

PROGRAM NOTES

Commissioned for the GALA Choruses festival V and directed by Rodney Eichenberger, this was the preeminent event for Gay and Lesbian choruses from around the world.

The composer was inspired by the women of China who were an example to women all over the world of what it can look like to rise up from the despair of an oppressive regime or embedded societal inequality. This is an anthem for women's empowerment.

When programmed with women choruses, this will become a catalyst for deepening the vocal community to champion women's rights and for equality in our society.

TEXT

We, yes, we are rising up from the depths of our despair, we are women of the world.

We're from the East, South, West, and North.

We're from the mountains, the valleys, cities, and farms.

We're from poverty, illiteracy, circumcision, shame.

We are housewives, non-to-five, mothers displaced.

We are women of the world and we're coming from Beijing ready for change.

We're telling our stories and sharing our lives never again can our truth be denied.

We've untied our tongues and we're speaking out loud, bound our feet and we're marching toward freedom.

Teaching each other power, together we're building a better tomorrow.

—Ysaÿe M. Barnwell

Dr. Ysaÿe M. Barnwell is a commissioned composer, arranger, author, and actress. Born in New York City in 1946, she began her 15-year violin instruction at age two and a half. She went on to earn degrees in speech pathology (BS, MSED), craniotomy-facial studies (Ph.D.) and public health (MSPH). In addition, she was awarded honorary doctoral degrees from theological seminaries in Chicago, Illinois and Alexandria, Virginia.

Dr. Barnwell taught at Howard University College of Dentistry for over a decade, later moving on to overseeing public health projects. In 1979, she joined the Grammy winning African American female *a cappella* ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock, and in the ensuing thirty-four years, appeared as a vocalist and instrumentalist on over thirty recordings with Sweet Honey and other artists.

For several decades, she also served as teacher and choral clinician in African American cultural performance. She led "Building a Vocal Community: Singing in the African American Tradition" workshop in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Australia. Conducted in the oral tradition, it utilized an African world view and explored African American history, values, cultural, and vocal traditions to build communities of song among both singers and non-singers. Her pedagogy is highly respected among musicians, educators, health workers, activists, organizers, and members of both corporate and non-profit sectors.

In addition, Dr. Barnwell has published two books for children: *No Mirrors in My Nana's House* and *We Are One*, and made appearances on the television program *A Man Called Hawk* and in the film *Beloved*. Composing music for dance, choral, film and video, she has received commissions from countless organizations including Sesame Street, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and the King's Singers to name just a few.

E. C. Schirmer Music Company is proud to be the publishing home for Dr. Barnwell's choral music. Please visit ecspublishing.com for a complete listing of her works.

Commissioned for the GALA Choruses Festival V, 1996

Sound-Bite from Beijing

We Are Rising Up

for Four-Part Treble Chorus (divisi) unaccompanied,
with opt. String Bass or Tuned Percussion

Words and Music by
Ysaÿe M. Barnwell

Deliberately ♩ = 68

I

II (melody) *mp*

III

IV

We, _____ yes, we _____ are _____ ris - ing up _____ Ris - ing

Deliberately ♩ = 68

Keyboard *for rehearsal only*

3

from _____ the _____ depths of _____ our de - spair, _____ yes,

f

Yes, and

Reproducible part for opt. String Bass/Tuned Percussion is available as a free download at www.ecspublishing.com
Search for the product number 9287 and find the link under Complimentary Downloads in the More Information tab.

