

PROGRAM NOTES

Wanting Memories is one of Ysaÿe Barnwell's most frequently performed and best-known compositions. Her words speak to the power of relationships and how those relationships form and shape who we become as people. Those who we call friends, including our parents, influence us in ways that shape a new perspective through which we can view the world if we can only take the time to look.

Beginning with an ostinato bass line, the voices quickly add and layer. Rather than crescendo, the increase in dynamics, which should begin as an introspective *mp*, allows the added voices to create the crescendo as each voice enters at *mp* and remains there. As the second verse enters at measure 58, now is the time to build the dynamics.

TEXT

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me
To see the beauty of the world through my own eyes.

You used to rock me in the cradle of your arms,
You said you'd hold me till the pains of life were gone.
You said you'd comfort me in times like these and now I need you,
And now I need you, and you are gone.

And I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me
To see the beauty of the world through my own eyes.
I thought that you were gone, but now I know you're with me;
you are the voice that whispers all I need to hear.

I know a "please," a "thank you," and a smile will take me far,
I know that I am you and you are me and we are one,
I know that who I am is numbered in each grain of sand,
I know that I've been blessed again and over again.

—Ysaÿe M. Barnwell

Available editions

→ SATB Chorus unaccompanied	9280
SSAA Chorus unaccompanied	9281
SAB unaccompanied	9282

Wanting Memories

from Crossings

for Solo Voice and SATB Chorus unaccompanied

Words and Music by
Ysaÿe M. Barnwell (BMI)

♩ = ca. 83

Solo
(or Small
Ensemble)

Bass

Doom doom__ doom__ doom__ doom doom doom__ doom__ doom__ doom

3

mp

I am

doom doom__ doom__ doom__ doom doom doom__ doom__ doom__ doom

5

sit-ting here want - ing mem-o - ries__ to teach me__ to see the beau-

doom doom__ doom__ doom__ doom doom doom__ doom__ doom__ doom

7

- ty in the world__ through my own__ eyes. Yes I am

doom doom__ doom__ doom__ doom doom doom__ doom__ doom__ doom

9

Solo

Sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries ___ to teach me ___ to see the beau-

S

A *mp*
sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries ___ to teach me ___ to see the beau-

T

B
doom doom ___ doom ___ doom ___ doom doom doom ___ doom ___ doom ___ doom

(for rehearsal only)

11

- ty in the world ___ through my own ___ eyes. ___ You used to

mp
You used to

- ty in the world ___ through my own ___ eyes. ___ You used to

doom doom ___ doom ___ doom ___ doom doom doom ___ doom ___ doom ___ doom

13

rock me in the cradle of your arms, you said you'd
 rock me in the cradle of your arms, you said you'd
 rock me in the cradle of your arms, you said you'd
 doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

15

hold me till the pains of life were gone. You said you'd
 hold me till the pains of life were gone. You said you'd
 hold me till the pains of life were gone. You said you'd
 doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

17

com - fort me in times like these _ and now I need _ you, _ and now I
 com - fort me in times like these _ and now I need _ you, _ and now I
 com - fort me in times like these _ and now I need _ you, _ and now I
 doom doom _ doom _ doom _ doom doom doom _ doom _ doom _ doom doom

19

need you, _ and you are _ gone. _
 need you, _ and you are _ gone. _
 need you, _ and you are _ gone. _
 doom doom _ doom _ doom _ doom doom doom _ doom _ doom _ doom doom

22

So, I am sit-ting here want-ing mem-o-ries_

So, I am sit-ting here want-ing mem-o-ries_

I am sit-ting here want-ing mem-o-ries_

** mp*

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

24

to teach me_ to see the beau-ty in the world_ through my own_

to teach me_ to see the beau-ty in the world_ through my own_

to teach me_ to see the beau-ty in the world_ through my own_

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

* Like an egg shaker

9280

26

eyes. _____ Since you've gone and left me, _____ there's been so _____

eyes. _____ Since you've gone and left me, _____ there's been so _____

eyes. _____ Since you've gone and left me, _____ there's been so _____

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

28

lit-tle beau - ty, _____ but I know _____ I saw it clear - ly through your_

lit-tle beau - ty, _____ but I know _____ I saw it clear - ly through your_

lit-tle beau - ty, _____ but I know _____ I saw it clear - ly through your_

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

30

mf

eyes. Now the world out - side is such a cold and

mf

eyes. Now the world out - side is such a cold and

mf

eyes. Now the world out - side is such a cold and

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

bit - ter place, here in - side I have few things_ that will con -

bit - ter place, here in - side I have few things_ that will con -

bit - ter place, here in - side I have few things_ that will con -

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

9280

34

- sole, and when I try to hear your voice a - bove the
 - sole, and when I try to hear your voice a - bove the
 - sole, and when I try to hear your voice a - bove the
 doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

36

storms of life then I re - mem - ber *dim.*
 storms of life then I re - mem - ber *dim.*
 storms of life then I re - mem - ber *dim.*
 doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

