

Hey-oh-way

for three-part men's choir

by Jonathan Russell

inspired by traditional Georgian folk polyphony

Performance note:

As this composition is intended to evoke an aural musical tradition, the aural form of the work (the included audio demo), rather than the written form, should be considered authoritative. If there is sufficient time and desire, the piece may indeed be learned entirely aurally, without recourse to any notation at all. Given the practicalities and realities of often limited rehearsal time, however, the below “score” is included as a reference. The notation system is a combination of traditional Western notation, syllabic notation, and written out instructions. The score is no way a complete representation of the music; rather, it consists of what I believe to be the minimum amount of specificity needed to jog the performers’ memories of what should happen next. More difficult to remember passages are fully notated, while easily memorable repeating patterns are notated only with the syllables to be sung and the number of repetitions. Reference to the recording, or aural instruction from someone already familiar with the work, is absolutely necessary to learn this music. In the spirit of an aural tradition, as groups become familiar with the work, they should feel free to add their own variations as they see fit – anything from melodic ornamentation, to varying the number of repetitions of a section, to exploring different syllabification.

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A.

Bass: drone on Eb – moves down a step and back up on soloist's cue

Soloist: use solo from recording as starting point, and vary/ornament ad lib.

B.

Bass: ||: Hey-oh-way__ hey-oh-way, hey-oh | Hey-oh-way__ hey-oh-way, hey-oh, hey-oh :||

Repeat 8X, then to ||: Hey!____: ||4X

Middle: ||: Hey-oh, ay-oh | hey-oh, ay-oh__ :||

Enter after 1 time through bass pattern, repeat 9X, then repeat second half 3X

Top:

Enter on third repeat of Middle

→All: "Hey__yah!" 4X – Top rises through triad on 3rd and 4th time

C.

7X: 1-6 slowly speeding up.

7th time very slow

→ : "yah!, yah! yah!..." etc. ad lib.