we will rest a - while, — Soon we'll be at home chop - ping

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10 *p* *cresc.*

wood, chop-ping wood. We will rest a-while, — we will rest a-while, — 'Cause it's

wood, chop-ping wood. We will rest a-while, — we will rest a-while, — 'Cause it's

8 wood, chop-ping wood. We will rest a-while, — we will rest a-while, — 'Cause it's

wood. We will rest a-while, — we will rest a-while, — 'Cause it's

13 *f*

al - most eat - in' time. — We will rest a - while, — we will

al - most eat - in' time. — We will rest a - while, — we will

8 al - most eat - in' time, eat - in' time. We will rest a - while, — we will

al - most eat - in' time, eat - in' time. We will rest a - while, — we will

16 *mp*

rest a - while, — 'Cause rest-in' is ve - ry fine. —

rest a - while, — 'Cause rest-in' is ve - ry fine. —

8 rest a - while, — 'Cause rest-in' is ve - ry fine. —

rest a - while, — 'Cause rest-in' is ve - ry fine. — *segue*

2. Aunt Dinah has blowed de horn

Assai moderato con espressione

SOPRANO SOLO

19 *Pno* 

Aunt Di-nah has blowed de horn,— An' we'll go home to

26 

stay un-til dawn.— Get rea-dy, put yo' sack on yo' back,— I'm so hap-py I don't know how to

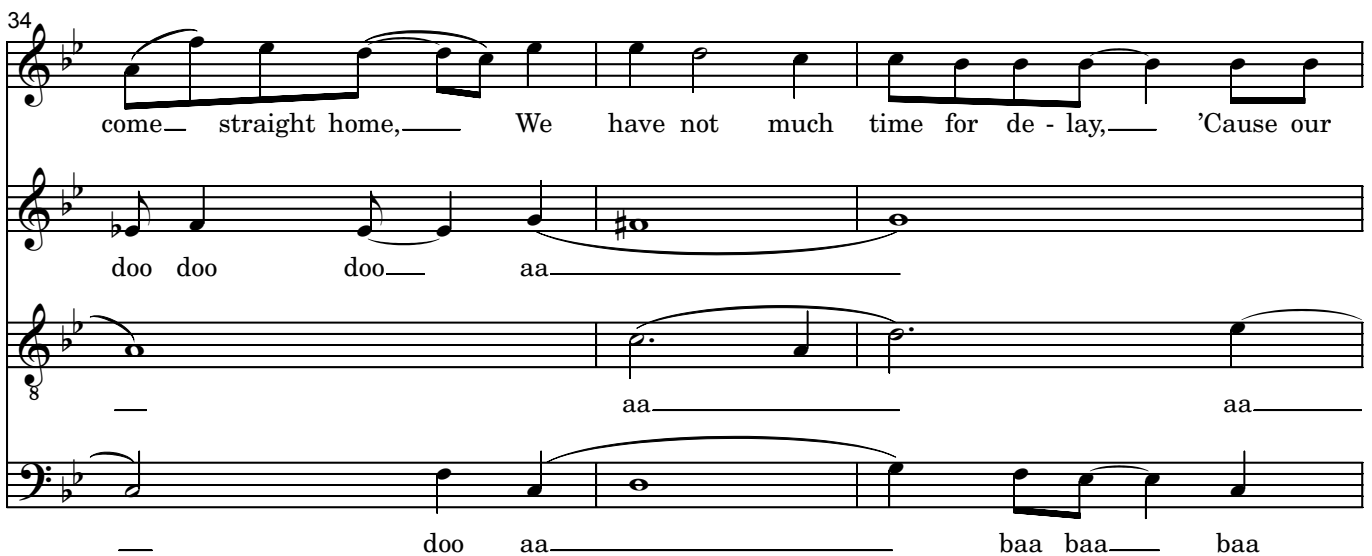
30 **ALL** *mp* 

act.— Aunt Di-nah has blowed— de horn,— An' she wants us to

p Doo doo doo— doo doo, oo— doo doo doo— oo—

p Doo doo doo— doo doo, oo— oo—

p Doo doo oo— doo doo doo oo—

34 

come— straight home,— We have not much time for de - lay,— 'Cause our

doo doo doo— aa—

aa— aa—

doo aa— baa baa— baa

37 *mf*

work is fi - nished for to - day. O yes, Aunt Di - nah has blowed de horn — An' we'll

