

SAUNDER
CHOI

MEET ME FOR
NOCHE BUENA

for SSAA 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 Dr. Robert Istad. It received its premiere in *Carols by Candlelight* on December 2022. This version for SSAA was commissioned by the Peninsula Women’s Chorus and artistic director Dr. Anne K. Hege.

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'ʔig'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 -

A1.
 Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man,

A2. *mp bell tones*
 Pas -

Pno. (reh) *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 -

A1. *mp*
 Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man,

A2. *mp*
 ko, Pas - ko, Pas - ko, Pas - ko.

Pno. (reh) *mp*

7

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

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

A1. Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na -

A2. Pas - ko, Pas - ko, Pas - ko, Pas -

Pno. (reh)

9

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

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

A1. *poco f* man, Pas - ko, Pas - ko Pas -

A2. ko. Pas - ko, Pas - ko.

Pno. (reh) *poco f*

11 *mp*

S. *hmm*

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

A1. *mp*
ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man. *hmm*

A2. *mp*
hmm

Pno. (reh) *mp*

13 **A** *p* bell tones

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

M. *p*
hmm

A1. *mp+ bring out*
Fol - low the sto - ry of the pa - ról.

A2. *p*
hmm

Pno. (reh) *p*
mp

19

S. ding - gan hmm

M. hmm

A1. hag - gled and hand - car - ried,
*close to 'ng' and 'n'

A2. ding - - - gan

Pno. (reh)

25

S. hmm ding - gan ooh From *mp*

M. tar - ried, glo - ried, ooh From *mp*

A1. tar - ried, glo - ried, and fer - ried.

A2. hmm ooh

Pno. (reh) *mp*

31 *mf* *p*

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

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

A1. ooh the pa -

A2. ooh the pa -

Pno. (reh) *mf* *p*

37 *mp*

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

M. hmm

A1. ról- hmm
*close to 'ng' and 'n'

A2. ról- ding - - gan ding - - gan

Pno. (reh)

B

43 *mp*

S. ooh _____ ooh _____

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

A1. *mp+*
Fol - low the string of lights. _____ We'll sing ca - rols to -

A2. *mp*
ding - - - gan ding - - - gan ding - - - gan

Pno. (reh) *mp*

49 *mf mel.*

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

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

A1. *mf*
night. _____ Ev - 'ry - thing's big and bright _____

A2. *mf*
ah _____ Ev - 'ry - thing's big and bright _____

Pno. (reh) *mf*

55

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

M. lit - tle Christ - mas charm Pas - ko! Pas -

A1. *mp* ooh ah ooh Pas -

A2. *mp* ooh ah Pas - ko! Pas -

Pno. (reh)

61

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

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

A1. *poco f* ko na na - man! Meet me for No - che Bue - na,

A2. *poco f* ko na na - man! Meet me for No - che Bue - na,

Pno. (reh)

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

A1. Meet me for No - che, No - che Bue - na ooh _____

A2. Meet me for No - che Bue - na ooh _____

Pno. (reh)

73

S. diff - 'rent kind of warm _____ Oh _____

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

A1. diff - 'rent kind of warm, _____ Pas - ko na na - man!

A2. diff - 'rent kind of warm, _____ Pas - ko na na - man!

Pno. (reh)

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

A1. Meet me for No - che Bue - na, Meet me for No - che,

A2. Meet me for No - che Bue - na, Meet me for

Pno. (reh)

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 _____

A1. No - che Bue - na ooh _____ *f* bring out Ga - ther and give thanks.

A2. No - che Bue - na ooh _____ *f* bring out Ga - ther and give thanks.

Pno. (reh)

91

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

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

A1. *poco f* *mp*
Ga - ther old friends and new, old friends and new. Pas -

A2. *poco f* *mp*
Ga - ther old friends and new, old friends and new. Pas -

Pno. (reh) *mp*

D

97

S. Bue - na! Pas - ko,

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

A1. ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man,

A2. *mf*
ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko Pas -

Pno. (reh) *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!

A1. *mf* Pas - ko, Pas - ko na na - man, Pas - ko na na - man!

A2. ko, Pas - ko, Pas -

Pno. (reh)

101

S. *p* hmm

M. *p* hmm

A1. *p* hmm

A2. *p* ko! hmm

Pno. (reh) *p*

E

107

S. *mp* ooh

M. *mp mel.* We'll count - down to mid - night, have some

A1. *mp* We'll count - down to mid - night, have some

A2. ding - - - gan ding - - - gan

Pno. (reh) *mp*

113

S. *mf mel.* ooh ah Bi - bing - ka at Que - so de

M. *mf* hot tso - ko - la - te, Bi - bing - ka at Que - so de

A1. *mf* hot tso - ko - la - te, Bi - bing - ka at

A2. *mf* ding - - - gan ah Bi - bing - ka at

Pno. (reh) *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.

