

NOTES FROM THE ARRANGER

About ten years ago, I was introduced to this song by one of my music education professors and fell in love with it. While researching its origins, I found that sometimes it's credited to Embers McGee (1918), other times labeled a traditional North American folk tune, American Indian tune, or a Canadian folk tune. It is often paired partner-style with a similar folk song, *Land of the Silver Birch*.

Since *Canoe Song* is so short, I knew I'd have to write additional words and music when I arranged it. With its heritage, I thought it would be fun to add a chant and, as a contrast to the rhythmic chorus, add two flowing verses. I wanted my added words to reflect the Native American philosophy of reverence for the earth: "The river, it greets us; the earth is our friend. Our journey through water begins once again."

I hope you'll have fun teaching my new arrangement of a song that I believe every generation should learn, sing and enjoy.

Ruth Morris Gray

OPTIONAL PERCUSSION

A Play 2X — meas. 5–12 (*mf*)

Play 2X — meas. 23–30 (*mf*) — repeat last meas. at meas. 31

With energy ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 104$)

PERCUSSION PART A (Measures 5–12 and 23–30)

Four staves are shown, each with a 4/4 time signature:

- RATTLE:** Measures 5–12 and 23–30. The rhythm consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.
- SHAKER:** Measures 5–12 and 23–30. The rhythm consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.
- TOM TOM:** Measures 5–12 and 23–30. The rhythm consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.
- LOW DRUM:** Measures 5–12 and 23–30. The rhythm consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.

B Play 3X — meas. 42–53 — layered entrances in the following order:
1st time — Rattle only (*p*), 2nd time — add Tom Tom (*mp*), 3rd time — add Low Drum and Shaker (*mf*)

PERCUSSION PART B (Measures 42–53)

Four staves are shown, each with a 4/4 time signature:

- RATTLE:** Measures 42–53. The rhythm consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.
- SHAKER:** Measures 42–53. The rhythm consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.
- TOM TOM:** Measures 42–53. The rhythm consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.
- LOW DRUM:** Measures 42–53. The rhythm consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.

C Play during meas. 56–57 (*f*)

PERCUSSION PART C (Measures 56–57)

Four staves are shown, each with a 4/4 time signature:

- RATTLE:** Measures 56–57. The rhythm consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.
- SHAKER:** Measures 56–57. The rhythm consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.
- TOM TOM:** Measures 56–57. The rhythm consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.
- LOW DRUM:** Measures 56–57. The rhythm consists of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.

CANOE SONG

(My Paddle's Keen and Bright)

For 2-Part voices, accompanied*
with optional percussion
Duration: ca. 2:15

Native North American Melody

Original Words and Music by
RUTH MORRIS GRAY

With energy (♩ = ca. 104)

PART I

PART II

With energy (♩ = ca. 104)

mf percussive

sim.

ACCOMP.

4

5 *mf*

My pad - dle's keen and bright, flash - ing like sil - ver.

mf

My pad - dle's keen and bright, flash - ing like sil - ver.

*Available separately: 3-Part Mixed – 35028820; PianoTrax CD – 35028580

DO NOT
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7

Fol-low the wild goose flight, dip, dip and swing. Dip, dip and swing it back,

Fol-low the wild goose flight, dip, dip and swing. Dip, dip and swing it back,

sim.

10

flash-ing like sil-ver, swift as the wild goose flight, dip, dip and swing.

flash-ing like sil-ver, swift as the wild goose flight, dip, dip and swing.

13

15 *legato mp*

The morn-ing, it greets us;

legato mp

The morn-ing, it

legato mp

17

the earth is our friend. Our jour - ney —

greet us; earth is our friend. — Our

20

— through wa - ter be - gins once a - gain.

jour - ney through wa - ter be - gins a - gain. —

23

mf

mf My pad - dle's keen and bright,

mf My pad - dle's keen and bright, flash - ing like sil - ver.

25

flash - ing like sil - ver. Fol - low the wild goose flight,

Fol - low the wild goose flight, dip, dip and swing,

sim.

27

dip, dip and swing. Dip, dip and swing it back,

Dip, dip and swing it back, flash - ing like sil - ver,

29

flash - ing like sil - ver, swift as the wild goose flight,

swift as the wild goose flight, dip, dip and swing,

31

dip, dip and swing.

dip, dip and swing.

34 *legato mp*

The blue sky sur - rounds us; the riv - er, it

legato mp

The blue sky sur - rounds; the riv - er, it

legato mp

37

bends. We fol - low its wind - ing,

bends. We fol - low its

40

'til dark-ness de-scends.
wind-ing, dark-ness de-scends.

42

p cresc.
Hey — ya na, hey — ya na, hey — ya na, hey — ya.
p cresc.

44

sim.
Hey — ya na, hey — ya na, hey — ya na, hey.
sim.

46

DESCANT

mp cresc. poco a poco

My pad - dle's keen and bright,

My pad - dle's keen and bright, flash-ing like sil - ver.

Hey — ya na, hey — ya na, hey — ya na, hey — ya.

mp cresc. poco a poco

mp cresc. poco a poco

48

flash-ing like sil - ver. Fol - low the wild goose flight,

Fol - low the wild goose flight, dip, dip and swing.

Hey — ya na, hey — ya na, hey — ya na, hey.

mp cresc. poco a poco

50

mf cresc. poco a poco

dip, dip and swing. Dip, dip and swing it back, Dip, dip and swing it back, flash - ing like sil - ver, Hey — ya na, hey — ya na, hey — ya na, hey — ya.

52

flash - ing like sil - ver, swift as the wild goose flight. swift as the wild goose flight, dip, dip and swing. Hey — ya na, hey — ya na, hey — ya na, hey.

54

The musical score is for a two-part song. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The piano accompaniment is in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'Swift as the wild goose flight. Hey - ya na, hey!'. The first vocal part starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second and third vocal parts start with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The piano accompaniment starts with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a key signature of one sharp. The score is marked with a forte 'f' dynamic. The tempo is indicated by a '54' at the beginning of the first vocal staff. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

f

Swift as the wild goose flight. Hey - ya na, hey!

f

Swift as the wild goose flight. Hey - ya na, hey!

f

Swift as the wild goose flight. Hey - ya na, hey!

f