

SAUNDER
CHOI

MEET ME FOR
NOCHE BUENA

for SMATBB div. a cappella

SAUNDER CHOI *music*



PROGRAM NOTES:

Growing up, a *paról* was both a familiar and expected sight during the holidays— hanging by windows, attached to street lamps, all around malls and other public spaces, in the zeitgeist of every Filipino. They can be as simple as ones crafted from bamboo and colorful Japanese paper, or as elaborate as those made from capiz shells and even LED lights. Aileen’s poetry paints a joyous, nostalgic, and colorful picture of *Noche Buena* — a Christmas Eve celebration shared amongst Spanish colonized countries. The ubiquitous Philippine star lantern forges a link between past and present. It symbolizes the transfer of tradition from one place to another, bringing along with it other holiday traditions like *bibingka* (a traditional baked rice cake) and *queso de bola* (a ball of red Edam cheese) — because is it even a Filipino gathering without tons of food?

In the middle of this new carol, as we “sing our favorite Christmas songs,” I took the opportunity to quote one of my favorite ones while growing up — *Payapang Daigdig* (Peaceful World) by Felipe De Leon — our version of Silent Night. I specifically included the phrase *sa bughaw na langit* (in blue sky) because it is an image that is shared amongst cultures no matter where you are.

At its heart, *Meet Me for Noche Buena* is really about journeys and relationships; people bringing and sharing their various holiday traditions in new places — whether you’re an American in Japan, an Italian in Argentina, or, like Aileen and myself, Filipino immigrants who have found a home in California.

Meet Me for Noche Buena is commissioned by Pacific Chorale and artistic director Robert Istad. It received its premiere in *Carols by Candlelight* on December 2022.

Meet Me for Noche Buena

(Pasko na naman!)

Follow the story of the paról
Haggled and hand-carried
Tarried, gloried and ferried
From Quiapo to San Francisco
Now hanging on my window

Follow the string of lights
We’ll sing carols tonight
Everything’s big and bright
A little Christmas charm
Greets you with open arms

(Pasko na naman!)

Meet me for Noche Buena
Where it’s not quite like home
But a different kind of warm

Meet me for Noche Buena
Where it’s merry at midnight
Gather and give thanks
Gather old friends new

We’ll countdown to midnight
Have some hot tsokolate
Bibingka and Queso de bola
At iba pa

We’ll open presents
Be children again for a moment
Making star lanterns
With bamboo and paper
To light our way back home

You’ll find me where the holidays
Are merriest, look for the paról
Brightest in darkest night
I’ll be singing my favorite
Christmas song. All I want is home.

-Aileen Cassinetta

Macaronic IPA bank and translation

Pasko na naman (*It’s Christmas once again*)
/pas'ko na na'man/

Paról (*Philippine star lantern*)
/pa'rol/

Quiapo (*a district in Manila*)
/'kja.poʔ/

Tsokolate (*chocolate*)
/tʃo.ko'la.tɛ/

Bibingka (*a baked rice cake*)
/bi'biŋ.ka/

At iba pa (*etcetera*)
/ʔat ʔi'ba pa/

Queso de bola (*Edam cheese*)
/'ke.so de 'bo.la/

Sa bughaw na langit (*In the blue sky*)
/sa bu'haʊ na 'la.ŋit/

Payapang daigdig (*peaceful world*)
/pa'ja.paŋ da'ig'dig/

Tagalog Diction Guide:

1. Vowels are similar to Spanish/Italian pure vowels.
2. Consonants are dry and not aspirated.
3. When singing diphthongs in a held note, prolong the more open vowel.
4. R's are either flipped or rolled, depending on the note length.
5. Glottals are present and gentle, but not exaggerated.

3

S. *mp*
 ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas -

M. *mp*
 ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas -

A.
 Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man,

T.
 - - - - -

Bar.
 - - - - -

B.
 - - - - - *mp*
 Pas -

Reh. Pno. *mp*

5

S. *mp*
 ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas -

M. *mp*
 ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas -

A. *mp*
 Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man,

T. *mp*
 Pas - ko, Pas - ko.

Bar. *mp*
 Pas - ko, Pas - ko.

