

Io dello: the dance
SATB div. a cappella.
VF-005

Hannah Cohoon, arr. Cook

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Hannah Cohoon, arr. Jennifer Lucy Cook

SATB div. a cappella



Jonathan Campbell Incorporated



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Hannah Cohoon (1788-1864) is one of the earliest known female composers in the United States, and when I discovered this tune, it was unnamed and without any text. Early Shaker tunes were often sung as a vocalise to substitute for the lack of musical instruments. So, when setting the tune for voices, rather than adding a lyric, I decided instead to honor the tune by imagining a cinematic scene in which a romantic couple in Hannah Cohoon's day hear the tune while meeting for the first time at a dance. I researched Shaker-era nonsense syllables and discovered "lo del lo," which is satisfying to sing and felt to me like shifting weight from one foot to another, as one would do while dancing.

The rhythmic treatment of the old tune is brought into the modern musical vernacular with the use of repeated tied rhythms over the barline, anticipating the downbeat like popular music often does. This nod to pop should be wholeheartedly embraced, in order to connect this centuries-old romance to our contemporary parallel meet-cutes: locking eyes with a mysterious stranger across a roomful of dancing bodies was as relevant for Hannah Cohoon in the 18th century as it was for Tony and Maria in *West Side Story*, as it was in Netflix's *Bridgerton*, as it was for *Cinderella*, and as it is for us now in modern clubs.

Io dello: the dance is constructed like a film soundtrack to this imagined scene. The descriptive boxed text throughout the score is provided to help the performers imagine the dramatic narrative, so that even though the audience won't know the exact specifics of the scene, they will still be taken on a highly emotional journey through extremes of dynamic, tempo, and intention.

- Jennifer Lucy Cook

Hannah Cohoon is best known as a painter in the 19th century American Shaker community. Professor Daniel W. Patterson discovered Hannah Cohoon's name in a Shaker hymnal, ascribing four separate tunes to her. The tune reproduced in "American Folk Painters of Three Centuries" (Hudson Hills Press, 1980) is the source for this arrangement.

- Jonathan Campbell



Jennifer Lucy Cook (she/her) is a composer and lyricist based in Los Angeles. Jen specializes in music for the stage and screen, choral music, and pop songwriting. Recent choral commissions include Phoenix Chorale, Cantorum Chamber Choir, and Choral Arts Ensemble in MN. She is the recipient of the Chorus Austin Composition Prize, the Cantus Emerging Composer Award, the HerVoice Female

Composer Prize and the Edwin Fissinger Composition Prize. She is an alumni of the Johnny Mercer Foundation Writer's Grove with Goodspeed Musicals, and her theater commissions include Full House Theatre Co., British Youth Musical Theatre, and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. Her musical recaps of the Bachelor recently went viral on TikTok.

Despite writing music in such a wide range of genres, Jen's music is united by a keen love for storytelling with song. She prioritizes specific, highly emotional lyrics, melodic earworms, and infectious rhythmic grooves, and conceives of every piece from a dramatic, narrative-driven perspective. More information can be found at jenniferlucycook.com.

With a jaunty skip ♩ = ca. 72

Hannah Cohoon (1788-1864)

Lo del-lo del-lo del - lo del...
La la...

Jonathan Campbell, BA, MSM, DMA, currently serves as Director of Music at Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka, MN, and is a Contributing Editor for Graphite Publishing. His music publishers include Augsburg Fortress, Concordia, Morningstar, GIA, Sacred Music Press, and Falls House. He won first prize in the Morningside Choral Composition Contest and was also awarded a Faith Partner's Residency with the American Composers Forum. Jonathan has served many churches, conducted the Chorale of the Honors Choirs S.E. MN for eight years, and has served on the faculties of Winona State University, Augsburg University, and Pomona College.

*In honor of the legacy left by the many women who composed music before me;
premiered by the Phoenix Chorale under the direction of Christopher Gabbittas, May 2023*

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lo dello: the dance

SATB divisi a cappella choir

Hannah Cohoon (1788-1864)

arr. Jennifer Lucy Cook

The dance begins wth a few brave souls first. Shy party guests wait on the sides waiting to be asked to the dance floor. Our star couple aren't yet aware that each other exists; they've both reluctantly attended, and are in no hurry yet to dance.

