

Heartbeat

Kyle Pederson





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Shona translation, text & pronunciation

We all have a heart beat *Isu tose tine kushaya mwoyo* EEsoo TOHsay TEEnay kooSHAHyah MWOHyoh

We share the same color of blood Isu takabuda ropa rakafanana EEsoo tahkahBOOdah ROHpah rahkahFAHnahnah

We all are one race, the human race Isu tose tiri rudzi rumwe, rudzi rwevanhu. EEsoo TOHsay TEEree ROODzee ROOMway, ROODzee rhayVAHNhoo

And together we are strong. *Uye pamwe isu tine simba*OOyay PAHMway EEsoo TEEnay SEEMbah

All vowels are pure and pronounced as in Latin. The "r" is flipped.

English text

Before you say the thing you're thinking to say, before you give the look you gave yesterday, remember....he's got a heartbeat.

They and us, her and him, you and me, we and them, remember...all have a heartbeat.

Red or blue, black or white, no matter who, just like you... all have a heartbeat.

If you would turn your head and take a good look, if you could stand in her shoes right where she stood, you'd remember....she's got a heartbeat.

All creeds, all shapes, all sizes, none of these is what defines us, but what binds us... is in our heartbeat.

Performance notes

- The djembe (or conga) pattern provided is meant to be a guide. The player should feel free to elaborate throughout.
- If bass drum is not available, singers may mimic the sound in select measures (indicated in the score). The bass drum can also be incorporated into the djembe part.
- In this pop style of singing, do not overpronounce the "t" in heart and beat. Consider imploding the "t" in heart and having a soft "t" in beat throughout.
- An optional ending is provided for your consideration. Depending on your programming, you
 may want to bring back the opening pop ballad feel and end introspectively. Or perhaps a big,
 loud, energetic finish would fit your needs better...the choice is yours!

Notes from the composer

I am indebted to the members of the University of Pretoria Youth Choir (South Africa) for the Shona lyrics they crafted for the "gospel drive" section. Shona is one of the main languages spoken in Zimbabwe, and the juxtaposition of English and Shona text reinforces the message that no matter our politics, skin color, religion, or other characteristic— at heart, we are one. The nature of this lyric collaboration with members of the UP Choir further speaks to the theme of unity and common purpose, as well.

Ranges



Desc. Part 1 Part 2



Percussion parts, recording and rehearsal tracks available at sbmp.com

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^{*}In lieu of a Bass Drum, singers can mimic that sound by beating gently over their hearts with a closed fist and vocalizing a non-pitched "Bu-Buhm." If this option is chosen, Part 1 would do this in measures 5-9 while Part 2 sings; Part 2 would do this in measures 10-13 while Part 1 sings.

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*Optional ending if the director would like to return to the opening pop ballad motive. Move from m. 78 directly to m. 81 (skipping mm. 79-80).





About the composer

Kyle Pederson is a Minneapolis-based composer, lyricist, pianist, and educator.

He enjoys working at the intersection of the sacred and secular, and his lyrics and music invite the choir and audience to be agents of hope, grace, and

compassion in the world. Kyle was awarded the American Prize in Choral Composition in 2019, and the ACDA Genesis Prize in 2020. Kyle's music has been commissioned, performed, and recorded by school, community, church, festival and professional choirs around the world. Kyle has an undergraduate degree from Augustana University, a Masters Degree in Education from University of St. Thomas, and an MFA in Music Composition from Vermont College of Fine Art.

Additional information and links to Kyle's music can be found at KylePederson.com.

Santa Barbara Music Publishing titles by Kyle Pederson

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Ahlan Wa Sahlan (Welcome) SATB

Hands Are Knockin' SAB, SATB, SSAA, TB

Heartbeat SAB, SATB, SSA(A), Two-Part

If You Want to Hold My Hand SATB

I'm Going Home SATB

Since I Laid My Burden Down SATB, TTB

The World Will See SATB

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