SISI NI AFRIKA

SATB accompanied with solo/small ensemble and opt Percussion

Christian “Ceej” Oliver

Range:

Soprano  
Alto  
Tenor  
Bass  

Language: Swahili and Amaric

Use: General

Time: Approx. 2:53

*Difficulty: Moderate
Performance Notes

Pronunciation Guide:
Sime
(See- meh)
Kusikia
(Koo-zee-kee-a)
Sisi ni watoto wa Afrika
(See-see nee wah-toh-toh wah Ahf-ree-kah)
Sisi ni wa baadaye
(See-see nee wah Bah-dah-yay)
Sisi ni wa dunia
(See-see nee wah doo-nee-ah)
Sisi ni Afrika
(See-see nee Ahf-ree-kah)
Zifen
(Zee-fehn)

Translation:
Hear
Hearing
We are the children of Africa
We are the future
We are the world
We are Africa
Sing

Note from the Composer:
This piece was composed summer 2011 for special occasion: during my junior year, my math teacher told me she was going to adopt a baby girl from Ethiopia. I was so touched by this that I started to research African music and then became very interested in their forms of communication and especially in the tribal sounds; the very raw and natural sounds from all over Africa. That is what inspired this piece. Sisi Ni Afrika has a strong rhythmic beat, celebratory and welcoming in nature. Cicero-North Syracuse High School Chorus, under the direction of Caryn Patterson, premiered the piece, the same day my math teacher was in Africa picking up Grace Yeabsire Bowen. For all of us who knew of this event, this song became a song of welcome proclaiming, “No matter where one is from, we can all celebrate who we are”.

Always remember that music is more than notes on a page, so make this song your own and have fun!

About the Composer

Christian J. Oliver - "Ceej" (b.1994) is a Syracuse, New York native. Currently he is pursuing a degree in Music Education with a focus in voice and piano from Long Island University-Post, where he studies composition with Carl Strommen.

Ceej has premiered several of his compositions in the Syracuse and Long Island areas and has received honorable mention in the NYSSMA (New York State School of Music Association) “Call of Composition”. He is also the founder and director of “Kusikia Sisi: Voices for a Cause”, a choir composed of high school and college students who strive to hone their choral skills and use the gift of music to help their community through various projects.
Sisi ni Afrika
(We Are Africa)
for SATB Voices with Piano and Optional Percussion*

Swahili and Amharic

Dedicated to Grace Yeabsira Bowen

CHRISTIAN “CEEJ” OLIVER

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* The part for Optional Percussion may be found on pp. 14-16.
Forward Metallic Sound

Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a Si-me_ Af-ri-ka_ Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a

Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a Si-me_ Af-ri-ka_ Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a

Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a Si-me_ Af-ri-ka_ Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a

Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a Si-me_ Af-ri-ka_ Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a

Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a Si-me_ Af-ri-ka_ Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a

Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a Si-me_ Af-ri-ka_ Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a

Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a Si-me_ Af-ri-ka_ Si-me_ Ku-si-ki - a

Solo or small ensemble

Af-ri-ka_
Si-me Ku-si-ki-a Si-me Af-ri-ka Si-me Ku-si-ki-a

Si-me Ku-si-ki-a Si-me Af-ri-ka Si-me Ku-si-ki-a

Si-me Ku-si-ki-a Si-me Af-ri-ka Si-me Ku-si-ki-a

Si-me Ku-si-ki-a Si-me Af-ri-ka Si-me Ku-si-ki-a

* If not using percussion, omit mm. 23 and 24, and begin at m. 25.

** Also introduce tribal calls, rolling tongues, yelps, etc.
We are the children of Africa
We are the future

Si me
Si me
Si me
Si me

Af ri ka
Af ri ka
Af ri ka
Af ri ka

Hey Hey Hey
Hey Hey Hey
Hey Hey Hey
Hey Hey Hey

ku si ki a
ku si ki a
ku si ki a
ku si ki a

Hey Hey Hey
Hey Hey Hey
Hey Hey Hey
Hey Hey Hey

zi fen
zi fen
zi fen
zi fen

We are the children of Africa
We are the world

Si me
Si me
Si me

Af ri ka
Af ri ka
Af ri ka

Hey Hey Hey
Hey Hey Hey
Hey Hey Hey
Hey Hey Hey

ku si ki a
ku si ki a
ku si ki a

Hey Hey Hey
Hey Hey Hey
Hey Hey Hey
Hey Hey Hey

zi fen
zi fen
zi fen

We are Af - ri - ca

Si - me

Hey ku

zi - fen

We are the chil - dren - of Af - ri - ca

Si - me

Hey ku - si - ki - a

zi - fen

We are Af - ri - ca

Si - me

Hey ku - si - ki - a

zi - fen
We are the future
We are the children of
Si-me
Si-me
Si-me
Af-ri-ka
Af-ri-ka
Af-ri-ka
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(We Are Africa)
for SATB Voices with Piano and Optional Percussion

Swahili and Amharic

CHRISTIAN “CEEJ” OLIVER

Dedicated to Grace Yeabsira Bowen

Percussion

Shakers

Wood Blocks

Bongos

Congas

Forward Metallic Sound

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