A1. *p*
Que - so de bo - la, at i - ba pa, at i - ba pa.

A2. *p*
Que - so de bo - la, at i - ba pa.

Pno. (reh) *p*

125

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

M. *p*
ding - gan ding - gan ding - gan ding - gan

A1. *mp melody*
We'll o - pen pre - sents, be chil - dren a - gain for a

A2. *mp*
We'll o - pen pre - sents, be chil - dren a - gain for a

Pno. (reh) *mp*

131

mel. *mf*

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

M. ding - gan Ma - king star lan - terns with bam - boo and pa - per_____ to

A1. mo - ment._____ oh_____ to

A2. mo - ment._____ oh_____ to

Pno. (reh) *mf*

137

poco f

S. light our way back home._____

M. light_____ our way light back. home._____ Pas -

A1. light_____ our_____ way light back home._____ Pas -

A2. light our_____ way_____ back. *poco f* Pas - ko! Pas - ko! Pas -

Pno. (reh) *poco f*

143 *mf* **G**

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

M. *mp* ko na na - man! oh *mf* Look for the pa -

A1. *mp* ko na na - man! oh *mf* Look for the pa -

A2. *mf* ko na na - man! You'll find me where the ho - li - days are mer - ri - est. _____

Pno. (reh) *mf*

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

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

M. *mf* ról, bright - est in dark - est night. ah fa - vo - rite

A1. *mf* ról, bright - est in dark - est night. ah

A2. *mp* *poco f* oh I'll be sing - ing my fa - vo - rite

Pno. (reh) *poco f*

155 // **meno mosso** *p dolce*

S. Solo

S. *mp bell tones* ooh

M. *poco f* // *mp bell tones* ding ding

A1. *poco f* // *mp bell tones* gan gan

A2. // *mp bell tones* gan gan

Pno. (reh) // *mp* *dim.* *p*

Christ - mas songs. ding ding
 Christ - mas songs. ding ding
 Christ - mas songs. gan gan
 Christ - mas songs. gan gan

H Slow and nostalgic, poco rubato ♩ = 72
 "Payapang Daigdig" (Felipe De Leon)

162 *mp*

S. Solo

S. *pp* ooh ooh all I want

M. *pp* ooh all I want,

A1. *pp* ooh all I want,

A2. *pp* ooh all I want,

Pno. (reh)

(ng) ooh all I want
 (ng) ooh all I want,
 (nn) ooh all I want,
 (nn) ooh all I want,

poco rit.

168

S. Solo

sa bug - haw na la - ngit.

S.

is home.

M.

all I want is home.

A1.

all I want is home.

A2.

all I want is home.

Pno. (reh)

p

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

I Più mosso ♩ = 92

173

S. Solo

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

S.

hmm.

M.

hmm

A1.

hmm

A2.

hmm

Pno. (reh)

p dolce

pp

pp

pp

pp

179

S. Solo

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

S.

hmm

M.

hmm

A1.

hmm

A2.

hmm

Pno. (reh)

185

S. Solo

warm. Oh Meet me for No - che

S.

oh a diff - 'rent kind of warm

M.

oh a diff - 'rent kind of warm

A1.

oh a diff - 'rent kind of warm

A2.

oh a diff - 'rent kind of warm

Pno. (reh)

J *mp*

p

p

p

p

p

191

S. Solo
Bue - na, Meet me for No - che Bue - na, where it's mer - ry at

S.
oh

M.
oh

A1.
oh

A2.
oh

Pno. (reh)

p

p

p

p

p

p

198

S. Solo
mid - night. Ga - ther and give thanks

S.
ooh oh Ga - ther old friends and

M.
oh Ga - ther old friends and

A1.
oh Ga - ther old friends and

A2.
oh Ga - ther old friends and

Pno. (reh)

rit. a tempo

p

mp warmly

mp warmly

mp warmly

mp warmly

mp

K Moderately ♩ = 110

rit.

204

S. Solo

No - che Bue - na.

S.

new. ooh

M.

new, old friends and new. ooh

A1.

new, old friends and new. ooh

A2.

new, old friends and new. ooh

Pno. (reh)

p

molto rit.

211

S. Solo

ooh

S.

ooh

M.

ooh

A1.

ooh

A2.

ooh

Pno. (reh)

pp float