TW-004



SATB choir and & body percussion

Tracy Wong





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 [sıŋkap] Siaga [sjaga]

Vocables

Sonic representations of pitched an 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 comingtogether 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
thigh pats fand claps

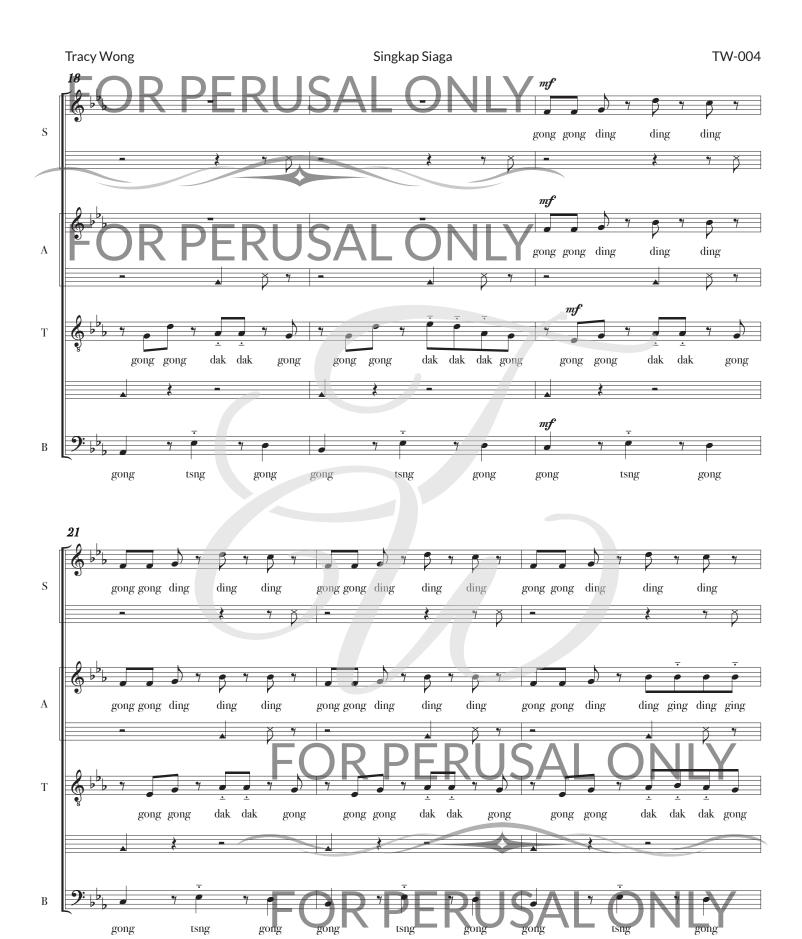
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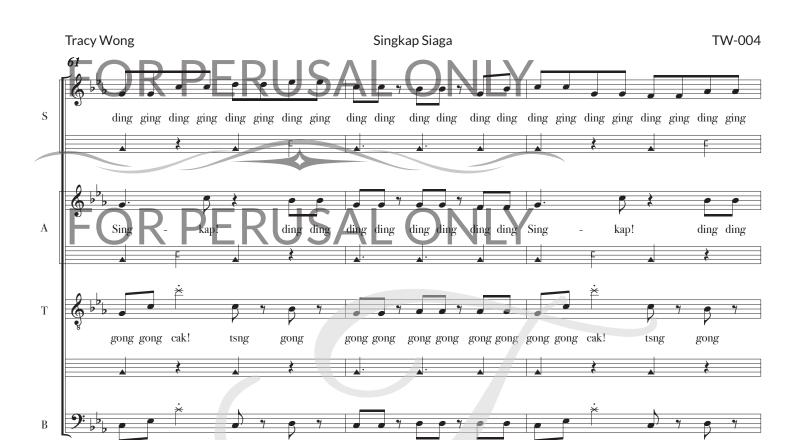






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gong gong

gong gong gong gong gong cak!

tsng

gong

gong gong cak!

tsng

gong