mf

aa — O yes, Aunt Di - nah blowed de horn — An' we'll

mf

8 aa — O yes, Aunt Di - nah has blowed de horn — An' we'll

mf

aa — O yes, Aunt Di - nah has blowed de horn An' we'll

41

go home to stay un - til dawn. — Get rea - dy, put yo'

go home to stay un - til dawn. — Get rea - dy, put yo'

8 go home to stay un - til dawn. — Get rea - dy, put yo'

go home to stay till dawn. Get rea - dy, — put yo'

44 *f*

sack on yo' back, — I'm so hap - py I don't know how to act. — Aunt

sack on yo' back, — I'm so hap - py I don't know how to, don't know how — to act.

8 sack on yo' back, — I'm so hap - py I don't know how to, don't know how — to act.

sack on yo' back, I'm so hap - py I don't know how to act. *f* Aunt

47

Di - nah has blowed de horn, An' she wants us to

f Aunt Di - nah blowed de horn, An' she wants us to

f Di - nah has blowed de horn, An' she wants us to

Di - nah has blowed de horn, An' she wants us to

50

come straight home, We have not much time for de-lay, 'Cause our

come straight home, We have not much time for de-lay, 'Cause our

come straight home, We have not much time for de-lay, 'Cause our

come straight home, We have not, we've not much time for de-lay, 'Cause our

53

work is fi - nished for to - day.

work is fi - nished for to - day.

work is fi - nished for to - day.

work is fi-nished for to - day. segue

3. A Real Slow Drag

59 *Larghetto* Pno *mf*

Sa-lute your part - ner, do the

mp Ooh

mp Ooh

mp Ooh

64

drag, drag, drag.

go do— the drag, go do— the drag, go do— the drag,

go do— the drag, go do— the drag, go do— the drag,

go do— the drag, go do— the drag, go do— the drag,

67 *f*

Stop and move back - ward, do the drag. All— of you stop.

ooh, go do— the drag, All, all stop.

ooh, go do— the drag, All, all stop.

ooh, go do— the drag, All, all stop.

71 *mf*

Look to your right— and do the drag, drag, drag.

mp

Ooh go do— the drag, go do— the drag, go do— the drag,

mp

Ooh go do— the drag, go do— the drag, go do— the drag,

mp

Ooh go do— the drag, go do— the drag, go do— the drag,

75

To— your left, to— your left, that's the way.—

go do— the drag, go do the drag, that's the way.—

go do— the drag, go do the drag, that's the way.—

go do— the drag, go do the drag, that's the way.—

79 S *p*

March - ing on - ward, march - ing on - ward, marching to— that love - ly tune;—

A *p*

March - ing on - ward, march - ing on - ward, marching to— that love - ly tune;—

83 T *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

March - ing on - ward, march - ing on - ward, happy as— a bird in June.

B *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

March - ing on - ward, march - ing on - ward, happy as— a bird in June.

87 *mf*

Slid - ing on-ward, slid - ing on-ward, lis - ten to — that

mf

Slid - ing on-ward, slid - ing on-ward, lis - ten to — that

mf

Hear — that

mf

Hear — that slow

90 *f*

rag. Hop and skip, now

f

rag. Hop and skip, now

f

rag, Hop and skip, now

f

rag, lis - ten to that rag. Hop, hop and skip, and skip, hop and skip, now

93 *p*

do that slow, — do that slow drag. —

p

do that slow, — do that slow drag. —

p

do that slow drag, — do that slow drag, —

p

do that — drag real slow, now do that — slow, slow drag.

