

Singkap Siaga  
SSAA, body percussion

Tracy Wong

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# Singkap Siaga

SSAA choir and & 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” 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 [sjaɡa]

## 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.



**Dr. Tracy Wong** hails from Malaysia and is a choral conductor, music educator, composer, vocalist, and pianist. She advocates for repertoire-based music education by writing pieces that are teaching tools for singers to develop vocal technique, musicianship skills, and artistry. As part of her continued search to define her Chinese-Malaysian-Canadian identity, Dr. Wong’s music also shows the coming-together of different languages and musical elements that continue to influence her composition writing.

Dr. Wong was the 2019 Canadian Composer Feature for the Canadian Kodály Journal, *Alla Breve*. She collaborates regularly with choral organizations in Canada and Malaysia on commissioned choral projects and workshops, and her pieces are featured at numerous reading sessions. Her works have been performed by Malaysian, North American, European, and Southeast Asian choirs at international competitions and festivals.

Currently residing in Ontario, Canada, Dr. Wong is the Assistant Professor of Choral Studies at University of Western Ontario, where she conducts Chorale and Les Choristes ensembles, and conducts the Grand Philharmonic Youth Choir in Kitchener, Ontario. She holds a Doctor in Musical Arts and Master in Music Performance (Choral Conducting) degrees from the University of Toronto and is a recipient of the 2016 & 2017 Elmer Iseler National Graduate Fellowship in Choral Conducting.

Dr. Wong’s choral works are available at Graphite Publishing (US), Cypress Choral Music (Canada), and Young Choral Academy (Malaysia).

[www.tracywongmusic.com](http://www.tracywongmusic.com)

## Body Percussion

✕ finger snaps

↑ foot stomps

𠂆 thigh pats

𠂆 hand claps

# FOR PERUSAL ONLY

## Singkap Siaga

for SSAA & body percussion

Tracy Wong

**Strong!** (♩ = 60)

*ff* soloists: bright tone throughout

**FOR PERUSAL ONLY**

Solo  
Soprano 1  
Soprano 2  
Alto 1  
Alto 2

Hah Hah Hah

Hah Hah Hah

Hah Hah Hah

Hah Hah Hah

**FOR PERUSAL ONLY**

6  
Solo  
S1  
S2  
A1  
A2

Hah Hah

Hah Hah

Hah Hah

Hah Hah

# FOR PERUSAL ONLY

# FOR PERUSAL ONLY

10 *f* *spoken*

Solo *f* *spoken*

S1 Sing - kap Sia - ga

# FOR PERUSAL ONLY

S2 *spoken*

S2 Sing - kap Sia - ga

A1 *spoken* *mf* *less heavy, more step-like*

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

all altos read and perform this stave of body percussion

A2 *spoken* *mf* *less heavy, more step-like*

A2 Sing - kap Sia - ga gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

**Body Percussion**

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

14

S1

S2 gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong

# FOR PERUSAL ONLY

A1

A1 gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong

# FOR PERUSAL ONLY

A2

A2 gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong



24

**FOR PERUSAL ONLY**

S1 gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding

S2 gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong gong gong dak dak gong

A1 gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding gong gong ding ding ding

A2 gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

28

*Solo enter on repeat*

Solo *ff* Ah

S1 *f* Ah *mp* dong ding ding *f* Ah

S2 *mp* dong ding ding *f* Ah *mp* dong ding ding

A1 *mf* gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding

A2 *mf* gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng

*snaps only on repeat*

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

31

Solo

S1

*mp* dong ding ding *f* Ah

S2

*f* Ah *mp* dong ding ding ding ding ding ding

A1

gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding

A2

gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng

34

Solo

S1

Ah ding ding ding *mf*

S2

ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding *mf*

A1

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

A2

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

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

37

*mp*

S1

ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

S2

ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

A1

*mp*

gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

A2

*mp*

gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

40

*f*

*mp*

S1

ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

S2

*f*

ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

*heavier stomps*

A1

*f*

ding ding ding ding ding ding gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

*heavier stomps*

A2

*f*

ding ding ding ding ding ding gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

*heavier stomps*

43

S1 *f* ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding Ah \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* dong ding ding

S2 \_\_\_\_\_

S2 *mp* ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding *f* dong ding ding Ah \_\_\_\_\_

A1 \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding

A2 \_\_\_\_\_

A2 *mf* gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng

47

S1 *f* Ah \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* dong ding ding *f* Ah \_\_\_\_\_

S2 \_\_\_\_\_

S2 *mp* \_\_\_\_\_ *f* dong ding ding Ah \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* dong ding ding

A1 gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding

A2 \_\_\_\_\_

A2 gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng

50

**FOR PERUSAL ONLY**

S1 gong gong gong gong gong gong

S2 ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding gong gong gong gong gong gong

A1 gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong ding tsng ding gong gong gong gong gong gong

A2 gong gong ding tsng gong gong ding tsng gong gong gong gong gong gong

*f*

(♩ = 140)

53

*ff* soloists: bright tone throughout

Solo Hey...

S1 gong! Ah h! hah!

S2 gong! hah! hah! hah! hah! Sing kap! ding ding

A1 gong! gong gong cak! tsng gong

A2 gong! gong gong cak! tsng gong

*spoken, strong*

*heavier stomps*

*f S2 only enter on repeat*

*heavier stomps*

*f*

*heavier stomps*

*f*

56

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

S1 hah! hah! hah!

S2 Sia - ga Sing kap! ding ding Sia - a - ga

A1 gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong ding ding ding ding ding ding

A2 gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong ding ding ding ding ding ding

59

S1 ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging

S2 Sing - kap! ding ding Sia - ga

A1 gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong

A2 gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

61

S1 ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding

S2 Sing - kap! ding ding ding ding ding ding Sing - kap! ding ding

A1 gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong gong gong gong gong gong cak! tsng gong

A2 gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong gong gong gong gong gong cak! tsng gong

64

S1 ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding HEY! ding

S2 Sia - ga Sing - kap! ding ding ding ding HEY! ding

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

A1 gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong HEY! gong

A2 gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong cak! tsng gong gong gong HEY! gong

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

# FOR PERUSAL ONLY

67

S1 ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging Sia - ga ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging

S2 Sing kap! ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding Sing - kap! ding ding

A1 *mp*  
gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

A2 *mp*  
gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

70

S1 Sia - ga - ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ding Sia - ga

S2 ding ding ding ding ding ding Sing - kap! ding ding ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ding

A1 gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

A2 gong tsng gong gong tsng gong gong tsng gong

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

73 **FOR PERUSAL ONLY** *ff*

S1 ding ging ding ging ding ging ding ging Si - ing - kap Sia - a - ga Sia - a - ga!

S2 Sing - kap! ding ding Sia - a - ga Sia - a - ga!

A1 gong tsng gong Si - ing - kap Sia - a - ga Sia - a - ga!

A2 gong tsng gong Si - ing - kap Sia - a - ga Sia - a - ga!

76 **no rit.**

S1 Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah!

S2 Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah!

**FOR PERUSAL ONLY**

A1 Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah!

A2 Sia - a - ga! Sia - a - ga! hey Hah!

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