38

mp

all the things that I was told.

mp

all the things that I was told.

mp

all the things that I was told.

doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

40

Yes, I am sit-ting here want-ing mem-o-ries

Yes, I am sit-ting here want-ing mem-o-ries

I am sit-ting here want-ing mem-o-ries

mp

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

— to teach me — to see the beau - ty in the world — through my own —

— to teach me — to see the beau - ty in the world — through my own —

— to teach me — to see the beau - ty in the world — through my own —

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

eyes. — Yes, I am sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries —

eyes. — Yes, I am sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries —

eyes. — Yes, I am sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries —

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

46

— to teach me — to see the beau - ty in the world — through my own —

— to teach me — to see the beau - ty in the world — through my own —

— to teach me — to see the beau - ty in the world — through my own —

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

48

f
— eyes. — I think on the things that made me feel — so won - der - ful when I was

f
— eyes. — I think on the things that made me feel — so won - der - ful when I was

f
— eyes. — I think on the things that made me feel — so won - der - ful when I was

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

50

young. I think on the things that made me laugh, made me dance, made me

young. I think on the things that made me laugh, made me dance, made me

young. I think on the things that made me laugh, made me dance, made me

doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

52

sing. I think on the things that made me grow in - to a be - ing full of

sing. I think on the things that made me grow in - to a be - ing full of

sing. I think on the things that made me grow in - to a be - ing full of

doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

54

pride; think on these things,

pride; think on these things,

pride; think on these things,

doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

This block contains the musical notation for measures 54 and 55. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "pride; think on these things," for the vocal parts and "doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom" for the piano part. A large watermark "Copyrighted Material" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

56

for they are truth.

for they are truth.

for they are truth.

doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

This block contains the musical notation for measures 56 and 57. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "for they are truth." for the vocal parts and "doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom" for the piano part. A large watermark "Copyrighted Material" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

58

mf

And I am sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries _

mf

And I am sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries _

mf

I am sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries _

mp

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

60

to teach me_ to see the beau - ty in the world_ through my own_

to teach me_ to see the beau - ty in the world_ through my own_

to teach me_ to see the beau - ty in the world_ through my own_

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

62

eyes. I thought that you were gone, but now I

eyes. I thought that you were gone, but now I

eyes. I thought that you were gone, but now I

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah I thought that you were gone, but

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

64

know you're with me; you are the voice that whis-pers all I need_

know you're with me; you are the voice that whis-pers all I need_

know you're with me; you are the voice, you whis-per all_

now I know you're with me; you are the voice that whis - pers

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

66 *mf*

— to hear. I know a “please”, a “thank__ you”, and a smile will take me

mf

— to hear. I know a “please”, a “thank__ you”, and a smile will take me

mf

— I need to hear. I know a “please”, a “thank__ you”, and a smile will take me

8 all I need to hear.

doom doom__ doom__ doom__ doom doom doom__ doom__ doom__ doom

68

far, I know that I am you and you are me and

far, I know that I am you and you are me and

far, I know that I am you and you are me and

doom doom__ doom__ doom__ doom doom doom__ doom__ doom__ doom

70

we are one, I know that who I am is num-bered in each

we are one, I know that who I am is num-bered in each

we are one, I know that who I am is num-bered in each

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_

72

grain of sand, I know that I've been blessed a - gain and o - ver_

grain of sand, I know that I've been blessed a - gain and o - ver

grain of sand, sand, sand, I know that I've_ been blessed

grain of sand, I know that I've been blessed a -

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_

a - gain and a - gain and a - gain. a - gain. a - gain and a - gain and a - gain. gain and o - ver a - gain and o - ver a - gain. doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

mp Yes, I am sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries. *mp* Yes, I am sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries. *mp* Yes, I am sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries. shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

78

— to teach me — to see the beau - ty in the world — through my own —

— to teach me — to see the beau - ty in the world — through my own —

— to teach me — to see the beau - ty in the world — through my own —

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom — doom — doom — doom doom doom — doom — doom — doom

80

eyes. — Yes, I am sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries —

eyes. — Yes, I am sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries —

eyes. — Yes, I am sit - ting here want - ing mem - o - ries —

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom — doom — doom — doom doom doom — doom — doom — doom

82

— to teach me — to see the beau - ty in the world — through my own —

— to teach me — to see the beau - ty in the world — through my own —

— to teach me — to see the beau - ty in the world — through my own —

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

84

eyes. —

eyes. —

eyes. —

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

86

Musical score for measures 86-87. The score includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The vocal line features the lyrics "shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah" followed by "doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom". The piano accompaniment consists of a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with slurs. A large watermark "Copying is illegal only" is overlaid on the page.

shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah shay-kah *dim. al fine.*

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom

88

Musical score for measures 88-89. The score includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The vocal line features the lyrics "doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom.". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern as in the previous measures. A large watermark "Copying is illegal only" is overlaid on the page.

doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom doom_ doom_ doom_ doom doom.