

DT0042 | IF I SAY YES | TRUMBORE

IF I SAY YES

SATB Chorus, String Quartet,
Percussion & Piano

FULL SCORE


daletrumbore
c o m p o s e r

Instrumentation

SATB Chorus

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Piano

Percussion (1):

Marimba

Vibraphone

Tubular Bells

Performance Notes



Slow down the speed of a tremolo from alternating rapidly to approximately the speed of eighth notes (or slower).



Gradually speed up a tremolo from approximately the speed of eighth notes (or slower) to alternating rapidly.



When a glissando is marked between two notes, bow them separately unless otherwise indicated.

Text

If I say yes,
it won't be to some unknown future,
some fifty years, but a yes
to what we already have:
half a house and the two of us,
small sparrows in an unfamiliar nest.

If I say yes, it will be to words well-worn
and to ones we can barely speak aloud:
to house, or child, or forever.

If I say yes, know that I may be rusty
at choosing you over me, or me over anything.
I can hardly remember which finger takes a ring.

But I have studied us for years;
I have watched the way your neck greets your shoulders,
I have learned the laugh that means
you've forgotten yourself,
and I will choose that laughter every time.

And you will say yes to uncertainty
saved for meals much smaller than this one,
to the teakettle whistling for minutes,
to the fruit overripe and the tea over-steeped,
to endless and to endlessly-wanted touch.

And I will be sure that,
if I still don't know the answer,
when we stand together overlooking
anything vast and borderless,
those moments are the happiest I've been
to hover over the railing of uncertainty
and reach out to you again
with an unsaid yes.

And if neither of us is certain,
if we live in a land without rain,
then there is a yes to something surer here
even than certainty,
to something surer still than water,
and we have known that, here,
as sure as it does rain twice a year.

And if we are asking each other
for time—
time our only matchmaker,
time the tea-kettle's whistle,
time the fruit overripe
and time the tea over-steeped,
time our only choice, and time
always out of our hands—

then let's learn to time our asking.
Let's learn to ask only when the answer
could be yes—will be yes—
so there is some small chance of it staying yes
as long as we both shall live.

When I was small, unable to sleep,
and imagining, somewhere,
a love I hadn't met, imagining that love
awake, imagining that love imagining me too,
I am certain that person was you.

I wish I knew another word for all of this—
I do. I do.

—Dale Trumbore

If I Say Yes

for SATB chorus, string quartet, percussion & piano

Music & Text by
Dale Trumbore

Animated; ♩ = ca. 88

SOPRANO *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*
If I say yes, it won't be to some un-known fu-ture,

ALTO *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*
If I say yes, it won't be to some un-known fu-ture,

TENOR

BASS

Marimba *f* *p* *pp* *mf*

Violin 1 *sfz* *pp*

Violin 2 *sfz* *pp*

Viola *f* *pp* *mf*

Violoncello *f* *pp* *mf*

Piano *f* *pp* *mf*

7

S. *p* *mp* *mf*
some fif-ty years, but a yes to what we al-read-y have:

A. *p* *mp* *mf*
some fif-ty years, but a yes to what we al-read-y have:—

T.

B.