Lightly, like a dance $\text{♩} = 102$

Soprano

Alto

Piano
for rehearsal only

mf

Lo del - lo _ del - lo del - lo _ del - lo del - lo _ del - lo _

mf

Lo del - lo _ del - lo del - lo _ del - lo del - lo _ del - lo _

mf

Lo del - lo _ del - lo del - lo _ del - lo del - lo _ del - lo _

S

A

T

— lo _ del - lo del - lo _ del - lo _ lo del - lo de - lo del - lo _

— lo _ del - lo del - lo _ del - lo _ lo del - lo de - lo del - lo _

— lo _ del - lo del - lo _ del - lo _ lo del - lo de - lo del - lo _

mf

lo del - lo _ de - lo del - lo _

6

S — lo del - lo

A — lo del - lo

T — lo del - lo

{ — lo del - lo

Graphite *notable. elevated.*

8

S — del - lo del - lo del - lo del - lo lo del - lo del - lo del - lo

A — del - lo del - lo del - lo del - lo lo del - lo del - lo del - lo

T — del - lo del - lo del - lo del - lo TM lo del - lo del - lo del - lo

{ — del - lo del - lo

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Graphite

notable. elevated.

10 *mp*

S — lo del - lo

A — lo del - lo

T — lo del - lo TM del - lo

— lo del - lo

mp

f

The dance floor is beginning to fill as everyone, including our star couple, joins in the circle and the band begins to play with more gusto.

The camera lingers on confident dancers [here, the altos] as the party is finding its energetic rhythm.

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13 *f*

S — lo del - lo del - lo

A — lo del - lo

T — lo del - lo

B — del - lo TM lo — lo — lo —

f

f

Party guests are getting the hang of the
footwork and the fun.

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16

Soprano (S):
— lo lo — del - lo del - lo lo — del - lo del - lo del - lo
Alto (A):
— del - lo del - lo del - lo del - lo — lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
Tenor (T):
— lo lo — del - lo del - lo lo — del - lo del - lo del - lo
Bass (B):
— lo lo — del - lo del - lo lo — del - lo del - lo del - lo

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19

Soprano (S):
del - lo —
Alto (A):
del - lo — del - lo — del - lo — del - lo — lo — del - lo — del - lo — del - lo —
Tenor (T):
del - lo — del - lo — del - lo — del - lo — lo — del - lo — del - lo — del - lo —
Bass (B):
del - lo — del - lo — del - lo — del - lo — lo — del - lo — del - lo — del - lo —

22

The choreography divides the party into groups dancing in a call-and-response formation, allowing potential couples to get a good look at one another.

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Soprano (S):

Alto (A):

Tenor (T):

Bass (B):

Bassoon (B):

25

mp

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Soprano (S):

Alto (A):

Tenor (T):

Bass (B):

Bassoon (B):

Soloists spin on the dance floor, some into
the arms of their lovers.

28

S

A

T

B

Graphite

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del - lo del - lo del - lo del - lo _____ lo del - lo del - lo del - lo _____ lo del - lo _____
 — lo del - lo del - lo lo — lo del - lo del - lo lo —
 — lo del - lo del - lo lo — lo del - lo del - lo del - lo — del - lo del - lo —
 — lo del - lo del - lo lo — lo del - lo del - lo lo —

We are aware that our star couple haven't yet met, but
dream of spinning with their soulmate one day.

31

S

A

T

B

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mf

sfz

sfz

sfz

mf

lo — del - lo — del - lo — del - lo — lo — del - lo — del - lo — del - lo —
 del - lo — del - lo — lo — del - lo — del - lo — del - lo — del - lo —
 — lo — del - lo —
 — del - lo —

The choreography requires that couples keep trading partners, bringing our star couple closer and closer to one another, but never connecting.

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S 34

A **T** **B**

mp

S

mp

A

T TM

mp

B

mp

S

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S 37

A

T

B

p f

p f

p f

p f

S

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39

Soprano (S) vocal line: *lo del - lo del - lo del - lo*. Dynamics: *sub. p*, *f*, *sub. p*, *f*.