B. *mp*
 ko, Pas - ko. Pas -

Reh. Pno. *mp*

7

S. *poco f*
 ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas -

M. *poco f*
 ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas -

A. *poco f*
 Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na -

T. *poco f*
 Pas - ko, Pas - ko. Pas -

Bar. *poco f*
 Pas - ko, Pas - ko, Pas -

B. *poco f*
 ko, Pas - ko, Pas - ko, Pas -

Reh. Pno. *poco f*

9

S. *poco f*
 ko, Pas - ko, Pas - ko.

M. *poco f*
 ko, Pas - ko, Pas - ko.

A. *poco f*
 man, Pas - ko, Pas - ko. Pas -

T. *poco f*
 ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko Pas -

Bar. *poco f*
 ko. Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man,

B. *poco f*
 ko. Pas - ko, Pas - ko.

Reh. Pno. *poco f*

11

S.

M.

A.

ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man. hmmm mp

T.

ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man. hmmm mp

Bar.

B.

Reh. Pno.

13

A

S.

hmmm hmmm

M.

hmmm hmmm

A.

hmmm hmmm

T.

*close to 'ng' and 'n'

ding - - - gan ding - gan

Bar.

Fol - low the sto - ry of the pa - ról

B.

Fol - low the sto - ry of the pa - ról

Reh. Pno.

19

S. *ding - - - gan*
*close to 'ng' and 'n'

M. *ding - - - gan*

A. *hmm*

T. *ding - gan* *hmm*

Bar. *hag - gled and hand - car - ried,*

B. *hag - gled and hand - car - ried,*

Reh. Pno.

25

S. *ding* *ooh* *From mp*

M. *ding* *ooh* *From mp*

A. *hmm* *ooh* *From*

T. *hmm* *ding - gan* *ooh*

Bar. *tar - ried, glo - ried, and fer - ried.*

B. *tar - ried, glo - ried, and fer - ried.*

Reh. Pno. *mp*

31

S. *mf* *p*
 Quia - po to San Fran - cis - co, the pa - ról-

M. *mf* *p*
 Quia - po to San Fran - cis - co, the pa - ról-

A. *mf* *p*
 Quia - po to San Fran - cis - co, the pa - ról-

T. *mp* *mf* *p*
 ooh the pa - ról-

Bar. *mf* *p*
 ooh the pa -

B. *mf* *p*
 ooh the pa -

Reh. Pno. *mf* *p*

37

S. *mp*
 now hang - ing on my win - dow.

M. *mp*
 hmm

A. *mp*
 hmm

T. *mp*
 ding - - gan ding - gan

Bar. *mp*
 ról- ding - - gan ding - gan
 *close to 'ng' and 'n'

B. *mp*
 ról- ding - - gan ding - gan

Reh. Pno. *mp*

B

43 *mp+*

S. Fol - low the string of lights. We'll sing ca - rols to -

M. *mp*
ooh ooh

A. *mp+*
Fol - low the string of lights. We'll sing ca - rols to -

T. *mp*
ooh ooh

Bar. *mp*
ooh ooh

B. *mp*
ding - - - gan ding - - - gan ding - - - gan

Reh. Pno. *mp*

49 *mf*

S. night. Ev - 'ry - thing's big and bright. A

M. *mf*
ah Ev - 'ry - thing's big and bright. A

A. *mf*
night. Ev - 'ry - thing's big and bright. A

T. *mf*
ah Ev - 'ry - thing's big and bright

Bar. *mf*
ah Ev - 'ry - thing's big and bright

B. *mf*
ah Ev - 'ry - thing's big and bright

Reh. Pno. *mf*

55

S. lit - tle Christ - mas charm greets you with o - pen arms.

M. lit - tle Christ - mas charm ooh Pas -

A. lit - tle Christ - mas charm ooh Pas -

T. *mp* ooh ah Pas -

Bar. *mp* ooh ah Pas - ko! Pas -

B. *mp* ooh ah Pas - ko! Pas -

Reh. Pno. *mp*

61

S. *poco f* Meet me for No - che Bue - na,

M. *poco f* ko na na - man! Meet me for No - che Bue - na,

A. *poco f* ko na na - man! Meet me for No - che Bue - na,

T. *poco f* ko na na - man! Meet me for No - che Bue - na,

Bar. *poco f* ko na na - man! Meet me for No - che Bue - na,

B. *poco f* ko na na - man! Meet me for No - che Bue - na,

Reh. Pno. *poco f*

C

67

S. Meet me for No - che Bue - na, where it's not quite like home but a

M. Meet me for No - che Bue - na, where it's not quite like home but a

A. Meet me for No - che Bue - na where it's not quite like home but a

T. Meet me for No - che Bue - na, ooh

Bar. Meet me for No - che Bue - na ooh

B. Meet me for No - che Bue - na ooh

Reh. Pno.

