

9284

We Are - Ysaÿe M. Barnwell

Solo Voice or Small Ensemble and SATB Chorus divisi, unaccompanied

We Are

YSAÿE M. BARNWELL

*Solo Voice or Small Ensemble and
SATB Chorus divisi, unaccompanied*

YSAÿE M. BARNWELL
COLLECTION

E.C. Schirmer
MUSIC COMPANY
A division of ECS Publishing Group



PROGRAM NOTES

Writing about this work, Dr. Barnwell reminds us, "Every child born gives us renewed hope for the world, but for each child to know their value and understand their responsibility in the world, they must know who they are. And they must understand the sum total of all the things we are is one. In all the ways that count, we are one."

This work is built upon a stack of four ostinati with driving rhythms which underscore a texted melody that lilts and sways in a most natural way. She adds an upper voice which at times functions as a duet with the melodic material and at other times imparts a gentle countermelody.

TEXT

For each child that's born, a morning star rises
and sings to the universe who we are.

We are our grandmothers' prayers,
and we are our grandfathers' dreamings,
we are the breath of our ancestors,
we are the spirit of God.

We are mothers of courage and fathers of time,
we are daughters of dust and the sons of great visions,
we're sisters of mercy and brothers of love,
we are lovers of life and the builders of nations,
we're seekers of truth and keepers of faith,
we are makers of peace and the wisdom of ages.

—Ysaÿe M. Barnwell

Dr. Ysaÿe M. Barnwell is a commissioned composer, arranger, author, and actress. She began her 15-year violin instruction at age two and a half and went on to earn degrees in speech pathology (BS, MSED), craniotomy-facial studies (Ph.D.) and public health (MSPH). In addition, she was awarded honorary doctoral degrees from theological seminaries in Illinois and Virginia.

Dr. Barnwell taught at Howard University College of Dentistry for over a decade, later moving on to overseeing public health projects. In 1979, she joined the Grammy winning African American female *a cappella* ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock.

She also served as teacher and choral clinician in African American cultural performance, leading a workshop entitled "Building a Vocal Community: Singing in the African American Tradition" both at home and abroad. Conducted in the oral tradition, it utilized an African world view and explored African American history, values, cultural, and vocal traditions to build communities of song among both singers and non-singers. Her pedagogy is highly respected among musicians, educators, health workers, activists, organizers, and members of both corporate and non-profit sectors.

In addition, Dr. Barnwell has published books and made appearances on tv and in film. Composing music for dance, choral, film and video, she has received commissions from countless organizations including Sesame Street, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and the King's Singers among others.

E. C. Schirmer Music Company is proud to be the publishing home for Dr. Barnwell's choral music. Please visit ecspublishing.com for a complete listing of her works.

Catalog No. 9284
For Redwood Cultural Work's House Choir, Oakland, CA.,
The Boys Choir of Harlem, and MUSE: Cincinnati's Women's Choir

We Are

for Solo Voice or Small Ensemble
and SATB Chorus *divisi*, unaccompanied

Words and Music by
Ysaye M. Barnwell (BMI)

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 56$
mp

Solo or Small Ensemble

For each child that's born, a morn-ing star ris-es and sings to the u-ni-verse

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 56$
(for rehearsal only)

Keyboard

4

Solo

who— we are. For each child that's born, a morn-ing star ris-es and

S

A

T

mp

dm da-dm dm dm da-dm dm da-dm dm dm

B

mp

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

mp

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

7

sings to the u - ni-verse who we are. For *mp*

mp For

ba - dum ba - dum ba - dum ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm
dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

9

each child that's born, a morn-ing star ris-es and sings to the u - ni-verse

each child that's born, stars rise and sing

ba ba - dum ba ba-dum ba ba-dum ba ba-dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da-dm dm da-dm dm dm da-dm dm da-dm dm dm da-dm dm da-dm dm dm
dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

12

who — we are. For each child that's born, a morn - ing star ris - es and

who we are. For each child that's born, stars

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

15

sings to the u - ni - verse who — we are.

rise and sing who we are.

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

17

mf

We are our grand - moth - ers' prayers, and

We are our grand - moth - ers' prayers,

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

19

we are our grand - fa - thers' dream-ings,

we are our grand - fa - thers' dream-ings,

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

21

we are the breath of our an - ces - tors,

we are the breath of our an - ces - tors,

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

23

we are the spir - it of God. We are

we are the spir - it of God. We are

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

25

moth-ers of cour-age and fa-thers of time, we are
one. We are one. We are

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm
dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

27

daugh - ters of dust and the sons of great vi - sions, we're
one. We are one. We are

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm
dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

29

sis - ters of mer - cy and broth - ers of love, we are
one. We are one. We are

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm
dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

31

lov - ers of life and the build - ers of na - tions, we're
one. We are one. We are

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm
dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

[illegible]

35

This musical score is for the song "We are one" by The Beatles. It features six staves. The first four staves contain vocal parts with lyrics. The fifth staff contains a bass line with drum notation. The sixth staff contains piano accompaniment. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4.

mak - ers of peace and the wis - dom of a - ges,
one. We are one.
ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum
da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm
dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm
dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm
dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

37

We are our grand - moth - ers' prayers, and

We are our grand - moth - ers' prayers,

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

39

we are our grand - fa - thers' dream-ings,

we are our grand - fa - thers' dream-ings,

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

we are the breath of our an - ces - tors, *f*

we are the breath of our an - ces - tors, *f*

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

we are the spir - it of God. For *mp*

we are the spir - it of God.

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

each child that's born, a morn - ing star ris - es and

we are the breath of our an - ces - tors,

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

51

sings to the u - ni - verse who we are, For
we are the spir - it of God. For
ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum
da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm
dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm
dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

53

each child that's born, a morn - ing star ris - es and

each child that's born, stars

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

55

sings to the u - ni - verse who we are. For

rise. Who we are.

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

each child that's born, a morn - ing star ris - es and

We are

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

59

sings to the u - ni-verse who we are.

one. We are one.

ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum ba ba - dum dm

da - dm dm da - dm dm dm da - dm dm da - dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm