A Collection of Songs for Students' Learning
By

Ugochukwu, Bernadette Chinedu
Department of Music
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education
Rumuolumeni, P.M.B.5047
Port Harcourt

Abstract

A collection of songs for students' learning is a ten pieces of musical composition written and also arranged for the purpose of helping students to increase their repertoire of music and for their school music performances. The songs ranges from instrumental short works, solo works and works for school choir within the level of Children's abilities. These works will go a long way in helping Children learn to play in ensemble and do some solo performances that will enhance their musical development in class and in the Society, for Students can grow from here to a higher level in musical art education.

Introduction

Children learn faster when studies are combined with musical songs. This could be called ''Learning made Easy'' through music. Songs make Children remember what they learn or learnt in class, this is for the Child's self-development through school music. Educational activity is centered on the learner for maximum self-development and fulfilment (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1981:8). For education is really a modification of Children's behaviours in a school environment. One of the main purpose of teaching children is to lay a foundation of understanding and knowledge by ''teaching the rudiments of numbers, letters, colours, shapes and forms through play and music (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1981:10). Gradually, children can develop musically for those that are musically inclined to play musical instruments and sing songs, as well as performing in ensemble. Creating music is one of the talents that is very unique and can be found among very few. Today, there are a lot of people composing and creating music on their own but the problem lies in putting the songs/music into staff. Every day one learns and creates things through inspirations and when penned down, it becomes educative to others who understand what the context is all about and when performed it makes sense to the listeners.