97 *mf*

Dance— slow-ly, prance— slow-ly, while you hear— that pret-ty rag.—

mf

Dance slow-ly, prance— slow-ly, while you hear— that pret-ty rag.—

mp

8 Aah, _____ aah, _____

mp

Aah, _____ aah, doo, doo doo doo doo

101 *p*

ooh, _____ Now you do— the real—

p

ooh, _____ Now you do— the real—

mf

8 Dance— slow-ly, prance— slow-ly, Now you do— the real

mf

Dance slow-ly, prance— slow-ly, Now you do— the real

104 *mf*

“Slow— Drag”— Walk— slow-ly, talk— low - ly,

mf

“Slow— Drag”— Walk slow-ly, talk— low - ly,

8 “Slow Drag” Walk slow - ly, talk— low - ly,

“Slow Drag” Walk— slow - ly, talk— low - ly,

107 *f*

Lis-ten to— that rag, Hop and skip, now

Lis-ten to— that rag, Hop and skip, now

8 Lis-ten to— that rag, Hop and skip, now

to that rag, lis-ten to that rag, Hop and skip, now

111 *p* *f*

do that slow, O, do that slow drag.

p *f*

do that slow, O, do that slow drag.

8 *p* *f*

do that slow, O, do that slow drag.

p *f*

do the— drag real slow, O, do that— slow, slow drag. segue

4. We're goin' around

115 Allegretto Pno *mp*

O, we're

mp

O, we're

8 *mp*

O, we're

Dere was a man be - fo' de war,

BASS SOLO

mp

O, we're

REST

123

mp

go-in' a-round. O, we're go-in' a-round.

mp *mf*

go-in' a-round. O, we're go-in' a-round. I

mp

go - in' round. Said he did-n't like his moth'-n-law, O, we're go-in' a-round.

go - in' round. O, we're go-in' a-round.

128

mf

O, we're go-in' a-round.

know we'll have a jol-ly good time, O, we're go-in' a-round.

mf *mf*

O, we're go-in' a-round. Be -

ALL *mf* *mf*

O, we're go-in' a-round. Be -

132

mf Pno

O,

mf

O, we're go-in' a-round.

cause de weath-er's ve-ry fine, O, we're go-in' a-round.

cause de weath-er's ve-ry fine, O, we're go-in' a-round.

138 *mf*

Go-in' a-round. Go-in' a-round.

mf

Go-in' a-round. Go-in' a-round.

mf

8 Swing dat la-dy, Go-in' a-round. Swing—— dat la-dy, Go-in' a-round. Swing—

mf

Swing dat la - dy, Goin' a - round. Swing dat la - dy, Goin' a - round. Swing—

142 *fz*

Go-in' a-round. Keep on go-in' a-round, 'round.

fz

Go-in' a-round, O swing her, Keep on go-in' a-round, 'round.

fz

8 her gent-ly, Go-in' a-round. Keep on go-in' a-round, 'round.

fz

her gent - ly, Goin' a - round. Keep on 'round, 'round.

146 *mp*

Swing dat gent'-mun, Go-in' a-round. Swing—— dat gent'-mun, Go-in' a-round.

mp

Swing dat gent'-mun, Go-in' a-round. Swing—— dat gent'-mun, Go-in' a-round.

mf

8 O

mf

O

150 *mf* keep on a - round,

Swing, swing, go-in' a-round, keep on a - go-in' a - round, keep a - go-in' 'round.

Swing, swing, go-in' a-round, keep on a - go-in' a - round,

swing, swing, go-in' a-round, keep on a - go-in' a - round,

swing, swing, go-in' a-round, keep on a - round, keep a - go-in' 'round.

