

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

mf

S We will rest a - while, we will rest a - while, 'Cause it makes us feel ve-ry

A We will rest a - while, we will rest a - while, 'Cause it makes us feel ve-ry

T We will rest a - while, we will rest a - while, 'Cause it makes us feel ve-ry

B We will rest a - while, we will rest a - while, 'Cause it makes us feel ve-ry

Andante

p

6 good. We will rest a - while, we will rest a - while, Soon we'll be at home chop - ping wood, chop - ping wood. We will

6 good. We will rest a - while, we will rest a - while, Soon we'll be at home chop - ping wood, chop - ping wood. We will

6 good, ve-ry good. We will rest a - while, we will rest a - while, Soon we'll be at home chop - ping wood, chop - ping wood. We will

6 good, ve-ry good. We will rest a - while, we will rest a - while, Soon we'll be at home chop - ping wood. We will

p

31 *cresc.* rest a - while, we will rest a - while, 'Cause it's al - most eat - in' time. We will

cresc. rest a - while, we will rest a - while, 'Cause it's al - most eat - in' time. We will

cresc. rest a - while, we will rest a - while, 'Cause it's al - most eat - in' time, eat - in' time. We will

cresc. rest a - while, we will rest a - while, 'Cause it's al - most eat - in' time, eat - in' time. We will

f

11 *cresc.*

f

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15

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

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

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

rest a - while, we will rest a - while, 'Cause rest - in' is ve - ry fine. fine. segue

15

mp

2. Aunt Dinah has blowed de horn

19 *Assai moderato con espressione* **SOPRANO SOLO**

Aunt Di - nah has blowed de horn, An' we'll

19 *Assai moderato con espressione*

f *p*

25

go home to stay un - til dawn. Get rea - dy, put yo' sack on yo' back, I'm so

25

29 **ALL** *mp*

hap - py I don't know how to act. Aunt Di - nah has blowed de horn, An' she

Doo doo doo doo doo, oo doo doo doo doo

Doo doo doo doo doo, oo doo doo doo doo

Doo doo oo doo

29

pp

33

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

oo— doo doo doo— aa—

oo— aa— aa—

doo oo— doo aa— baa baa— baa

37

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

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

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

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' sack on yo' back,— I'm so

go home to stay un - til dawn.— Get rea - dy, put yo' sack on yo' back,— I'm so

go home to stay un - til dawn.— Get rea - dy, put yo' sack on yo' back,— I'm so

go home to stay till dawn. Get rea - dy,— put— yo' sack on yo' back, I'm so

45

hap - py I don't know how to act. *f* Aunt Di - nah has blowed de horn, — An' she

hap - py I don't know how to, don't know how — to act. Aunt Di - nah blowed de horn, — An' she

hap - py I don't know how to, don't know how — to act. Di - nah has blowed de horn, An' she

hap - py I don't know how to act. Aunt Di - nah has blowed de horn, An' she

49

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

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

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

wants us to 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. —

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

Larghetto

59 *mf* Sa - lute your part - ner, do the
mp Ooh
mp Ooh
mp Ooh

Larghetto

59 *mf* *mf*

64 drag, drag, drag, Stop and move back - ward, do the
go do_ the drag, go do_ the drag, go do_ the drag, ooh,
go do_ the drag, go do_ the drag, go do_ the drag, ooh,
go do_ the drag, go do_ the drag, go do_ the drag, ooh,

64

68 *f* drag, All_ of you stop. Look to your right_ and do the
mp go do_ the drag, All, all stop. Ooh
mp go do_ the drag, All, all stop. Ooh
mp go do_ the drag, All, all stop. Ooh

68 *f* *mf*

72

drag, drag, drag. To—— your left, to—— your left,

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

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

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

77

that's the way.— that's the way.— that's the way.—

that's the way.—

[S] *p* March - ing on - ward, march - ing on - ward,

[A] *p* March - ing on - ward, march - ing on - ward,

that's the way.—

that's the way.—

77

p

81

march - ing to—— that love - ly tune;—

march - ing to—— that love - ly tune;—

[T] *p* March - ing on - ward, march - ing on - ward, *cresc. poco a poco*

[B] *p* March - ing on - ward, march - ing on - ward, *cresc. poco a poco*

81

cresc. poco a poco

85 *mf* Slid - ing on - ward, slid - ing on - ward,
mf Slid - ing on - ward, slid - ing on - ward,
mf hap - py as a bird in June. Hear
mf hap - py as a bird in June. Hear

85

89 *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 drag,
f that slow rag, lis - ten to that rag. Hop, hop and skip, and skip, hop and skip, now do that drag real

89

94 *mf* Dance slow - ly, prance slow - ly,
mf Dance slow - ly, prance slow - ly,
mp Aah,
mp Aah,
slow, now do that slow, slow drag.