5

We, yes, we are ris - ing up Ris - ing
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,
 We are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

7

from the depths of our de - spair, yes,
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

9

mp

We are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

mp

We, yes, we are ris - ing up Ris - ing

mp

we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,

mp

We are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

11

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

from the depths of our de - spair, yes,

we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

13 *cresc. poco a poco*

We are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

cresc. poco a poco

We, _____ yes, we are ris - ing up Ris - ing

cresc. poco a poco

we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,

cresc. poco a poco

We are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

15 *(cresc.)* *mf-f*

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

(cresc.) *mf-f*

from _____ the depths of our de - spair, _____ yes,

(cresc.) *mf-f*

we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,

(cresc.) *mf-f*

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

17

mp We are wom-en of the world. We're from the East, South, West, and North. *f*

mp We are wom-en of the world. We're from the East, South, West, and North. *f*

mp We are wom-en of the world. We're from the East, South, West, and North. *f*

mp We are wom-en of the world. We're from the East, South, West, and North. *f*

19

mp We are wom-en of the world moun-tains, the val-leys, cit-ies, and farms. *f*

mp We are wom-en of the world We're from the moun-tains, the val-leys, and cit-ies, and farms. *f*

mp We are wom-en of the world We're from the moun-tains, the val-leys, and cit-ies, and farms. — *f*

mp We are wom-en of the world moun-tains, the val-leys, and cit-ies, and farms. *f*

*Only 1 or 2 voices should sing the high Ab.

21

We are wom-en of the world. We're from pov-er-ty, il-lit-er-a-cy, cir-cum-ci-sion, shame.

We are wom-en of the world. We're from pov-er-ty, il-lit-er-a-cy, cir-cum-ci-sion, shame.

We are wom-en of the world. We're from pov-er-ty, il-lit-er-a-cy, cir-cum-ci-sion, shame.

We are wom-en of the world. pov-er-ty, il-lit-er-a-cy, cir-cum-ci-sion, shame.

23

We are wom-en of the world We are house-wives, nine-to-fives, moth-ers dis-placed.

We are wom-en of the world We are house-wives, nine-to-fives, moth-ers dis-placed.

We are wom-en of the world We are house-wives, nine-to-fives, moth-ers dis-placed. —

We are wom-en of the world We are house-wives, nine-to-fives, moth-ers dis-placed.

25

mf *ff*

We are wom-en of the world And we're com-ing from Bei-jing read-y for change.

mf *ff*

We are wom-en of the world And we're com-ing from Bei-jing read-y for change.

mf *ff*

We are wom-en of the world And we're com-ing from Bei-jing read-y for change.

mf *ff*

We are wom-en of the world And we're com-ing from Bei-jing read-y for change.

27

mp

We, we, we, we, we are ris - ing,

mf

We, we are ris - ing up Ris - ing

mp

We, we, we, we, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,

mp

We, we, we, we, we are ris - ing,

*Only a few sopranos sing the upper notes. All others sing the lower pitches.

29

mp

I we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

we are ris - ing, *mf* the depths of our de - spair,

II (mel.) from the depths of our de - spair, yes,

III we are a - ri - sing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,

IV we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

31

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

We, we are ris - ing up,

We, yes, we are ris - ing up Ris - ing

we are a - ri - sing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

33

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,
ris - ing from the depths of our de - spair,
from the depths of our de - spair, yes,
we are a - ri - sing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,
we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

35

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,
We, we are ris - ing up,
We, yes, we are ris - ing up Ris - ing
we are a - ri - sing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,
we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

37

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,
ris - ing from the depths of our de - spair,
from the depths of our de - spair, yes,
we are a - ri - sing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,
we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

39

f we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,
ff We, we are ris - ing up,
ff We, yes, we are ris - ing up Ris - ing
ff we are a - ri - sing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,
f we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

41

we are wis - ing, we are ris - ing, We're
ris - ing from the depth_ of_ our de - spair We're
from the depths_ of_ our de - spair, We are
we are a - ri - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,
we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

43

f tell - ing our stor - ies and shar - ing our lives *cresc. poco a poco* nev - er a - gain_ can our truth be de - nied
f tell - ing our stor - ies and shar - ing our lives *cresc. poco a poco* nev - er a - gain_ can our truth be de - nied
f tell - ing our stor - ies and shar - ing our lives so that *cresc. poco a poco* nev - er a - gain_ can our truth be de - nied we've un -
f tell - ing our stor - ies and shar - ing our lives so that *cresc. poco a poco* nev - er a - gain_ can our truth be de - nied
f tell - ing our stor - ies and shar - ing our lives so that *cresc. poco a poco* nev - er a - gain_ can our truth be de - nied