Mar. *pp* *mf*

Vln. 1 *p* *mf*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *p* *mf*

If I Say Yes
Full Score

2

12 **A**

S.  $\frac{3}{4}$

A.  $\frac{3}{4}$

T.  $\frac{3}{4}$

B.  $\frac{3}{4}$

Mar.  $\frac{3}{4}$

Vln. 1  $\frac{3}{4}$

Vln. 2  $\frac{3}{4}$

Vla.  $\frac{3}{4}$

Vc.  $\frac{3}{4}$

Pno.  $\frac{3}{4}$

==

S.  $\frac{3}{4}$

A.  $\frac{3}{4}$

T.  $\frac{3}{4}$

B.  $\frac{3}{4}$

Mar.  $\frac{3}{4}$

Vln. 1  $\frac{3}{4}$

Vln. 2  $\frac{3}{4}$

Vla.  $\frac{3}{4}$

Vc.  $\frac{3}{4}$

Pno.  $\frac{3}{4}$

If I Say Yes
Full Score

B

S. *mp* and to

A. *mp* and to

T. *mf* *p* *mf* and to

B. *mf* *p* *mf* and to

If I say yes, it will be to words well worn and to

Mar. *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mp*

Vln. 1 *pp* *mf*

Vln. 2 *pp* *p* *mf*

Vla. *pp* *pp* *mf*

Vc. *pp* *pp* *mf*

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

C

S. *pp* *mp* *mf* *p*
words we can bare - ly speak a - loud: to house, or child, or for-

A. *pp* *mp* *mf* *p*
words we can bare - ly speak a - loud: to house, or child, or for-

T. *pp* *mp* *mf* *p*
words we can bare - ly speak a - loud: or for-

B. *pp* *mp* *mf* *p*
words we can bare - ly speak a - loud: or for-

Mar. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*

Vln. 1 *pp* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp*

Vc. *pp* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp*

Pno. *p* *mf* *pp*

If I Say Yes
Full Score

poco rit. . . . **D** ♩ = ca. 76

4

37

S. *f*
e - ver.

A. *f*
e - ver.

T. *f*
e - ver.

B. *f*
e - ver.

Mar. *f* 3 3 3 3 *mp* 3 *f* *p*

Vln. 1 *mf* *mp* *f* pizz.

Vln. 2 *f* 3 *mp* 3 *sfz* *p*

Vla. *f* *mp* *sfz* *p*

Vc. *f* *mp* *f* pizz.

Pno. *mf* *mp* *f*

poco rit. . . . ♩ = ca. 76

42

S. *p* *mf* 3 *f* *p* 3
If I say yes, know that I may be rust-y at choos - ing you o - ver me, or me o - ver

A. *p* *mf* 3 *f* *p* 3
If I say yes, know that I may be rust-y at choos - ing you o - ver me, or me o - ver

T. *p* *mf* 3 *f* 3
If I say yes, know that I may be rust-y at choos - ing you o - ver me,

B. *p* *mf* 3 *f* 3
If I say yes, know that I may be rust-y at choos - ing you o - ver me,

Mar. *pp* 3 3

Vln. 1 arco *p* 3 *f* 3 *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp* 3 *f* 3 *mp*

Vla. *pp* 3 *f* 3 *mp*

Vc. arco 3 *f* 3

Pno. *p* 3 3 3

E

Soprano 2

48

S. a - ny-thing. I can hard - ly re - mem - ber which fin - ger takes a

A. a - ny-thing. I can hard - ly re - mem - ber which fin - ger takes a

T.

B.

Vln. 1 *pp* *mf* *pp* *mp*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf* *pp* *mf*

Vla. *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

53

S. ring.

A. ring.

T.

B.

Mar. *mf* *pp* *mf*

Vln. 1 *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. 2 *p* *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p* *mf* *mf*

Vc. *p* *mf* *p*

Pno.

If I Say Yes
Full Score

6

57 **F** Tutti *mf*

S. But I have stu-died us for years;

A. *p* ah

T. *mf* But I have stu-died us for years;

B. *mf* But I have stu-died us for years;

Mar. *p*

Vln. 1 *mf* *f* *pp* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf* *pp*

Vla. *mf* *f* *pp* *mp*

Vc. *mf* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *f* *p*

61 *p* *mf*

S. ah ah

A. *p* I have watched the way your neck greets your shoul-ders ah

T. *p* I have watched the way your neck greets your shoul-ders I have learned the laugh that means you've for-got-ten your-self,

B. *p* I have watched the way your neck greets your shoul-ders I have learned the laugh that means you've for-got-ten your-self,

Mar. *mf* *p* *mf*

Vln. 1 *pp*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mf* *pp* *mp*

If I Say Yes
Full Score

8

77 **H**

S.