154 *f* Gals all smi-lin', Gals all smi-lin',

Gals all smi-lin', Gals all smi-lin',

mp Go-in' around. *mp* Go-in' a-round. *f* Smi -

mp Go-in' around. *mp* Go-in' a-round. *f* Smi -

158 *mf* Go-in' a-round, *fz* Keep on go-in' a - round, 'round.

mf Go-in' a-round, *fz* keep on go-in' a - round, 'round.

mf - lin' sweet - ly, *fz* Go-in' a-round, keep on go-in' a - round, 'round.

- lin' sweet - ly, *mf* keep go-in', *fz* Go-in' a-round, keep on 'round, 'round.

162

f Go-in' a-round. Go-in' a-round. Swing, swing,

f Go-in' a-round. Go-in' a-round. Swing, swing,

f Boys all smi-lin', Boys—— all smi-lin', Swing, swing,

f Boys all smi-lin', Boys—— all smi-lin', Swing, swing,

167

go - in' 'round, 'round, go - in' a - round, a - round, a -

go - in' a-round, keep on a - go - in' a - round.

go - in' a-round, keep on a - go - in' a - round.

go - in' a-round, keep on a - go - in' a - round.

go - in' a-round, keep on a - round.

171

mf 'round, *p* 'round, *pp* 'round.

mf 'round, *p* 'round, *pp* 'round.

mf 'round, *mp* 'round, *p* 'round, *pp* 'round.

mf 'round, a - round, a - round, 'round.

mf 'round, 'round, a - round, 'round. segue

5. A Real Slow Drag (reprise)

177 **S** *Larghetto* *pp*

March-ing on-ward, march-ing on-ward, march-ing to— that love-ly tune;—

A *pp*

March-ing on-ward, march-ing on-ward, march-ing to— that love-ly tune;—

181 **T** *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

March - ing on-ward, march - ing on-ward, hap - py as— a bird in June.

B *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

March - ing on-ward, march - ing on-ward, hap - py as— a bird in June.

185 *mf* *f*

Slid - ing on-ward, slid - ing on-ward, lis-ten to— that rag.

mf *f*

Slid - ing on-ward, slid - ing on-ward, lis-ten to— that rag.

f

Aa— slid-ing on - ward, aah—

f

Aa— slid-ing on - ward, aah— lis-ten to that rag.

189 *p*

Hop and skip, now do that slow,—

p

Hop and skip, now do that slow,—

p

Hop and skip, hop and skip, now do that slow drag,—

p

Hop, hop and skip, and skip, hop and skip, now do that— drag real

192 *mf*

do that slow drag. Dance slow-ly,

do that slow drag. Aah

do that slow drag. Aah

slow, now do that real slow drag. Aah

196

prance slow-ly, while you hear that pret-ty rag. aah

while you hear that pret-ty rag.

aah aah

aah

199 *p* *mf*

Dance slow - ly, prance slow - ly, Now you do the drag real

Dance slow - ly, prance slow - ly, Now you do the drag real

Dance slow-ly, prance slowly, Now you do the real

Dance slow-ly, prance slow-ly, Now you do the real

slow, — the "Slow Drag" Walk slow

202 *mf*

slow, — the "Slow Drag" Walk slow-ly, talk — low-ly, Lis-ten to — that

mf

slow, — the "Slow Drag" Walk slow-ly, talk — low-ly, Lis-ten to — that

8 "Slow Drag" Walk — slow - ly, talk — low - ly, Lis-ten to — that Aah

"Slow Drag" Walk — slow - ly, talk — low - ly, Hear that

206 *f*

rag, Hop and skip, now do that slow, —

f

rag, Hop and skip, now do that slow, —

f

rag, Hop and skip, now do that slow, —

f

rag, listen to that rag. Hop, hop and skip, and skip, hop and skip, now do that — drag real

210 *f* *molto allargando al fine*

O do that slow drag, — slow - o - o - o. —

f

O do that slow drag, — slow - o - o - o. —

f

O do that slow drag, — slow - o - o - o. —

f

slow, O do that — slow, slow drag, slow - o - o - o. —