

Singkap Siaga
SATB, body percussion

Tracy Wong

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TW-004

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SATB choir and & body percussion

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*Tracy
Wong*

S E R I E S

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Text:

Singkap = to open, to reveal, quick change
Siaga = ever ready

“Singka Siaga” (SSA) was commissioned in 2020-21 by Sonic Timelapse Project and members of its Conductors Commission Club. As a partner composer of the Project, I had the immense privilege of reading and absorbing the content submitted by the choral communities in Canada who are experiencing the global COVID-19 pandemic. This piece is based on my reflections of these submissions, as well as my own experiences.

I drew inspiration from the almost-extinct Malay tradition of shadow puppet theatre and its music - *Wayang Kulit Kelantan*. I remember learning how to make these puppets in school in Malaysia. This artform reminded me how *light* and *shadow* are equal in beauty, thus shifting my perspective of “shadow” and “darkness” having negative connotations. Throughout my research on this tradition, I have been drawn to a scene in the show where the *Dewa Panah* (two Arrow Gods, one good and one evil) descend from the sky and battle each other. Neither wins. Life goes on in a balance.

The piece is 5% text (Singkap Siaga) and 95% vocables, based on the pre-existing vocal equivalent of the stylings and tone of the traditional instruments used in the *Wayang Kulit Kelantan* shadow puppet theatre practice - *gong, dak, ding, dong, tsak, tsng*. The rhythmic elements and patterns are also inspired by the music accompanying the *Dewa Panah* scene. Together with body percussion, this piece has a gutsy and fiery energy that hopefully brings singers to a positive headspace, especially when practicing alone.

I am grateful to Sonic Timelapse Project and the following members of the Conductors Commission Club for funding the SSA version of this piece: Kathleen Allan (Toronto), Julia Davids (Chicago), Heather Fraser (Halifax), Laura Hawley (Edmonton), Jackie Hawley (Ottawa), U of A Augustana Music Program, and Sonic Timelapse Project.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to the choral communities who have participated in this Project. It is an honour to be a part of this memorable, vulnerable, brave, and collaborative music-making process. The voice is far from fragile!

Duration: ca. 3' 15”

Pronunciation (International Phonetic Alphabet)

Singkap [sɪŋkɑp]
Siaga [sjaɡɑ]

Vocables

Sonic representations of pitched and unpitched percussive instruments.
gong, ding, dong, tsng: sing towards the last consonant (e.g. goNG, diNG)
dak, tsak: sing towards the last consonants, non-plosive [k], think glottal stop.



Dr. Tracy Wong hails from Malaysia and is a choral conductor, music educator, composer, vocalist, and pianist. She advocates for repertoire-based music education by writing pieces that are teaching tools for singers to develop vocal technique, musicianship skills, and artistry. As part of her continued search to define her Chinese-Malaysian-Canadian identity, Dr. Wong’s music also shows the coming-together of different languages and musical elements that continue to influence her composition writing.

Dr. Wong was the 2019 Canadian Composer Feature for the Canadian Kodály Journal, *Alla Breve*. She collaborates regularly with choral organizations in Canada and Malaysia on commissioned choral projects and workshops, and her pieces are featured at numerous reading sessions. Her works have been performed by Malaysian, North American, European, and Southeast Asian choirs at international competitions and festivals.

Currently residing in Ontario, Canada, Dr. Wong is the Assistant Professor of Choral Studies at University of Western Ontario, where she conducts Chorale and Les Choristes ensembles, and conducts the Grand Philharmonic Youth Choir in Kitchener, Ontario. She holds a Doctor in Musical Arts and Master in Music Performance (Choral Conducting) degrees from the University of Toronto and is a recipient of the 2016 & 2017 Elmer Iseler National Graduate Fellowship in Choral Conducting.

Dr. Wong’s choral works are available at Graphite Publishing (US), Cypress Choral Music (Canada), and Young Choral Academy (Malaysia).

www.tracywongmusic.com

Body Percussion

✕ finger snaps

↑ foot stomps

𠂆 thigh pats

𠂆 hand claps

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

Singkap Siaga

for SATB & body percussion

Tracy Wong

Strong! (♩ = 60)

ff soloists: bright tone throughout

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

Solo

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Hah

Hah

Hah

Hah

Hah

6

Solo

S

A

T

B

Hah

Hah

Hah

Hah

Hah

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

10 *f* $(\text{♩} = 120)$ $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})$

Solo





S *spoken*
Sing - kap Sia - ga

A *spoken*
Sing - kap Sia - ga

T *spoken* *mf* *less heavy, more step-like*
Sing - kap Sia - ga gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong
all tenors & basses read and perform this stave of body percussion

B *spoken* *mf* *less heavy, more step-like*
Sing - kap Sia - ga gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

Body Percussion

 finger snaps
  foot stomps
  thigh pats
  hand claps

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14

S

A

T gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong

B gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

18

FOR PERUSAL ONLY *mf*

S

gong gong ding ding ding

A

gong gong ding ding ding

T

gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong

B

gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

21

S

gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding

A

gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding ding ding

T

gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak dak gong

B

gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

24

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

S

gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding

A

gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding

T

gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak dak gong

B

gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

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34

Solo

S

Ah ding ding ding

A

ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

T

gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng ding ding ding

B

gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding ding ding

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

mf

mf

mf

mf

37

mp

S

ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

A

ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

T

mp

gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

B

mp

gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

40

f

mp

S

ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

A

f

ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

heavier stomps

T

f

ding ding ding ding ding ding gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

heavier stomps

B

f

ding ding ding ding ding ding gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

heavier stomps

43

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

S *f* ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding Ah _____ *mp* dong ding ding

A *mp* ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding *f* dong ding ding Ah _____

T *mf* gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng

B *mf* gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding

47

S *f* Ah _____ *mp* dong ding ding *f* Ah _____

A *mp* _____ *f* dong ding ding Ah _____ *mp* dong ding ding

T gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng

B gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

50

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

S

A

T

B

f

f

f

f

gong gong gong gong gong gong

ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding gong gong gong gong gong gong

gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng gong gong gong gong gong gong

gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong gong gong gong gong

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59 *f*

S ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging

A *f*
Sing - kap! ding ding Sia - ga

T *f*
gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong

B *f*
gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

61

S ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

A Sing - kap! ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding Sing - kap! ding ding

T gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong gong gong gong gong gong cak! tsng gong

B gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong gong gong gong gong gong cak! tsng gong

64

S ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding HEY! ding

A Sia - ga Sing - kap! ding ding ding ding HEY! ding

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

T gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong HEY! gong

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

B gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong HEY! gong

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

S
ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging Sia - ga ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging

A
Sing kap! ding ding ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging Sing - kap! ding ding

T
mp
gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

B
mp
gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

70

S
Sia - ga - ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging Sia - ga

A
ding ding ding ding ding ding Sing - kap! ding ding ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging

T
gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

B
gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

This area has been intentionally left blank.

76 **no rit.**

S
Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah!

A
Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah!

T
Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah!

B
Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah!

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