A.

T. *p* *mf* *p*
And you will say yes to un - cer-tain - ty saved for meals much small - er than this one, to the

B. *p* *mf* *p*
And you will say yes to un - cer-tain - ty saved for meals much small - er than this one, to the

Mar. *mf*

Vln. 1 *p* *arco* *mf* *p*

Vln. 2 *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p* *arco* *ppp*

S. *rit.* *pp*
to

A. *p* *mf* *p* *mf*
and the tea o - ver steeped,

T. *mf* *p* *mf*
tea - ket - tle's whist-ling for min - utes to the fruit o - ver ripe and the tea o - ver steeped,

B. *mf* *p* *mf*
tea - ket - tle's whist-ling for min - utes to the fruit o - ver ripe and the tea o - ver steeped,

Vln. 1 *p* *ff* *p* *f*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *pizz.* *f*

If I Say Yes
Full Score

87 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$

S. *mp* end - less and to *f* end - less - ly want - ed *sub. mp* touch

A. *mp* to end - less and to *f* end - less - ly want - ed *sub. mp* touch

T. *mp* to end - less and to *f* end - less - ly want - ed *sub. mp* touch

B. *mp* to end - less and to *f* end - less - ly want - ed *sub. mp* touch

Vln. 1 *pp* *f* *ord. pp*

Vln. 2 *pp* *f* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *f* *ord. pp*

Vc. *pp* *f* *pp*

Pno. *f* *mf*

92 **I**

S. *mf* And I will be sure that if I still don't know the an - swer *p* *mf*

A. *mf* I will be sure that if I still don't know the an - swer *p* *mf*

T. *mf* if I still don't know the an - swer *p* *mf*

B. *mf* *p* *mf*

Vib. *mf* *p* *mf*

Vln. 1 *ord. p* *mf* *mf*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf*

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf*

If I Say Yes
Full Score

10

97 *mp* *mf* *p*

S. when we stand to- geth- er o- ver-look- ing a- ny-thing vast and bor- der- less, those mo- ments are the hap- pi- est. I've

A. when we stand to- geth- er o- ver-look- ing a- ny-thing vast and bor- der- less, those mo- ments are the hap- pi- est. I've

T. when we stand to- geth- er o- ver-look- ing a- ny-thing vast those mo- ments are the hap- pi- est, the

B. when we stand to- geth- er o- ver-look- ing a- ny-thing vast

Vib. *p* to Mar.

Mar. *mf* *p* *mp* Marimba

Vln. 1 *p* *mf*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf* sub. *pp*

Vc. *p* *mf* sub. *pp*

Pno. *p* *mf* *p*

103 *mf* *p* *mf*

S. been to ho- ver o- ver the rail- ing of un- cer- tain- ty and reach out to you a- gain with an un- said

A. been to ho- ver o- ver the rail- ing of un- cer- tain- ty and reach out to you a- with an un- said

T. hap- pi- est. I've been to ho- ver, oh and reach out a- gain with an un- said

B. ah oh and reach out a- gain with an un- said

Vln. 1 *pp* *mp*

Vln. 2

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

J poco accel. . . . ♩ = ca. 72

108

S. *f* yes.

A. *f* yes. And_ if nei - ther of us is cer - tain,

T. *f* yes.

B. *f* yes. And_ if nei - ther of us is cer - tain,

Mar. *p* *f* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vln. 1 *p* *f*

Vln. 2 *p* *f*

Vla. *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Vc. *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Pno. *p* *f* *mf* *p*