This work therefore contains ten creative works. "Zimba'' made of an orchestral work for violin, viola, and cello (all string instruments), with only eight bars in a dynamics of *p* (soft)
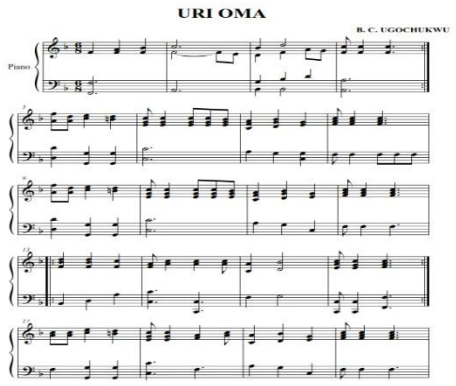
and *pp* (very soft). The cello part is to be plucked (Pizzicato) also abbreviates to pizz. There are two violins playing in the work, violin I and violin II with the viola playing the third part.
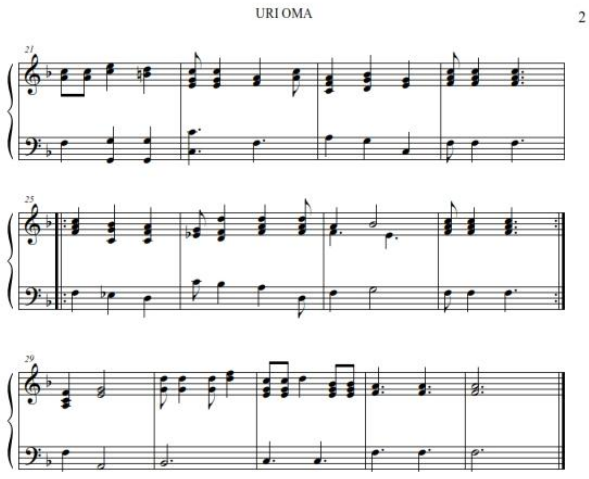
Other works are: "My home town'' a short piano work of eighteen bars written in the key of B flat of two crochets beats in a bar. "Ibiala" is another piano students' work with the following dynamics of (*pp*) very soft, (*mf*) moderately loud, (*f*) loud, (*ff*) very loud and (*p*) soft. Ibiala means you are welcome. "Uri oma'' meaning good dance in Igbo language is a popular folk music of moonlight play but is arranged for piano playing, its beginning of four bars created with a repetition in an octave higher before proceeding to the rest of the bars. The instrumental works here is closed with a "Goodbye'' solo work arranged for voice singing with a piano accompaniment. A work titled "No Sir, No'' is arranged for solo voice (female) with a piano accompaniment for singing in A minor.
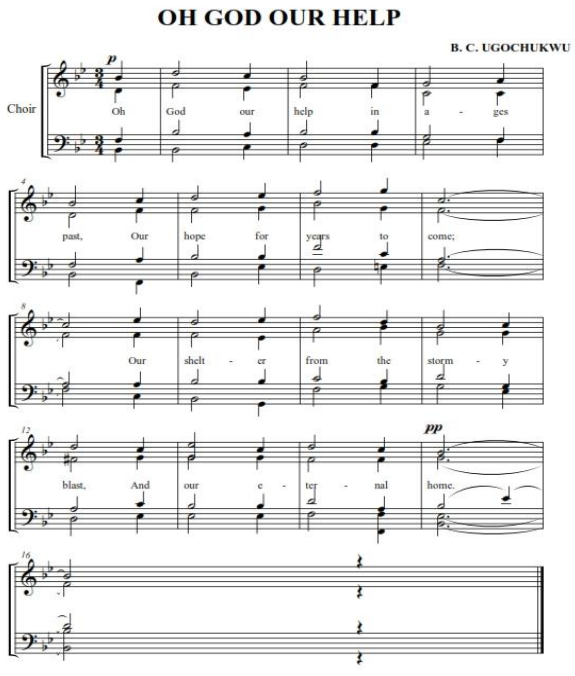
There are four works here are for students' choir. They are "Ezinne'', "Music makers'', "O God our help in ages past'' and "Farewell''. Ezinne is written in E major key for four voices: soprano, alto, tenor and bass. "Ezinne'' means good mother. "Music makers'' is also arranged for four voices; soprano, alto, tenor and bass in the key of G major. It is of only twelve bars. This is followed by a popular song "O God our help'' but arranged by the author in a different tone of what it is known for four part voices of soprano, alto tenor and bass. Finally, a "Farewell'' song for four part singers in F major key.
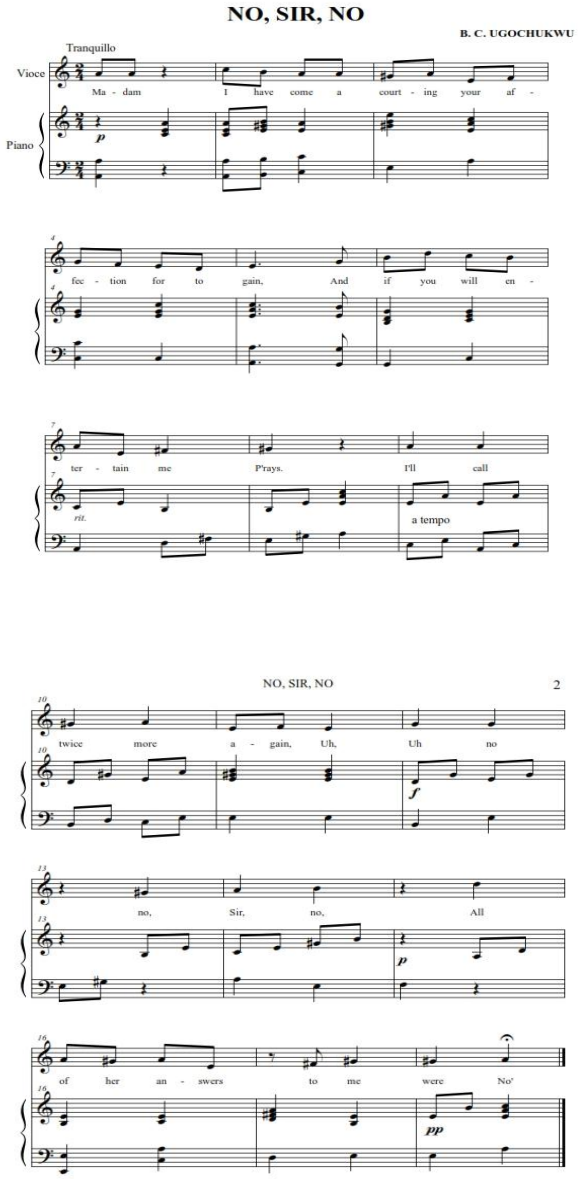
Objectives: This creative work is to add to students' music repertoire and to make them learn to play, sing and perform with others in an ensemble.

