Four Choruses
From Ghana

Mawu Me Le Ame De Fume O
(God Does Not Hate)

Dzeennââ
(Don’t Worry About Life)

Fi Kâ Netso November Lolo
(Where Are You From My Friend?)

Tutu Gbôvi
(Don’t Cry, Baby Don’t Cry)

Arranged by
Paschal Yao Younge
Mawu Me Le Ame De Fume O
God Does Not Hate

Background:
A recreational song of the Northern Ewe of Ghana. This tune is usually performed as a prelude to the Bɔbɔbɔ performance. Bɔbɔbɔ is the most popular social music and dance of the Central and Northern Ewe of Ghana and Togo. This music and dance, also known as Agbeyeye (New Life), or Akpese (Music of Joy), emerged from a village called Kpando in the Volta Region of Ghana during the independence struggle between 1947 and 1957. Bɔbɔbɔ is derived from an older circular dance called Konkoma. Although this music was initially confined to a few towns and villages in central and northern Ewe land, it has now spread to all Ewe speaking territories in Ghana and Togo. The version of this folk song which is arranged was performed by the Taviefe-Deme Bɔbɔbɔ Group in 1997.

Lyrics in Ewe:
Amegbeto, me ga le nɔvi de ʃu me ɔ.
Mawu me le ame de fume ɔ.
Me le ame de fume ɔ.
Me le ame de fume ɔ.
Amegbeto, me ga le nɔvi de fume ɔ.
Amegbeto, wɔ nɔvi, wɔ nɔvi, wɔ nɔvi.
Me ga le nɔvi de ʃu me ɔ.

Lyrics in English:
Mankind, do not hate your kind.
God does not hate mankind.
Does not hate mankind
Does not hate mankind
Mankind, do not hate your kind.
Mankind, keep brotherhood,
keep brotherhood, keep brother hood.
Do not hate your kind.

Pronunciation of Non-English alphabets and digraphs
[ɖ] slightly softer than d and is pronounced further back in the throat
[ʃ] is a bilabial f pronounced as if blowing out candle
[kp] position the velum as fork, the lips as for p and then release the two, closing simultaneously.
[gb] sounds like kp but heavier
Phonetic Pronunciation in English:
Ahmaygbaytaw, may ga lay nawvee ā day foo may oh
Mawoo may lay amay ā day foomeh oh
Meh lay amay ā day foomeh oh
Meh lay amay ā day foomeh oh
Ahmaygbaytaw, may ga lay nawvee ā day foo may oh
Ahmaygbaytaw, waw nawvee,
waw nawvee, waw nawvee.
Ma ga lay nawvee ā day foo may oh

Accompaniment:
This song can be performed unaccompanied. It is, however, recommended that a simple percussion accompanied with one gankogui or agogo bell, (any double bell) one axatse or shekere and two conga drums with varied tones be used. When accompaniment is desired, it is suggested it starts at measure 35 ending at measure 59. The rhythmic patterns below are just a starting point for the choir director. The time line pattern on the double bell should not be excluded since this provides the foundation and spirit of the whole song.
Dzeŋnãã
Don’t Worry About Life

Background:
A recreational song of the Ga of Accra in Ghana. This song is used in their social dance, Kpanlongo. Kpanlongo is the most recent of all Ga recreational musical types, and is an offshoot of Gome, Oge, Kolomashi, and Konkoma. Referred to as “the dance of the youth,” Kpanlongo started during the wake of Ghana’s Independence as a musical type for entertainment in Accra. Kpanlongo is presently performed at life-cycle events, festivals, and political rallies. The arrangement was derived from a performance by the Emashi Cultural Group of Accra in 1977.

Lyrics in Ga:
Dzeŋnãã, agba dzeŋnãã.
Akpakpa atsu, etsu ye shɔŋ
Anaa moko atse.
Agba dzeŋnãã eeh.

Lyrics in English:
The day is fast spent, don’t worry about life.
The pawpaw fruit is ripe, but it is far from reach.
No one wants to go and harvest the fruit.
Don’t worry about life.