45 *(cresc.)*

tied our tongues and we're speak-ing out loud bound our feet_ and we're march-ing t'ward free-dom

(cresc.)

tied our tongues and we're speak-ing out loud March-ing

(cresc.)

tied our tongues and we're speak-ing out loud_ We've un-bound our feet_ and we're march-ing t'ward free-dom We're

(cresc.)

tied our tongues and we're speak-ing out loud_ We've un-bound our feet_ and we're march-ing t'ward free-dom

(cresc.)

tied our tongues and we're speak-ing out loud bound our feet_ and we're march-ing t'ward free-dom

47 *(cresc.)* *ff*

teach - ing each oth - er our pow'r To - geth - er we're build - ing a bet - ter to - mor - row.

(cresc.) *ff*

on, teach - ing our - selves, bet - ter to - mor - row.

(cresc.) *ff*

teach - ing each oth - er and claim - ing our pow'r To - geth - er we're build - ing a bet - ter to - mor - row.

(cresc.) *ff*

teach - ing each oth - er and claim - ing our pow'r To - geth - er we're build - ing a bet - ter to - mor - row.

(cresc.) *ff*

teach - ing each oth - er and claim - ing our pow'r To - geth - er we're build - ing a bet - ter to - mor - row.

49

mp

Oh, we are ris - ing,

We are ris - ing up,

We, yes, we are ris - ing up Ris - ing

We, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,

We, we are ris - ing,

51

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

we are ris - ing up, from the depths of our de - spair, we're

from the depths of our de - spair yes,

we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

53

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,
 ris - sing up, we're ris - ing up, we're
 We, yes, we are ris - ing up Ris - ing
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

55

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,
 ris - ing from the depths of our de - spair, we're ris - ing up, we're ris - ing
 from the depths of our de - spair yes,
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

57

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,
 up, yes, we are ris - ing up, we're ris - ing up, we're
 We, yes, we are ris - ing up Ris - ing
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

59

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,
 ris - ing from the depths of our de - spair, we're ris - ing, we're ris - ing,
 from the depths of our de - spair yes,
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

61

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,
 ris - ing up, yes, we are ris - ing up, we're ris - ing up, we're
 We, yes, we are ris - ing up Ris - ing
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

63

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,
 ris - ing up, we're ris - ing up, we're ris - ing up, we're ris - ing
 from the depths of our de - spair, well,
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom - en are a - ris - ing,
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

65

f

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

f

up, we're ris - ing up, we're ris - ing up, we're ris - ing up, we're ris - ing

f

We, yes, we are ris - ing up Ris - ing

f

we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,

f

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

67

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

up, we're ris - ing up, we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing from the depths of

from the depths of our de - spair yes,

we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

69

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,
 our de - spair, we are ris - ing, ris - ing_ up,
 We, yes, we_ are_ ris - ing up Ris - ing
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

71

we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing.
 ris - ing_ from the depths_ of_ our, the depths_ of de-spair. Oh, well,
 from_ the_ depths_ of_ our de - spair. Well,
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing.
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing.

73

mp We are wom-en of the world. We're from the East, South, West and North.

mp we are wom-en of the world, wom-en of the world, East, and South, and

mp we are wom-en of the world. We're from the East, South, West, and North.

mp we are wom-en of the world. We're from the East, South, West, and North.

mp we are wom-en of the world. From the East.

75

mp We are wom-en of the world, moun-tains, the val-leys, the cit-ies, and the farms.

mp West. We are wom-en of the world, moun-tains, the val-leys, cit-ies and

mp We are wom-en of the world. We're from the moun-tains, the val-leys, the cit-ies, and the farms.

mp We are wom-en of the world. We're from the moun-tains, the val-leys, the cit-ies, and farms.

mp We are wom-en of the world. We're from the moun-tains, the val-leys, the cit-ies, and the farms.

