

Instrumentation

FLUTE 1	TROMBONE 1
FLUTE 2	TROMBONE 2
(Piccolo)	BASS TROMBONE
PICCOLO	TUBA
OBOE 1	TIMPANI
OBOE 2	PERCUSSION 1
ENGLISH HORN	(Two Pulli Sticks, Bass Drum)
(Oboe 3)	PERCUSSION 2
B ^b CLARINET 1	(African Hand Drums, Tablas)
B ^b CLARINET 2	PERCUSSION 3
B ^b BASS CLARINET	(Marimba, Sus. Cym., Piatti,
(B ^b Clarinet)	Xylophone, Glockenspiel, Tam-Tam)
BASSOON 1	HARP
BASSOON 2	PIANO
CONTRA BASSOON	
(Bassoon 3)	
F HORN 1	VIOLIN I
F HORN 2	VIOLIN II
F HORN 3	VIOLA
F HORN 4	VIOLONCELLO
B ^b TRUMPET 1	CONTRABASS
B ^b TRUMPET 2	
B ^b TRUMPET 3	SATB/CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Complete Set (40 Choral Octavos included) 04490084

Full Score 04490085

Additional Octavos 08741511

Composing the musical score for Steven Spielberg's very moving film, *Amistad* presented a particular challenge. The story required that the music form a connecting bridge between the rich oral traditions of African tribal culture and Quaker-inspired music of early 19th century America.

For some of the scenes requiring an African texture, I felt that the use of children's voices would be particularly effective. This seemed especially true in the final "boat" scene when the Africans, now free, were returning home. As I searched for a text of what the children might sing, I discovered in a volume of West African poetry, a poem by Bernard Dadié written decades ago, which was entitled "Dry Your Tears, Africa Your Children Are Coming Home." I was thrilled to discover this, however accidentally, as it seemed ideal for the final scene of this film. I was especially excited to learn that Bernard Dadié is alive, well, living in Africa, and pleased that we wished to use his poem for the film's musical score.

The words of the song that I wanted to write would of course, have to be sung in Mende, the native tongue of the Africans associated with this true story, and so with the help of a translator at the Sierra Leone embassy in Washington D.C., I arranged to have the poem translated from English into Mende.

After slightly adjusting some of the text to fit the musical phrases, and with Mr. Dadié's permission, and adding some generic phrases such as..."sing a song of joy...hush child don't cry", it only remained to teach our children's choir to phonetically sing the song.

I was particularly pleased that after we had completed the film and music I had the pleasure of meeting Bernard Dadié's family at the Washington D.C. premiere of the film. It was wonderful to realize once again how music has the power to join people together who are otherwise separated by oceans and continents.

John Williams

DRY YOUR TEARS, AFRIKA

From AMISTAD

Music by
JOHN WILLIAMS

Lyrics include an adapted excerpt from the poem
"Dry Your Tears, Africa" by Bernard Dadie (© 1967 Bernard Dadie)

Ben Ritmato (♩ = 102) 5

The score is written for a large ensemble. It includes parts for Flute (2 dubs. Picc.), Piccolo, Oboe (2), English Horn (Oboe), B♭ Clarinet (2), B♭ Bass Clarinet (B♭ Clarinet), Bassoon (2), Contra Bassoon (Bassoon), F Horn (4), B♭ Trumpet (3), Trombone (2), Bass Trombone, Tuba, Timpani, Percussion (B.D., Tablas (or Log), African Hand Drums, Marimba), Harp, Piano, SATB and Children's Chorus, Violin (I, II), Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The score is divided into six measures, with measure 5 containing the children's chorus. The tempo is marked 'Ben Ritmato (♩ = 102)'. Dynamics include *mf*, *mp*, and *mp/ff*. Performance instructions include 'Two Puli Sticks on rim and shell of B.D. (Two players if available)', 'w/Bs. Clar.', and 'Arzently'.

From AMISTAD

DRY YOUR TEARS, AFRIKA

B \flat CLARINET 1

Music by
JOHN WILLIAMS

Ben Ritmato 4 5

mp

9

15

24

21

29

27

32

mf

36

40

f

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