

Singkap Siaga
SSA, body percussion

Tracy Wong

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SSA choir & body percussion

Tracy Wong

*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 SSA choir & body percussion

Tracy Wong

Strong! (♩ = 60)

soloists: bright tone throughout

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

Solo *ff* Hah Hah

Soprano 1 *f* Hah Hah Hah

Soprano 2 *f* Hah Hah Hah

Alto *f* Hah Hah Hah

6

Solo Hah Hah

S1 Hah

S2 Hah Hah

A Hah Hah

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

10 *f* (♩ = 120) (♩ = ♩)

Solo

S1 *spoken* Sing - kap Sia - ga *mf* S1 only sing on repeat
gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding

S2 *spoken* Sing - kap Sia - ga *mf*
gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong

A *spoken* Sing - kap Sia - ga *mf*
gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

less heavy, more step-like

Body Percussion

× finger snaps ↑ foot stomps ▮ thigh pats F hand claps

lao huanq mao yan lika

14

S1 gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding

S2 gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong

A gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

18 **FOR PERUSAL ONLY** *f*

S1 gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding Ah _____

S2 **FOR PERUSAL ONLY** *mp*
gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak dak gong dong ding ding

A *mf*
gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong gong ding tsng ding

snaps only on repeat

21 *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

S1 — dong ding ding Ah — dong ding ding Ah —

S2 *f* *mp* *f* *mp*
Ah — dong ding ding Ah — dong ding ding

A **FOR PERUSAL ONLY**
gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding

25

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

S1

Ah

S2

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

A

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

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This area has been intentionally left blank.

34

S1
ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

S2
ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

A
gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

37

f Ah _____ *mf* dong ding ding *f* Ah _____

S1

mf dong ding ding *f* Ah _____ *mf* dong ding ding

S2

f gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding

A

less heavy, more step-like

less heavy, more step-like

40

— dong ding ding *f* Ah _____

S1

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

S2

f gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding

A

44 **FOR PERUSAL ONLY** (♩ = 140) *ff* *soloists: bright tone throughout*

Solo
Hey... *spoken, strong*

S1
f gong gong gong gong gong gong gong! Ah - h! hah!

S2
f gong gong gong gong gong gong gong! hah! hah! hah! hah! *f* Sing - kap! ding ding *S2 only enter on repeat*

A
f gong gong gong gong gong gong gong! gong gong cak! tsng gong

48

S1
hah! hah! hah!

S2
Sia - ga Sing - kap! ding ding Sia - a - ga

A
gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong ding ding ding ding ding ding

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

51 *f* FOR PERUSAL ONLY

S1
ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging

S2 *f* FOR PERUSAL ONLY
Sing - kap! ding ding Sia - ga

A *f*
gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong

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This area has been intentionally left blank.

59

S1

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

S2

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

A

gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

62

S1

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

S2

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

A

gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

65

S1

ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging

S2

Sing - kap! ding ding

A

gong tsng gong

This area has been intentionally left blank.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

68 *no rit.*

S1
Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah!

S2
Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah!

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

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