

“For years now I have heard the word ‘Wait!’ It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity.  
This ‘Wait’ has almost always meant ‘Never.’”

—MLK, 1963

“They earnestly believe that it is too soon to do away with plantation justice.”

—Bella BAHHS, 2021

### Text

wait  
wait and see  
see, wait  
wait for—  
(four, five, six, seven)  
wait more  
more weight  
wait for the video  
(thirteen)  
wait for the video to be released  
(sixteen...eighteen)  
wait to be released  
soon  
(twenty, twenty-one)  
wait for release  
soon  
soon  
(you too, soon)  
too soon, wait—  
wait and see  
see, wait  
just wait  
wait a while and see  
wait while you see  
wait. see. wait. see.  
just a while  
a just while  
just

### Performance Option

This piece includes passages written for a *live looping* recording technique. If this technology is not available, designated singers may emulate the looping effect by repeating the notated portions *ad libitum* as instructed by the conductor.

# Refrain

for SATB Chorus (divisi) unaccompanied,  
with opt. Live Looping†

Words and Music by  
Ayanna Woods

**♩ = 60**  
*p airy*

Soprano  
wait

Alto 1  
*\* p airy*  
wai - - - - (i)\*\*\* - - - - (t)

Alto 2  
*\* p airy* 5 3  
wai - - - - (i)\*\*\* - - - - (t)

Voice\*\*  
*p*  
mm

Tenor  
Bass  
*mp dry, speech-like*  
wait wait

3

S  
wait

A1  
wai - - - - (i) - - - -

A2  
wai - - - - (i) - - - -

V

T  
B  
wait wait and see wait

† For performance options, see note on page 2

\* Alto 16th note gestures should ebb and flow, with individual singers slightly out of phase from each other. Not strictly metered.

\*\* Voice can be performed by a few Altos and Tenors in octaves or with an octave pedal.

\*\*\*(i) = Move from “i” to a covered sound, similar to “ü”. Make (t) barely audible.

Slower ♩ = 55

5

S *mp* wait

A1 *mp* (t) wai (i) ait

A2 *mp* (t) wai (i) ait

V *mm*

T B wait and see wait

7

S *p* A wait

A1 *p* 4:3 wait

A2 *p* 4:3 wait

V

T B wait wait wait and see see wait, wait wait

9

S

A1

A2

T B

for wait four, five six, se - ven, wait

12 **Tempo primo** ♩ = 60

S1

S2

A1

A2

V

T B

wait wait

wait wait more more weight

*p* wait

*p*

wait

mm

14

S1

S2

A1

A2

V

T B

more weight wait for the vi - de - o

*p* wait

6 16 **B** ♩ = 55

S1 S2 *p* wait

A1 A2 *p*

V

T B

thir-teen wait for the vi-de-o to be re-leased

S1 S2 wait

A1 A2

V

T B

six - teen mm

six - teen teen

six - teen

S1 S2 wait

A1 A2

T B

eigh-teen wait to be re-leased

22

S1  
S2

A1  
A2

V

T  
B

wait to be re - leased

24

S1  
S2

A1

A2

V

T1  
B1

T2  
B2

*unis. p* **C** *let the pitch drift upward*

wait

*p* *let the Eb gradually drift upward*

wait

*p* *let the Bb gradually drift upward*

wait

wait to be re - leased

soon soon

soon soon soon soon

26

S1  
S2

A1

A2

V

T1  
B1

T2  
B2

soon soon soon twen - ty

soon soon soon soon twen - ty

mm

28 **D**

S1  
S2

A1

A2

V

T1  
B1

T2  
B2

twen - ty one wait for \_ re - lease

twen - ty one wait for \_ re - lease

*p*

*mp*

mm

♩ = 70 wait

31

S1  
S2

A1  
A2

V

T1  
B1

T2  
B2

wait

wait

wait

wait for re-lease

soon soon

wait for re-lease

soon soon

33

S1  
S2

A1  
A2

V

T1  
B1

T2  
B2

**E**  
*mf sub.*

wai

*mf sub.*

wai

soon

you too

you too, soon

soon

you too

you too, soon

35 *cresc.* *more and more brassy*

S1 S2

A1 A2

V

T1 B1

T2 B2

you too, soon      you too, soon      you too, soon      you too, you

you too, soon      you too, soon      you too, soon      you too, you

**F** ♩ = 98

\* ● record      ○ overdub 1      ○ overdub 2

38

Solo Sop.

mm      mm      mm

S1 S2

(T) wait      wait      wait

A1 A2

(T) wait      wait      wait

V

wait      wait

T1 B1

too soon    wait      wait and see    see    wait      see    wait    see    see

T2 B2

too soon    wait      wait and see    see    wait      see    wait    see    see

\*If performing without Live Looping, the designated singers may continue repeating the notated pattern *ad libitum* until stopped by the conductor.

41 playback

Solo Sop.

S1 S2  
wait \_\_\_\_\_ wait \_\_\_\_\_  
wa - - - i - - -

A1 A2  
wait \_\_\_\_\_ wait \_\_\_\_\_  
wa - - - i - - -

V  
wait \_\_\_\_\_ wait \_\_\_\_\_  
wa - - - i - - -

T1 B1  
wait \_\_\_\_\_ wait wait see \_\_\_\_\_ wait  
wait \_\_\_\_\_ wait wait see \_\_\_\_\_ wait

T2 B2  
wait \_\_\_\_\_ wait wait see \_\_\_\_\_ wait  
wait \_\_\_\_\_ wait wait see \_\_\_\_\_ wait

**G**

Solo Sop.

S1 S2  
*Solo, on pitched inhalation*  
*mf*  
wait \_\_\_\_\_

A1 A2  
(T) *unis.*  
*p ragged and robotic*  
just wait \_\_\_\_\_ wait a while and see

V  
(T)

T1 B1  
*mf ragged and robotic*  
just wait \_\_\_\_\_ wait a while and see

T2 B2  
*mf ragged and robotic*  
just wait \_\_\_\_\_ wait a while and see

12

49

Solo Sop. [cont. playback] ----->

S1  
S2

A  
wait a while and see wait while\_

T1  
B1  
wait a while and see wait while\_

T2  
B2  
wait a while and see wait while\_

51

Solo Sop. ----->

A  
you see wait while you see wait see

T1  
B1  
you see wait while you see wait see

T2  
B2  
you see wait while you see wait see

[unmetered interjections]

T3  
B3  
just just just\* just

\*Extend either the "u" or the "s"

53

Solo Sop. [cont. playback] - - - - -

A

T1 B1

T2 B2

T3 B3

wait see wait just a

wait see wait just a

wait see wait just a

just a

55

Solo Sop. 10 - 20"

A

T1 B1

T2 B2

T3 B3

while a\* just while just

while a\* just while just just just just\*

while a\* just while just just just just\*

just just just\*\* just

\*Pronounce with a long "a" as in "cape," as opposed to the flat "a" in adjust  
 \*\*Extend either the "u" or the "s"