

Singkap Siaga
TTBB, body percussion

Tracy Wong

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TTBB 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.

Rehearsal tracks for this piece, prepared by the composer-arranger, are available for purchase at GraphitePublishing.com



Dr. Tracy Wong is a Malaysian-Canadian choral conductor, music educator, composer, vocalist, and pianist. Dr. Wong is passionate about helping choral leaders and educators to provide unique experiences for their singers and students through collaborative commissions, customized workshops, festivals, and artist residencies. She does this through focusing on the balance of performance practice considerations, vocal and acoustic explorations, and choral artistry and heart.

She holds a Doctor in Musical Arts and Master in Music Performance (Choral Conducting) from the University of Toronto under the tutelage of Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt, and a Bachelor of Music (Piano Performance) from the University of Newcastle, Australia. She is a two-time recipient of the 2016 & 2017 Elmer Iseler National Graduate Fellowship in Choral Conducting, a nominee of the Leslie Bell Prize for Choral Conducting, and holds teaching awards from McMaster University (2018-19 McMaster University Student Union Teaching Award) and Western University (2024-25 Vice-Provost (Academic Programs) Award for Excellence in Collaborative Teaching).

As a composer-arranger, Dr. Wong advocates for repertoire-based music education and her choral works support the development of vocal technique, musicianship skills, and artistry. Featured in numerous reading sessions and choral festivals, her music reflects the blend of different lived experiences, languages, and musical elements that continue to influence her compositional writing. In 2020, she launched the “Tracy Wong Series” (exclusively distributed by Graphite Publishing) that features her self-published choral works and those of other composer-arrangers. She was the 2023-2024 Composer-in-residence of Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and the 2019 Canadian Composer Feature for the Canadian Kodály Journal, *Alla Breve*.

Dr. Wong continues to actively collaborate with choral organizations in North America and internationally on conducting events, competition adjudications, workshops/clinics, commissioned projects, and residencies. Her choral works are widely published and performed internationally. For more information and to connect with Dr. Tracy Wong, please visit www.tracywongmusic.com

Body Percussion

✕ finger snaps

↑ foot stomps

┌ thigh pats

┌ hand claps

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

Singkap Siaga

for TTBB & body percussion

Tracy Wong

Strong! (♩ = 60)

ff soloists: bright tone throughout

Solo

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bass 1

Bass 2

6

Solo

T1

T2

B1

B2

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

10 *f* *spoken*

Solo *f* *spoken*

T1 Sing - kap Sia - ga

T2 *spoken*

Sing - kap Sia - ga

B1 *spoken* *mf* *less heavy, more step-like*

Sing - kap Sia - ga gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong

all basses read and perform this stave of body percussion

B2 *spoken* *mf* *less heavy, more step-like*

Sing - kap Sia - ga gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

Body Percussion

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

14

T1

T2 gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong

B1 gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak dak gong

B2 gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

18 **FOR PERUSAL ONLY** *mf*

T1 gong gong ding ding ding

T2 gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak dak gong gong gong ding ding ding

B1 gong gong dak dak gong

B2 gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

21 **FOR PERUSAL ONLY**

T1 gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding

T2 gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding ding ding

B1 gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak dak gong

B2 gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

24

T1
gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding

T2
gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong

B1
gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding

B2
gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

28 Solo enter on repeat

Solo
Ah

T1
Ah dong ding ding Ah

T2
dong ding ding Ah dong ding ding

B1
gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng

B2
gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding

snaps only on repeat

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

Solo *31*

T1 *mp* *f*

T2 *f* *mp*

B1

B2

34

Solo

T1 *mf*

T2 *mf*

B1 *mf*

B2 *mf*

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

37 *mp* **FOR PERUSAL ONLY**

T1 ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

T2 *mp* ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

B1 *mp* gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

B2 *mp* gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

40 *f* *mp* **FOR PERUSAL ONLY**

T1 ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

T2 *f* *mp* ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

B1 *f* *mp* ding ding ding ding ding ding gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

B2 *f* *mp* ding ding ding ding ding ding gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

heavier stomps

43

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

T1 *f* ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding Ah _____ *mp* dong ding ding

T2 *mp* ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding *f* dong ding ding Ah _____

B1 *mf* gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng

B2 *mf* gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding

47

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

T1 *f* Ah _____ *mp* dong ding ding *f* Ah _____

T2 *mp* _____ *f* dong ding ding Ah _____ *mp* dong ding ding

B1 gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng

B2 gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

50

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

T1 gong gong gong gong gong gong

T2 ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding gong gong gong gong gong gong

B1 gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng gong gong gong gong gong gong

B2 gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong gong gong gong gong

f

(♩ = 140)

53 *ff* *soloists: bright tone throughout*

Solo Hey...

T1 gong! Ah h! hah!

T2 gong! hah! hah! hah! hah! *spoken, strong* *f* *T2 only enter on repeat* Sing kap! ding ding

B1 gong! gong gong cak! tsng gong

B2 gong! gong gong cak! tsng gong

heavier stomps

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

56

T1

hah! hah! hah!

T2

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

B1

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

B2

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

59

T1

f ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging

T2

f Sing - kap! ding ding Sia - ga

B1

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

B2

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

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

61

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

T1
ding ging ding ging ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

T2
Sing - kap! ding ding gong gong gong gong gong gong Sing - kap! ding ding

B1
gong gong cak! tsng gong ding ding ding ding ding ding gong gong cak! tsng gong

B2
gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong gong gong gong gong gong cak! tsng gong

64

T1
ding ging ding ging ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding HEY! ding

T2
Sia - ga Sing - kap! ding ding ding ding HEY! ding

B1
gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong HEY! gong

B2
gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong HEY! gong

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

T1

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

T2

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

B1

mp

gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

B2

mp

gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

70

T1

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

T2

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

B1

gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

B2

gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

73

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

ff

T1
ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging Si - ing - kap Sia - a - ga Sia - a - ga!

T2
Sing - kap! ding ding Sia - a - ga Sia - a - ga!

B1
gong tsng gong Si - ing - kap Sia - a - ga Sia - a - ga!

B2
gong tsng gong Si - ing - kap Sia - a - ga Sia - a - ga!

76

no rit.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

T1
Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah! _____

T2
Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah! _____

B1
Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah! _____

B2
Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah! _____

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