73

S. diff - 'rent kind of warm Oh

M. diff - 'rent kind of warm, Pas - ko na na - man!

A. diff - 'rent kind of warm, Pas - ko na na - man!

T. diff - 'rent kind of warm, Pas - ko na na - man!

Bar. diff - 'rent kind of warm, Pas - ko na na - man!

B. diff - 'rent kind of warm, Pas - ko na na - man!

Reh. Pno.

79

S. Meet me for No - che Bue - na, Meet me for No - che

M. Meet me for No - che Bue - na, Meet me for No - che

A. Meet me for No - che Bue - na, Meet me for

T. Meet me for No - che Bue - na, Meet me for No - che

Bar. Meet me for No - che Bue - na, Meet me for

B. Meet me for No - che Bue - na, Meet me for

Reh. Pno.

85

S. Bue - na, where it's mer - ry at mid - night. ooh

M. Bue - na, where it's mer - ry at mid - night. ooh

A. No - che Bue - na where it's mer - ry at mid - night. ooh

T. Bue - na, ooh Ga - ther and give thanks.

Bar. No - che Bue - na ooh Ga - ther and give thanks.

B. No - che Bue - na ooh Ga - ther and give thanks.

Reh. Pno.

91

S. *mp*
Ga - ther old friends and new. No - che

M. *mp*
Ga - ther old friends and new. No - che

A. *mp*
Ga - ther old friends and new. No - che

T. *mp*
Ga - ther old friends and new, old friends and new. Pas -

Bar. *mp*
Ga - ther old friends and new, old friends and new.

B. *mp*
Ga - ther old friends and new, old friends and new.

Reh. Pno. *mp*

D

97

S. *mf*
Bue - na! Pas - ko,

M. *mf*
Bue - na! Pas - ko, Pas -

A. *mf*
Bue - na! Pas - ko, Pas -

T. *mf*
ko na na - man, Pas - ko. na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man,

Bar. *mf*

B. *mf*
Pas -

Reh. Pno. *mf*

99

S. *mf* Pas - ko!

M. ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man!

A. ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man!

T. *mf* Pas - ko!

Bar. *mf* Pas - ko, Pas - ko!

B. ko, Pas - ko, Pas -

Reh. Pno. *mf*

101

S.

M. *p* hmm

A. *p* hmm

T. oh *p* hmm

Bar. oh *p* hmm

B. ko!

Reh. Pno. *p*

E

107

mp

S. We'll count - down to mid - night, have some

M. ooh

mp

A. We'll count - down to mid - night, have some

T. ooh ooh

Bar. ooh

B. ding - - - gan ding - - - gan

Reh. Pno. *mp*

113

mf

S. hot tso - ko - la - te, Bi - bing - ka at Que - so de

M. ooh ah Bi - bing - ka at Que - so de

mf

A. hot tso - ko - la - te, Bi - bing - ka at Que - so de

mf

T. ah Bi - bing - ka at

mf

Bar. ooh ah Bi - bing - ka at

mf

B. ding - - - gan ah Bi - bing - ka at

Reh. Pno. *mf*

119

S. *p*
bo - la, at i - ba pa, at i - ba pa.

M. *p*
bo - la, at i - ba pa, at i - ba pa.

A. *p*
bo - la, at i - ba pa, at i - ba pa.

T. *p*
Que - so de bo - la, at i - ba pa, at i - ba pa.

Bar. *p*
Que - so de bo - la, at i - ba pa.