94 *mf*

99

while you hear— that pret - ty rag.—

while you hear— that pret - ty rag.—

aah, —

aah, doo, doo doo doo doo

p ooh, —

p ooh, —

mf Dance — slow - ly, prance — slow - ly,

mf Dance slow - ly, prance — slow - ly,

103

Now you do— the real— "Slow — Drag"—

Now you do— the real— "Slow — Drag"—

Now you do— the real "Slow Drag"

Now you do— the real "Slow Drag"

mf Walk — slow - ly, talk — low - ly,

mf Walk slow - ly, talk — low - ly,

Walk slow - ly, talk — low - ly,

Walk — slow - ly, talk — low - ly,

107

Lis - ten to— that —

Lis - ten to— that

Lis - ten to— that

to that rag, lis - ten to that rag,

f rag,

f rag,

f rag,

f rag,

Hop and skip, now

Hop and skip, now

Hop and skip, now

Hop and skip, now

111 *p* do that slow, O, *f* do that slow drag.

do that slow, O, do that slow drag.

do that slow, O, do that slow drag.

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

111 *p* *f*

4. We're goin' around

115 Allegretto

BASS SOLO Dere was a man be-fo' de war,

115 Allegretto *deciso* *f* *p* *mp*

122 *mp* O, we're go-in' a-round. *mp* O, we're go-in' a-round. *mf* O, we're go-in' a-round. I

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

mp O, we're go-in' round. *REST* O, we're go-in' a-round.

122

126 *mf*
 O, we're go - in' a - round.
 know we'll have a jol - ly good time, O, we're go - in' a - round.
 O, we're go - in' a - round. Be - cause de weath - er's
ALL *mf* O, we're go - in' a - round. Be - cause de weath - er's

128 *mp*
mf

133 *mf*
 O, we're go - in' a - round.
 ve - ry fine, O, we're go - in' a - round.
 ve - ry fine, O, we're go - in' a - round.

133 *f*
fz

138 *mf*
 Go - in' a - round. Go - in' a - round.
 Go - in' a - round. Go - in' a - round.
 Swing dat la - dy, Go - in' a - round. Swing dat la - dy, Go - in' a - round. Swing her gent - ly,
 Swing dat la - dy, Goin' a - round. Swing dat la - dy, Goin' a - round. Swing her gent - ly,

138 *mf*

143

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

Go - in' a - round, O swing her, Keep on go - in' a round, 'round. Swing dat gent' - mun, Go - in' a - round. Swing—

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

Goin' a - round. Keep on 'round, 'round.

fz *mp* *fz* *mp* *fz* *mp* *fz*

148

dat gent' - mun, Go - in' a - round. Swing, swing, go - in' a - round, keep on a - go - in' a -

dat gent' - mun, Go - in' a - round. Swing, swing, go - in' a - round, keep on a - go - in' a -

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

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

mf *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

153

round, round, keep a - go - in' 'round. Gals all smi - lin', Gals all smi - lin',

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

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

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

f *f* *f* *f* *mp* *mp*

153

mf *p* *mf*

157 *mf*
 Go - in' a - round, Keep on go - in' a -
mp *f* *mf*
 Go - in' a - round, Smi - lin' sweet - ly, Go - in' a - round, keep on go - in' a -
mp *f* *mf*
 Go - in' a - round. Smi - lin' sweet - ly, Go - in' a - round, keep on

157 *p* *mf*

161 *fz* *f*
 round, 'round. Go - in' a - round. Go - in' a - round.
 round, 'round. Go - in' a - round. Go - in' a - round.
fz *f*
 round, 'round. Boys all smi - lin', Boys all smi - lin',
 'round, 'round. Boys all smi - lin', Boys all smi - lin',

161 *fz* *mf*

166 *mf*
 go - in' 'round, 'round, go - in' a - round, a - round, a -
 Swing, swing, go - in' a - round, keep on a - go - in' a round
 Swing, swing, go - in' a - round, keep on 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 - round. *perdendosi al fine*

166 *L.H.*

185 *mf* Slid - ing on - ward, slid - ing on - ward, lis - ten to — that rag. *f*
mf Slid - ing on - ward, slid - ing on - ward, lis - ten to — that rag. *f*
Aa — slid - ing on - ward, aah — lis - ten to that rag. *f*

185 *f*

189 Hop and skip, now do that slow, — do that slow drag. *P*
Hop and skip, now do that slow, — do that slow drag. *P*
Hop and skip, hop and skip, now do that slow drag, — do that slow drag. *P*
Hop, hop and skip, and skip, hop and skip, now do that — drag real slow, now do that — real slow

189

194 *mf* Dance — slow - ly, prance — slow - ly, while you hear — that Aah —
Aah — while you hear — that
Aah — aah —
drag. Aah —

194 *mf*

196

pret-ty rag, —

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

pret-ty rag, —

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

aah —

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

aah —

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

198

202

slow, — the "Slow Drag" Walk slow

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

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

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

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

204

206

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

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

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

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

208

210 *f* *molto allargando al fine*

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

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

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

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

210 *f* *molto allargando al fine* *8va*

f *molto allargando al fine*