*Only a few voices sing the high B.

77

We are wom-en of the world. We're from pov-er-ty, il-lit-er-a-cy, cir-cum-ci-sion, shame.

farms. Wom-en of the world, pov-er-ty, il-lit-er-a-cy, shame.

We are wom-en of the world. We're from pov-er-ty, il-lit-er-a-cy, cir-cum-ci-sion, shame.

We are wom-en of the world. We're from pov-er-ty, il-lit-er-a-cy, cir-cum-ci-sion, shame.

We are wom-en of the world. We're from pov-er-ty, il-lit-er-a-cy, cir-cum-ci-sion, shame.

79

mp We are wom-en of the world. *f* We are house-wives, nine-to-fives, moth-ers dis-placed.

mp We are wom-en of the world. *f* Oh, yes,

mp We are wom-en of the world. *f* We are house-wives, nine-to-fives, moth-ers dis-placed.

mp We are wom-en of the world. *f* House-wives, nine-to-fives, moth-ers dis-placed.

mp We are wom-en of the world. *f* We are house-wives, nine-to-fives, moth-ers dis-placed.

81

mf We are wom-en of the world. *ff* And we're com-ing from Bei - jing read - y for change.

mf We are wom-en of the world. *ff* Com-ing from Bei - jing read - y for change.

mf We are wom-en of the world. *ff* And we're com-ing from Bei - jing read - y for change.

mf We are wom-en of the world. *ff* com-ing from Bei - jing read - y for change.

mf We are wom-en of the world. *ff* And we're com-ing from Bei - jing read - y for change.

83

We, we, ris - ing up, ris - ing up,

We are ris - ing, ris - ing up, we are

swing, full voice We, yes, we are ris - ing up, ris - ing

We are, we are, we are, we are, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,

We, we, we, we, we are ris - ing,

85

ris - ing_ up, ris - ing_ up, ris - ing_ up from the depths of our de -
 ris - ing, ris - ing, ris - ing, we are ris - ing up, we are ris - ing
 from the depths of our de - spair. Yes,
 wom-en are a - ris - ing,
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

non accel.
cresc. al fine

87

spair. We are ris - ing up, we are ris - ing up,
 up, you know that we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing up, we are ris - ing
 we, yes, we are ris - ing up, ris - ing
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

non accel.

89

ris - ing_ from, ris - ing_ from, ris - ing_ from the depths of our de -
ris - ing up, we ___ are ris - ing, ris - ing up, we ___ are ris - ing,
from ___ the ___ depths of ___ our de - spair. Yes,
we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,
we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

91

spair. We, ___ yes, we are, ___ we are ris - ing_ up, we are
ris - ing up, we ___ are ris - ing, ris - ing up, we ___ are ris - ing,
we, ___ yes, we ___ are ___ ris - ing up, oh,
we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,
we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

93

ris - ing_ up, ris - ing, we are ris - ing, ris - ing_ up, we are
 ris - ing up, we_ are ris - ing, ris - ing up, we_ are ris - ing,
 we, yes, we_ are_ ris - ing up, oh,
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

95

ris - ing, ris - ing_ up, ris - ing, ris - ing_ up, we're
 ris - ing up, we_ are ris - ing, ris - ing up, we_ are ris - ing,
 we, yes, we_ are_ ris - ing up, oh,
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, wom-en are a - ris - ing,
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

97

ris - ing, ris - ing from de - spair, we're ris - ing, we're ris - ing
 ris - ing up, we are ris - ing, ris - ing up, we are ris - ing,
 we, yes, we are ris - ing up, oh,
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, ris - ing up, wom - en are a - ris - ing,
 we are ris - ing, we are ris - ing,

99

from de - spair, oh, we are ris - ing up! *ff*
 ris - ing up, we are ris - ing, ris - ing up! *ff*
 wom - en, yes, wom - en are ris - ing up! *ff*
 we are a - ris - ing, we are a - ris - ing, ris - ing up! *ff*
 we are ris - ing, ris - ing up! *ff*