

Recorded by THE BEATLES
Blackbird

For 3-Part Mixed* and Piano

Duration: ca. 2:15

Arranged by
AUDREY SNYDER

Words and Music by JOHN LENNON
and PAUL McCARTNEY

Ballad (♩ = 92)

Piano

mf *p*

Solo or Unison
Part III *mf*

Black - bird sing - ing in the dead of night,

take these brok - en wings and learn to fly. —

3 5

* Available separately:
3-Part Mixed, 2-Part, VoiceTrax CD



Copyright © 1968, 1969 Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC
Copyright Renewed
This arrangement Copyright © 2008 Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC
All Rights Administered by Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, 8 Music Square West, Nashville, TN 37203
International Copyright Secured All Rights Reserved

All your life, _____

mf

p

7

you were on - ly wait - ing for this mo - ment to a - rise..

mf

end solo

9

Part I *mf*

Black - bird sing - ing in the dead of night,

Part II *mp*

Tm tm tm tm

Part III *mp*

Tm tm tm tm

mf continue sim. dynamic pattern

12

13

* Sing cue note instead only if range is more comfortable

BLACKBIRD – 3-Part Mixed

take these sun-ken eyes_ and learn_ to see.---

tm tm tm tm tm tm tm tm

tm tm tm tm tm tm tm tm

15

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 and 16. It features three staves: a vocal line, a tenor line, and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has lyrics 'take these sun-ken eyes_ and learn_ to see.---'. The tenor line has 'tm' lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature is 2/4. Measure 15 ends with a double bar line.

All your life,-----

tm tm tm tm tm tm

tm tm tm tm tm tm

17

Detailed description: This system contains measures 17 and 18. It features three staves: a vocal line, a tenor line, and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has lyrics 'All your life,-----'. The tenor line has 'tm' lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature is 2/4. Measure 17 ends with a double bar line.

BLACKBIRD – 3-Part Mixed

you were on - ly wait - ing for this mo - ment to be free...

tm tm tm tm tm tm tm

tm tm tm tm tm tm tm

19

21

Black - bird, fly. Black - bird,

mf Black - bird, fly. Black - bird.

*mf** Black - bird, fly. Black - bird,

21

21

* Optional harmony if range is not a problem

BLACKBIRD – 3-Part Mixed

fly in - to the light of the dark black_

fly.

fly.

24

night.

Tm tm tm tm

Black - bird sing-ing in the dead of night,

mf

26

BLACKBIRD – 3-Part Mixed

28

Mm

Mm

Mm

Mm

28

28

Mm

Mm

Mm

31

BLACKBIRD – 3-Part Mixed

f
Black - bird, fly. Black - bird,
f
Black - bird, fly. Black - bird.
Black - bird, fly. Black - bird,

f

34

fly in - to the light of the dark black night.
fly.
fly.

mf

37

BLACKBIRD – 3-Part Mixed

Musical notation for three vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Bass) in 4/4 time, measures 37-39. All parts are silent (rests).

Piano accompaniment for measures 37-39. Measure 37 has a whole chord. Measures 38-39 have a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the bass and quarter notes in the treble.

43 *mf*
Black - bird sing-ing in the dead of night,
mf
Tm tm tm tm
mf
Tm tm tm tm

Piano accompaniment for measures 40-43. Measure 40 has a whole chord. Measure 41 has a whole chord. Measures 42-43 have a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the bass and quarter notes in the treble.

BLACKBIRD – 3-Part Mixed

take these brok-en wings and learn to fly. — All your life, —

take these brok-en wings and learn to fly. — All your life, —

take these brok-en wings and learn to fly. — All your life, —

45

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 43-47. It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "take these brok-en wings and learn to fly. — All your life, —". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure 45 is marked with the number 45.

— you were on - ly wait - ing for this

— you were on - ly wait - ing for this

— you were on - ly wait - ing for this

48

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 48-52. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "— you were on - ly wait - ing for this". The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure 48 is marked with the number 48.

BLACKBIRD – 3-Part Mixed

mo-ment to a - rise..

mo-ment to a - rise..

Solo or Unison mo-ment to a - rise.. *end solo* You were on - ly wait - ing for this mo-ment to a - rise..

50

Slower

You were on - ly wait - ing for this mo - ment to a - rise.. *rit.*

rit.

You were on - ly wait - ing for this mo - ment to a - rise..

rit.

You were on - ly wait - ing for this mo - ment to a - rise..

Slower

rit.

53

BLACKBIRD – 3-Part Mixed



RANGES

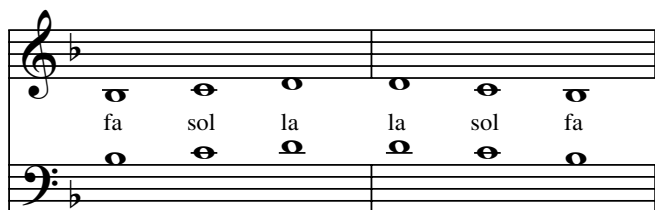


PERFORMANCE NOTES

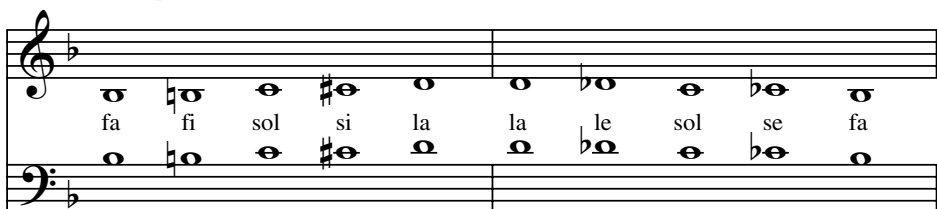
Paul McCartney, a member of The Beatles, wrote “Blackbird” in 1968. Although the song is about a blackbird, its underlying meaning parallels the racial tensions in America at the time. McCartney has acknowledged that his guitar accompaniment was inspired by Johann Sebastian Bach’s *Bourree in E Minor*, written three hundred years ago in 1708.

Choral Preparation

An *interval* is the difference in pitch between two notes. A *half step* is the smallest distance between two notes. A *whole step* is two half steps in succession. Sing the pattern below to practice moving in whole steps.



In this arrangement, the melodic lines for Parts II and III sometimes move in half steps. Sing the pattern below to practice moving in half steps. Half steps are very little steps, so strive to keep your pitch as accurate as possible.



ARRANGER

Audrey Snyder, a choral composer and arranger, is widely recognized as one of the top educational choral writers today. During her many successful years as a public school music teacher she began to write choral music for her own students, publishing her first choral piece in 1978. Since that time Audrey has published numerous original choral compositions and arrangements spanning the entire spectrum of choral music. Her music reflects a rare beauty, simplicity and charm.



AUDIO

The VoiceTrax CD includes a full performance with vocals of the primary voicing, an instrumental only version, and individual part predominant tracks. A pronunciation guide is included for non-English texts.