poco accel. . . . ♩ = ca. 72

113

S. *mp* if we live in a land with-out rain, *mf*

A. *p* yes

T. *mp* if we live in a land with-out rain, *mf* then there is a yes to some - thing

B. *p* then there is a yes to some - thing

Mar. *mf* 3

Vln. 1 *pizz.* *mf* 3

Vln. 2 *pizz.* *mf* 3

Vla. *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *p* *mf* 5 *p*

Pno. *mf* *p* 3

If I Say Yes
Full Score

12

118

S. *mf* to some-thing sur - er still than wa - ter,

A. *mf* sur - er here e - ven than cer - tain - ty to some-thing sur - er still than wa - ter,

T. *mf* sur - er here e - ven than cer - tain - ty

B. *mf* su - - rer here.

Mar. *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. 1 118

Vln. 2 *arco* *p* *p* *mp*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Pno. 118 *mf* *p* *f*

K

123

S. *f* and we have known that here, as sure as it does rain twice a *mp*

A. *f* and we have known that here, as sure as it does rain twice a *mp*

T. *f* and we have known that here, as sure as it does rain twice a *mp*

B. *f* and we have known that here, as sure as it does rain twice a *mp*

Mar. *mp*

Vln. 1 123 *arco* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Vln. 2 *mp* *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf* *f*

Pno. 123 *f*

128 **L**

S. year.

A. year.

T. year.

B. year.

Mar. *p* *mf* to T.B.

Vln. 1 *mp* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *mf* *arco*

Vln. 2 *mp* *pizz.* *mf* *pp* *mf* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *pizz.* *mf* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vc. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf*

Pno. *p* *mf*

134 **M** *p* *rit.* **N** *f* = ca. 72 *mp*

S. And if we are ask-ing each o-ther for time, time our on - ly match-ma-ker, time the tea-ke-tle's

A. And if we are ask-ing each o-ther for time, time our on - ly match-ma-ker, time

T. time the tea-ke-tle's

B. time the tea-ke-tle's

T. B. Tubular Bells *f* *mp*

Vln. 1 *mp* *pp* *mp* *f* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mp* *pp* *mp* *f* *mf* *p*

Vla. *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

Vc. *mp* *p*

Pno. *rit.* = ca. 72 *f* *p*

If I Say Yes
Full Score

14

141 *mf* *p* *rit.* *mf*

S. whis - tle time and time the tea o - ver steeped, time our on - ly choice and

A. time and time the tea o - ver steeped, time our on - ly choice and

T. whis - tle time the fruit o - ver ripe and time the tea o - ver steeped, time our on - ly choice and

B. whis - tle time the fruit o - ver ripe and time the tea o - ver steeped, time our on - ly choice and

T. B. *mp* *mf*

Vln. 1 *f* *p* *mf*

Vln. 2 *f* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vla. *f* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *f* *sfz* *pp* *pp*