Pronunciation of Non-English alphabets and digraphs:

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<th>symbol</th>
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Phonetic Pronunciation in English:
Jayngna ay ahgba jayngna ay
Ahkpahkpah aychu, aychu ay shawng
Anaah mo ko achay
Ahgba jayngna ay

Accompaniment:
The simple accompaniment of the following instruments is recommended:
nono, a single slit bell or cow bell, nononta: double bell or agogo bell,
dodompo: castanet, shekeshe: rattle or pair of maracas, tamalie: frame drum
and two conga-type drums.
Fi Ka Netso Novinye Loloto

Where Are You From My Dear Friend?

For 2-part Treble Voices, a cappella

Arr. Paschal Yao Younge

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Fi Ka Netso Nɔvinye Lɛlɛtɔ
Where Are You From My Dear Friend?

Background:
This is Tapoli, a children’s game song of the Eʋe people of Ghana. It is performed using two Tapoli, a wooden beater which is used to grind vegetables in a clay bowl, vegba.

Lyrics in Eʋe:
Fi ka netso nɔvinye lɛlɛtɔ?
Fi ka netso nɔvinye?
Metso dzi dzia ðe fɛ ke.
Dɛɖi ter nu nye ɲtɔ.
Ma nɔ gbɔ wo ma dzu dzɔŋkuinye.

Lyrics in English:
Where are you from my dear friend?
Where are you from my friend?
I am from a very distant place?
I feel so tired.
Let me stay with you and relax for awhile.

Phonetic Pronunciation in English:
Fee cah neh cho nawveenyeh lawlawtaw
Fee cah neh cho nauveenyeh
Mehcho jee jeah dɛh-peh-keh
Dehɖee teh ngoo nyeh ngtau
Manaw gbaw wo maju jaw ɖokweenyeh

Accompaniment:
This song is accompanied by tapoli (wooden beams) which are played against each other. When they are struck behind the left and right knees, the body is tilted forward, but when struck mid-way in front or behind the body, it stays upright. Below is a suggested game and notation of the tupelo patterns.

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Tutu Gbòvi

Don't Cry, Baby Don't Cry

For SSA or SAA Voices, a cappella

Arr. for SATB by G.W.K. Dor
Arr. SSA/SAA by Paschal Yao Younge

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For Perusal Only
Tutu Gbɔvi
Don’t Cry, Baby Don’t Cry

**Background:**
A lullaby of the Eve of Ghana. This song is sung mostly by maids and sisters to keep their younger siblings calm and prevent crying in the absence of both parents. The song should be performed lyrically with movement gently side to side. The singers should think of how they might rock a baby to sleep.

**Lyrics in Eve:**
Tutu gbɔvi, tutu gbɔvi.
Dada me le aʃea me o.
Papa me le (lio) aʃea me o.
Ao dzedze vinye.
Boɔu boɔu kpoo.
Me ka fo wo?
Tu ta ga ne ma ḟui na wo.
Ao vinye, ngaɓa fa vi wo.
Ao dzedze vinye,
Boɔu boɔu kpoo.

**Lyrics in English**
Baby don’t cry, baby don’t cry
Your mother is not home.
Your father is not home.
My poor little baby,
Please, sleep peacefully.
Who has beaten you?
Show me that person for rebuke.
My little baby, please don’t cry,
My poor little baby,
Please, sleep peacefully.

**Phonetic Pronunciation in English:**
Tootoo gbawvee, tootoo gbawvee
Dada may leya aʃea may o
Pahpah may leya aʃea may o
Ah oh dzaydzay veenyay
Bawnoo bawnoo kpoh
May ka joh o
Too ta ga hay mah ñee e na woh
Ah oh veenyay, ngaɓa fa vee o
Ah oh dzaydzay veenyay
Bawnoo bawnoo kpoh

**Pronunciation of Non-English alphabets and digraphs**

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