Songs
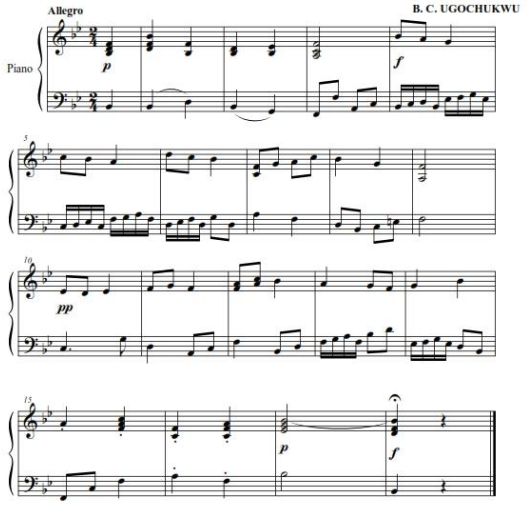



URI OMA
2
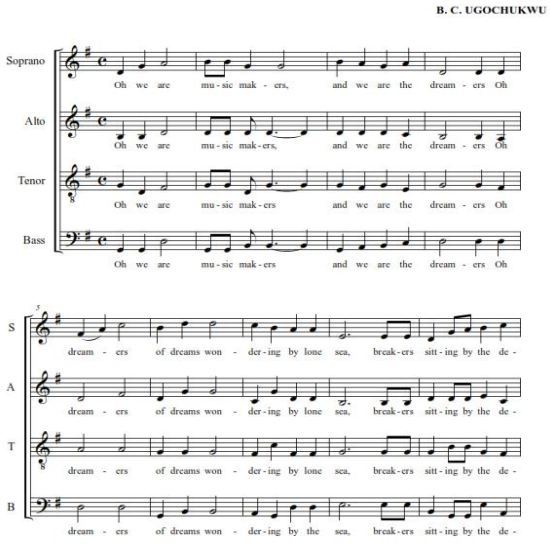

OH GOD OUR HELP
B. C. UGOCHUKWU
Choir
Oh God our help in a - ges
past, Our hope for years to come;
Our shelt - er from the storm - y
blast, And our e - ter - nal home.

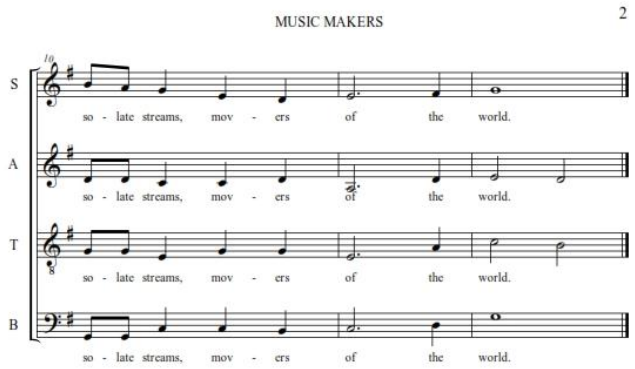

NO, SIR, NO
B. C. UGOCHUKWU
Tranquillo
Vioce
Piano
Ma - dam I have come a court - ing your af -
fec - tion for to gain, And if you will en -
ter - tain me Prays. I'll call
rit.
a tempo
NO, SIR, NO 2
twice more a - gain, Uh, Uh no
no, Sir, no, All
of her an - swers to me were No'
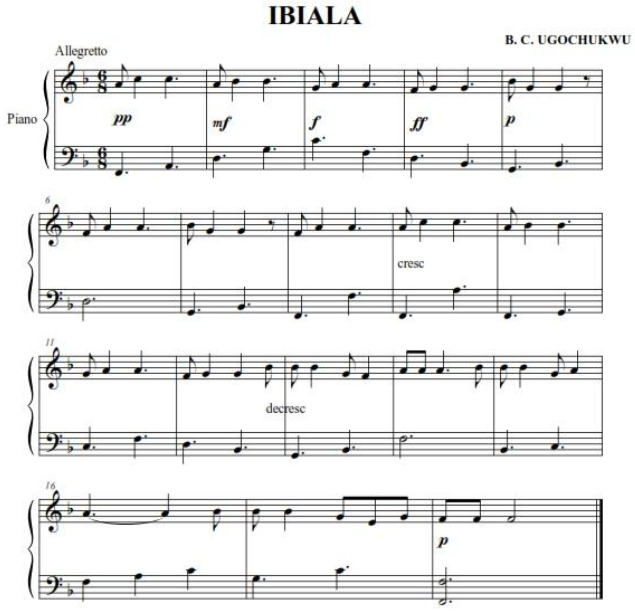
MY HOME TOWN



MUSIC MAKERS
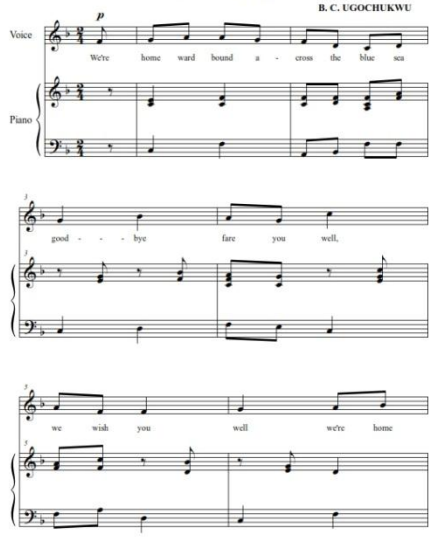



MUSIC MAKERS
2
10
S
so - late streams, mov - ers of the world.
A
so - late streams, mov - ers of the world.
T
so - late streams, mov - ers of the world.
B
so - late streams, mov - ers of the world.