Pno. *f* *rit.*



Slower, freely; ♩ = ca. 54

148 *p* *f* *pp*

S. time al - ways out of our hands -

A. time al - ways out of our hands, our hands -

T. time out of our hands, our hands -

B. time our hands -

T. B. *mp* *p* *f* to Vib.

Vln. 1 *mf* *mp* *pp*

Vln. 2 *p* *f* *pp*

Vla. *p* *f* *mp* *pp*

Vc. *p* *f* *p* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

148 Slower, freely; ♩ = ca. 54

152 **O**

S. *p* Let's learn _____ to ask on - ly when the

A. *p* then let's learn _____ to time our ask - ing. Let's learn _____ to ask on - ly when the

T. *p* then let's learn to time _____ our ask - ing. Let's learn _____ to ask on - ly when the

B. _____

Vib. **Vibraphone**
mf *mp*

Vln. 1 *pp* *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mf* *pp*

Vc. *f* *mp* *pp* *mf* *f*

Pno. *mf*

157

S. *f* an - swer could be yes- *p* will be yes-

A. *f* an - swer could be yes- *p* will be yes-

T. *f* an - swer could be yes- *p* will be yes-

B. *p* will be yes-

Vib. *f* *pp* *mp*

Vln. 1 *f* pizz. *pp* arco *mp*

Vln. 2 *p* *f* pizz. *pp* *mp*

Vla. *p* *f* pizz. *p* arco *mp*

Vc. *p* *f* pizz. *p* arco *mp*

Pno. *f* *mp* *mf*

If I Say Yes
Full Score

16

161 *rall.* **P** In time; ♩ = ca. 60

S. *mf*

A. *mf*

T. *mf*

B. *mf*

Vib. bowed. *mf* ord. 3

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *rall.* In time; ♩ = ca. 60 *p* *mp* *mf*

168 **Q**

S. *p* *mp* *pp* *p*
so there is some small chance of it stay-ing yes, so there is some small chance. so there is some small

A. *pp* *p*
So there is some small chance, So there is some

T. *p*
So there is some small chance of it

B.

Vib. bowed. *mp* to Mar.

Vln. 1 *ppp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *sim.*

Vln. 2 *ppp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *sim.*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *sub. ppp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *sim.*

Pno. *ppp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *sim.*

185 rit. **S** Like a lullaby; ♩ = 60

S. live.

A. live.

T. live.

B. live.

Vib. Solo *p* *mf*

Vln. 1 *ff*

Vln. 2 *ff*

Vla. Solo *p* *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Pno. *f* *mp* *ff* rit.

S Like a lullaby; ♩ = 60

T 192 *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

S. When I was small, un - a - ble to sleep and im - ag - in - ing some - where a love I had - n't

A. *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

T. *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

B. *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

Vib. *p*

ah un - a - ble to sleep, ah some - where a love

199 *p* *mf*

S. met, im - ag - in - ing that love a - wake, im - ag - in - ing that love im - ag - in - ing me too, I am

A. *p* *mp* *mf*

T. *p* *mp* *mf*

B. *p* *mf*

ah that love, oo I am

208 *ff* *f* *mf* *mp*

S. cer - tain that per - son was you, I am cer - tain that per - son was you. I am

A. cer - tain that per - son was you, oo I am

T. cer - tain that per - son was you I am cer - tain that per - son was you.

B. cer - tain that per - son was you, oo

208 *ff* *mf* *mp*

Vln. 1 *ff* *mf* *mp*

Vln. 2 *ff* *mf* *mp*

Vla. *ff* *mf* *mp*

Vc. *ff* *mf* *mp*

216 *mf* *rit.* **U** Slightly faster; ♩ = ca. 63 *molto rit.*

S. cer - tain that per - son was you.

A. cer - tain that per - son was you.

T. oo

B. oo

216 *p* *mp* *pp*

Vln. 1 *p* *mp* *pp*

Vln. 2 *p* *mp* *pp*

Vla. *p* *mp* *pp*

Vc. *p* *mp* *pp*

224 ♩ = ca. 48 *f* *mf*

Vib. *f* *mf*

Vln. 1 *ff* *mf*

Vln. 2 *ff* *mf*

Vla. *ff* *mf*

Vc. *ff* *mf*

Pno. *ff* *mf*

If I Say Yes
Full Score

20

229 **V**

S. *pp* I wish I knew a - noth - er word for all of this: *mf* *pp*

A. *pp* I wish I knew a - noth - er word for all of this: *mf* *pp*

T. *pp* I wish I knew a - noth - er word for all of this: *mf* *pp*

B. *pp* I wish I knew a - noth - er word for all of this: *mf* *pp*

Vib. *p* *mf* to T.B.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Pno. *pp* *mp* *mf*

235 **W**

S. *mp* *f* *p* do I do.

A. *mp* *f* *p* do I do.

T. *mp* *f* *p* do I do.

B. *mp* *f* *p* do I do.

T. B. Tubular Bells *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vc. *p*

Pno. *p* *mf*

poco rit. . . Slightly faster; $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 52$

molto rit. . . . $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 40$