Alto (A) vocal line: *lo lo del - lo*. Dynamics: *p*, *f*.

Tenor (T) vocal line: *lo lo del - lo*. Dynamics: *p*, *f*.

Bass (B) vocal line: *lo del - lo del - lo del - lo*. Dynamics: *sub. p*, *f*, *TM*, *sub. p*, *f*.

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41

Soprano (S) vocal line: *lo del - lo del - lo del - lo*. Dynamics: *sub. p*, *f*, *sub. p*, *f*, *sub. p*, *f*.

Alto (A) vocal line: *lo del - lo del - lo del - lo*. Dynamics: *sub. p*, *f*, *sub. p*, *f*, *sub. p*, *f*.

Tenor (T) vocal line: *lo del - lo del - lo del - lo*. Dynamics: *sub. p*, *f*, *sub. p*, *f*, *sub. p*, *f*.

Bass (B) vocal line: *lo del - lo del - lo del - lo*. Dynamics: *sub. p*, *f*, *sub. p*, *f*, *sub. p*, *f*.

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The main section of dance returns here, this time with great gravitas as many couples are, literally, finding their feet. Frustratingly, our couple still haven't met, but they're at least enjoying the dance.

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44

Soprano (S) *mf*
 Alto (A) *mf*
 Tenor (T) *mf*
 Bass (B) *mf*

lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
 lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
 lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
 lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
 lo del - lo del - lo del - lo

46

Soprano (S)
 Alto (A)
 Tenor (T)
 Bass (B)

del - lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
 del - lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
 del - lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
 del - lo del - lo del - lo del - lo

Getting swept up in the pure joy of dancing with friends, our star couple have almost completely forgotten about their respective loneliness and are increasingly out of breath as they dance with the group.

49

Soprano (S) *f*:
— lo del - lo
Alto (A) *f*:
— lo del - lo
Tenor (T) *f*:
— lo del - lo
Bass (B) *f*:
— lo del - lo

As dangerously fast as possible!

52

Soprano (S):
1. — lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
2. — lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
Alto (A):
— lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
Tenor (T):
— lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
Bass (B):
— lo del - lo del - lo del - lo

ff

ff

ff

ff

55

S For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

A

T

B

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TM

1.

At the height of laughter, the star couple see each other at last. The camera spins, the rest of the room is out of focus, and they can only stare at each other in awe.

**As if time suddenly
stops ♩ = 50**

58

rit.

S For perusal purposes only. Do not copy.

A

T

B

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TM

They greet each other, unaffected by the
chaos surrounding them.

pp optional solo

61

S

A

T

B

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mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

Unaware that they are still stationary in a room full of movement, the couple are laser-foucsed on each other.

Gathering steam $\text{♩} = 72$

65

sub.

p

S

A

T

B

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p

sub.

p

sub.

p

sub.

p

sub.

p

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68

S *mp*
del - lo del - lo lo _ del - lo del - lo del - lo _ del - lo del - lo _
lo _ del - lo _

A *mp*
lo lo lo lo

T *mp*
lo lo lo TM lo

B *mp*
lo lo lo lo _ del - lo _

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The dance is still continuing as the couple slowly make their way through the crowd toward the open door to the starlit garden.

accel.

71 *mf*
S del - lo _ del - lo del - lo _
mf del - lo _

A lo lo lo lo lo lo

T *mf*
lo lo lo lo lo

B *mf*
lo lo lo TM lo - del - lo _ lo lo

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Marveling at their luck, the couple look back at their dancing friends who are unaware of the life-changing moment that's just take place for the star couple.

Tempo primo $\text{♩} = 102$

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74

S: del - lo del - lo lo del - lo _____ lo lo lo
A: lo del - lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
T: lo lo lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
B: lo lo del - lo lo lo lo

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Not wanting to disturb the dancing, the couple silently bid farewell to the dance and leave the party arm in arm.

77 **ff**

S: lo del-lo del - lo lo del-lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
A: lo - del-lo del - lo lo del-lo del - lo del - lo del - lo
T: lo - del-lo del - lo lo det-lo del - to del - lo del - lo del - to
B: lo - del-lo del - lo lo del-lo del - lo del - lo del - lo

Graphite **notable elevated.**