IBIALA
B. C. UGOCHUKWU
Allegretto
Piano
pp
mf
f
ff
p
6
cresc
11
decresc
16
p
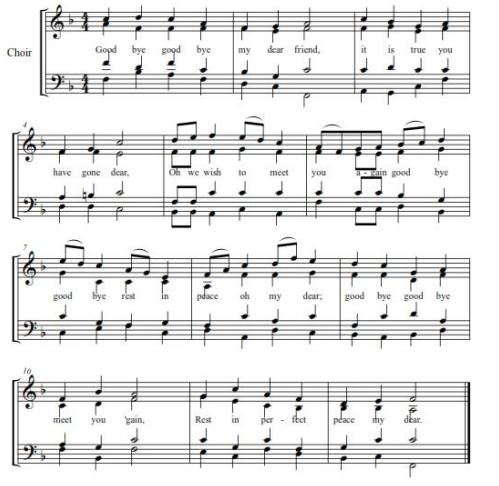
GOOD BYE

B. C. UGOCHUKWU
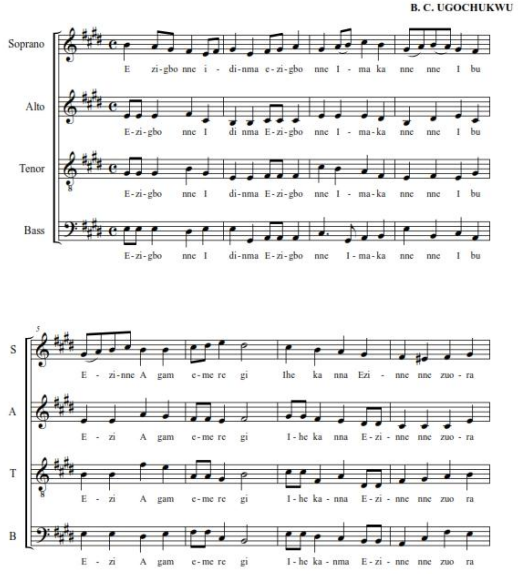


FARE WELL

B. C. UGOCHUKWU
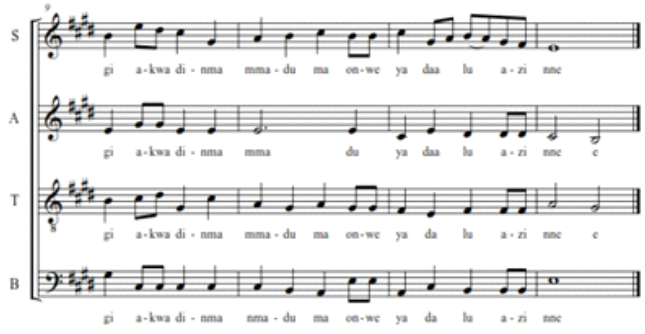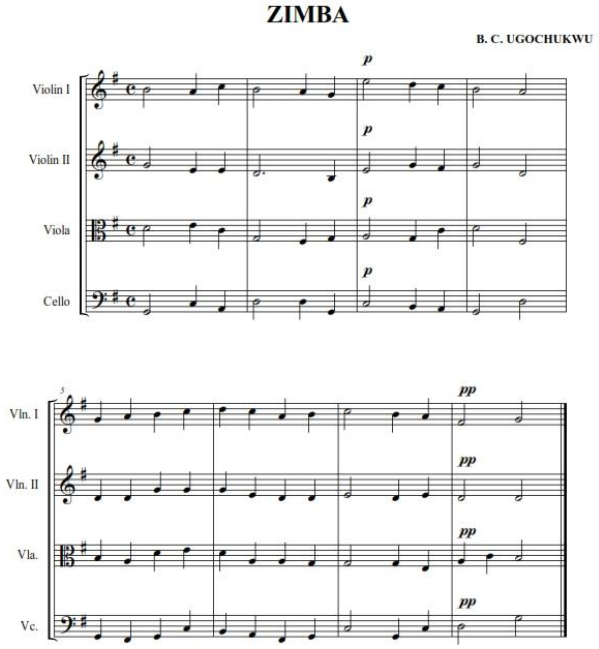


EZI NNE

B. C. UGOCHUKWU



EZI NNE





Conclusion

These ten created/composed works are melodious even though short pieces for school children to perform and enhance their musical abilities in class.

References

Federal Republic of Nigeria (1981). *National Policy on Education*. NERDC