B. *p*
Que - so de bo - la, at i - ba pa.

Reh. Pno. *p*

125 **F**

S. *p*
gan gan ding ding ding ding - gan

M. *p*
ding ding - gan gan gan

A. *p*
ding - gan gan ding gan ding

T. *mp*
We'll o - pen pre - sents, be chil - dren a - gain for a

Bar. *mp*
We'll o - pen pre - sents, be chil - dren a - gain for a

B. *mp*
We'll o - pen pre - sents, be chil - dren a - gain for a

Reh. Pno. *mp*

131 *mf*

S. ding Ma - king star lan - terns with bam - boo and pa - per to

M. Ma - king star lan - terns with bam - boo and pa - per to

A. - gan Ma - king star lan - terns with bam - boo and pa - per to

T. mo - ment. oh to

Bar. mo - ment. oh to

B. mo - ment. oh to

Reh. Pno. *mf*

137 *poco f*

S. light our way back home.

M. light our way back home. Pas -

A. light our way back home. Pas -

T. light our way back home. Pas -

Bar. light our way back. Pas - ko! Pas -

B. light our way back. Pas - ko! Pas -

Reh. Pno. *poco f*

143 *mf* **G**

S. You'll find me where the ho - li - days are mer - ri - est.

M. ko na na - man! oh

A. ko na na - man! oh Look for the pa -

T. ko na na - man! You'll find me where the ho - li - days are mer - ri - est.

Bar. ko na na - man! oh Look for the pa -

B. ko na na - man! oh Look for the pa -

Reh. Pno.

149 *mp* *mf* *poco f* *molto rall.* . . .

S. oh ah

M. oh I'll be sing - ing my fa - vo - rite

A. ról, bright - est in dark - est night. ah

T. oh I'll be sing - ing my fa - vo - rite

Bar. ról, bright - est in dark - est night. ah

B. ról, bright - est in dark - est night. ah

Reh. Pno.

155 // *meno mosso* rit. *p dolce*

S. Solo

S. oh _____ ding _____ ding _____ ooh _____

M. Christ - mas songs. ding _____ ding _____

A. oh _____ gan _____ gan _____

T. Christ - mas songs. gan _____ gan _____

Bar. oh _____

B. oh _____

Reh. Pno. *mp* *p*

PERUSAL SCORE

H Slow and nostalgic, poco rubato ♩ = 72

"Payapang Daigdig" (Felipe De Leon)

162

S. Solo *mp*

ooh ooh

S. *pp* *p*
(ng) all I want

M. *pp* *p*
(ng) all I want,

A. *pp* *p*
(nn) all I want,

T. *pp* *p*
(nn) all I want,

Bar. *p*
(nn) all I want,

B. *p*
(nn) all I want,

Reh. Pno. *mf*

poco rit.

168

S. Solo sa bug - haw na la - ngit.

S. is home.

M. all I want is home.

A. all I want is home.

T. all I want is home.

Bar. all I want is home.

B. all I want is home.

Reh. Pno.

I Più mosso $\text{♩} = 92$

173 *p dolce*

S. Solo

Meet me for No - che Bue - na, _____ Meet me for No - che

S. *pp*
hmm

M. *pp*
hmm

A. *pp*
hmm

T. *pp*
hmm

Bar.

B.

Reh. Pno. *p*

179

S. Solo

Bue - na, _____ where it's not quite like home but a diff - 'rent kind of

S.

M.

A.

T.

Bar.

B.

Reh. Pno.

PERUSAL SCORE

J

185

S. Solo *mp*
warm. Oh Meet me for No - che

S. *p*
oh a diff - 'rent kind of warm

M. *p*
oh a diff - 'rent kind of warm

A. *p*
oh a diff - 'rent kind of warm

T. *p*
oh a diff - 'rent kind of warm

Bar. *pp* *p*
oh a diff - 'rent kind of warm

B. *p*
a diff - 'rent kind of warm

Reh. Pno. *mp*

PERUSAL SCORE

198 rit. a tempo

S. Solo *p* mid - night. Ga - ther and give thanks *mp warmly*

S. *mp warmly* ooh oh Ga - ther old friends and

M. *mp warmly* oh Ga - ther old friends and

A. *mp warmly* oh Ga - ther old friends and

T. *mp warmly* oh Ga - ther old friends and

Bar. *mp warmly* oh Ga - ther old friends and

B. *mp warmly* oh Ga - ther old friends and

Rech. Pno. *(mp)*

