

REUNION

for SATB Chorus

William W. Brueggemann

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The Reunion

By Chue Thew Yang

Hmong Translation:

English Translation:

Peb mob siab
Peb yeev paub lub neej muaj kev nyuaj siab
Tab si thuam kuv xav
Txog kuv neej tsa kuv yeej paub hais tias
Peb yuav nyob ua ke

We work hard
We already know this life has so much pain
But when I think
Of my family I know that
We are happy together

Thaum kuv me me, kuv tsis paub txog
Txoj kev nyuaj siab
Thaum kuv me me, kuv yeej paub tias
Koj yog tus pab peb

When I was young, I didn't know how
To empathize
When I was young, I knew you were the one
Who helped us

Koj yog tus qhia peb kawm ua neeg zoo
Kuv tsis muaj dab tsi muab rau koj
Kuv xav hais ib los lus muab rau koj
Kuv xav hais ua tsaug
Ua Tsaug koj pab kuv
Kuv zoo siab tias peb yuav nyob ua ke

You are the one who taught us to be good
I don't have anything to give you
I want to say one small thing to you
I want to say thank you
Thank you for helping me
I am happy that we are together

Tam sim no, kuv yeej tsis me lawm
Kuv paub xav txog lub neej
Tom ntej. Tab si kuv xav hais

Now I am not a child
I think of the future ahead
And I just want to say

Peb mob siab
Peb yeej paub lub neej muaj kev nyuaj siab
Tab si thuam kuv xav
Txog kuv neej tsa kuv yeej paub hais tias
Peb yuav nyob ua ke

We work hard
We already know this life has so much pain
But when I think
Of my family I know that
We are happy together

Author's Notes:

Hmong in its written form is made up of 8 tonal markers, 8 different vowels and over 60 different singular or plural consonants. The lyrics to this piece are based on a young child singing to their parents. The sentence structure is very simple but is said in a traditional manner.

-*Chue Thew Yang (2016)*

Composer's Notes:

This piece began as an arrangement of a simple folk song by my good friend Chue Yang. We worked together to discuss phrasing, melody and form and I drew from our conversations when writing. Originally conceived with a chamber choir in mind, this piece requires a tender and sincere approach. Close attention must be paid to the pronunciation of the text and the tonal inflection as well if it is to be successful. My deepest thanks to Ms. Martha Graber whose tireless commitment to all of her ensembles is both an inspiration and a triumph, and without whom this piece would not exist. Since its premiere in May of 2014, *Reunion* remains one of my personal favorite compositions/arrangements as well as a particularly meaningful touchstone in my life.

-William W. Brueggemann

REUNION

Reunion Song (2013)
Chue Thew Yang

for SATB Chorus

William W. Brueggemann

Tenderly

Solo whistle

mf

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano
(Rehearsal Only)

5

A

Women in Union

9 *mf*

Peb mob siab. Peb yeej paub lub neej_ muaj_ kev nyu - aj siab. Tab si

Men in Union

mp

Peb mob siab. Peb yeej paub lub neej_ muaj_ kev nyu - aj kev nyuaj siab tab si

A

mf

13

f

thuum kuv xav txog kuv neej tsa kuv yeej paub hais tias peb yuav nyob ua ke.

mp

thuum kuv xav_ txog kuv neej tsa kuv yeej paub hais tias peb yuav nyob ua ke.

mp

8

thuum kuv xav txog kuv neej tsa kuv yeej paub hais tias peb yuav nyob ua ke.

mp

thuum kuv xav_ txog kuv neej tsa kuv yeej paub hais tias_ peb yuav nyob ua ke._

B

17

txoj kev nyua si - ab.*

Thaum kuv me me, kuv tsis paub txog txoj kev nyua si - ab.* Thaum kuv me me,

Thaum kuv me me, kuv tsis paub txog txoj kev nyua si - ab.* Thaum kuv me me,

Thaum kuv me me, kuv tsis paub txog txoj kev nyua si - ab.* Thaum kuv me me,

Thaum kuv me me, kuv tsis paub txog txoj kev nyua si - ab.*

B
C

22

yog tus pab peb. Koj yog tus qhia peb kawm ua neeg zoo.

kuv yeej paub tias koj yog tus pab peb. oo neeg zoo.

kuv yeej paub tias koj yog tus pab peb. oo neeg zoo.

yog tus pab peb. oo oo

C

*pronounced as "Ahh."

27

f Kuv tsis muaj dab tsi muab rau koj. Kuv xav hais ib los lus muab rau koj. *fp* Kuv xav hais ua tsaug. *f*

mf Kuv tsis muaj dab tsi maub oo ya da da da da da hais ua

mf oo loo loo koj. *p* Kuv xav hais ua tsaug. *f*

mf oo oo loo loo ya da da da da da

Ua Tsaug koj pab kuv, kuv zoo siab tias pab yuay nyob ua ke.

Ua Tsaug koj pab kuv,

Tsaug, kuv zoo siab tias pab yuay nyob ua ke.

mf Ua Tsaug koj pab kuv. *f solo* pab nyob ua ke. Tam sim no kuv yeej tsis me lawm.

32

Ua Tsaug koj pab kuv, kuv zoo siab tias pab yuay nyob ua ke.

Ua Tsaug koj pab kuv,

Tsaug, kuv zoo siab tias pab yuay nyob ua ke.

mf Ua Tsaug koj pab kuv. *f solo* pab nyob ua ke. Tam sim no kuv yeej tsis me lawm.

F

36 *mf*

Peb mob siab. Peb yeev paub lub neej— muaj—

mp

Peb mob siab. Peb yeev paub lub

Kuv paub xav txog lub neej tom ntej tab si kuv xah hais.

F

40 *f*

kev nyu - aj siab. Tab si thuam kuv xav

mp

thuam kuv xav—

mp

neej— muai kev nyu - aj kev nyuaj siab tab si thuam kuv xav

mp

thuam kuv xav

txog kuv neej tsa kuv yeej paub hais tias peb yuav nyob ua ke.

txog kuv neej tsa kuv yeej paub hais tias peb yuav nyob ua ke.

txog kuv neej tsa kuv yeej paub hais tias peb yuav nyob ua ke.

txog kuv neej tsa kuv yeej paub hais tias peb yuav nyob ua ke.

The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a steady bass line.

G
46 *mf*

p oo do a

p oo do do a

p oo do a

p oo do a

G

The piano accompaniment features a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a steady bass line.

50 *rall.*

The musical score consists of five systems. The first system is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. It begins with a melodic phrase of eighth notes, followed by a half note, and ends with a whole note. The dynamic is *pp*. The second system is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics 'oo a ya'. It features a long note 'oo' followed by 'a' and 'ya'. The dynamic is *pp*. The third system is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics 'oo a ya'. It features a long note 'oo' followed by 'a' and 'ya'. The dynamic is *pp*. The fourth system is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics 'oo do da ya'. It features two long notes 'oo' followed by 'do', 'da', and 'ya'. The dynamic is *pp*. The fifth system is a vocal line in bass clef with lyrics 'oo do da ya'. It features a long note 'oo' followed by 'do', 'da', and 'ya'. The dynamic is *pp*. The sixth system is a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). It features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic is *pp*. The tempo marking *rall.* is present at the beginning and end of the score.