

*Stan' Still Jordan /
Egbe nukpɔwɔ (Today's riches)*

arranged by Thomas Lloyd

The African-American Spiritual *Stan' Still Jordan* is freely based on the version of the traditional melody found in James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson, *The Books of American Negro Spirituals* (1925; Da Capo Press) pp. 82-84.

Ebge nu kpòwò is freely adapted from a traditional Gbòlò dance song heard in a field recording of the Ziaví Zígí in the Northern Ewe region of Ghana and transcribed by Kofi Agawu in his book *African Rhythm – A Northern Ewe Perspective* (1995; Cambridge UP) pp 114-142. Kofi Agawu translates the Ewe text as:

*Today's riches have made you forget yesterday;
Send cloth to your mother in the grave.*

Agawu describes the larger dance from which this verse comes as follows: “Thought to have originated in Nɔtsie, the last major pre-colonial Ewe settlement, Zígí is a dance for young people on the verge of marriage and for already-married men and women.” (p. 114) As such it is a rich repository for wisdom and stories reflecting the values and traditions of the community.

About the final verse of the song adapted for this composition Agawu states that it “tells a woman who has suddenly come into wealth not to forget her dead mother. While your mother was alive, she worked hard to look after you. If you have now made money and own many cloths, the least you can do, instead of forgetting about times past, is to remove one of the cloths and send it to your mother in the grave. Short memories are here discouraged, especially when what seems to be forgotten is the very ecology that sustained one's upbringing and paved the way for future success.” (p. 140)

This arrangement was composed for a January 2007 tour to Ghana by the Chamber Singers of Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges. - TL

Stan' Still Jordan / Egbe nukpowa (Today's riches)

$\text{♩} = 72$ *with intensity* arr. Thomas Lloyd

poco \leftarrow *sfpp* *poco* \leftarrow

SOPRANO
 Stan' still, O Lord I can't stan' still, I can't stan' still, Lord, help me

pp *poco* \leftarrow *sfpp* *poco* \leftarrow

ALTO
 Stan' still, Lord I can't stan' still, I can't stan' still,

pp *poco* \leftarrow *sfpp* *poco* \leftarrow

TENOR
 Stan' still, Lord I can't stan' still, I can't stan' still, help me

pp *poco* \leftarrow *sfpp* *poco* \leftarrow

BASS
 Stan' still, Lord I can't stan' still, I can't stan' still,

$\text{♩} = 72$

finger bell
 shaker
 drums

9 *f*

S.
 Stan' still Jor - dan, Stan' still Jor - dan, Stan' still Jor - dan, Lord I can't stan'

A.
 Stan' still Jor - dan, Stan' still Jor - dan, Stan' still Jor - dan, Lord I can't stan'

T.
 Stan' still Jor - dan, Stan' still Jor - dan, Stan' still Jor - dan, Lord I can't stan'

B.
 Stan' still Jor - dan, Stan' still Jor - dan, Stan' still Jor - dan, Lord I can't stan'

16 *pp* *resolute, but legato* *f*

S. still. When I get up in glo-ry I got a mo-ther in

A. still. When I get up in glo-ry I got a mo-ther in

T. *pp* *f* still. When I get up in glo-ry I got a mo-ther in heav - ven, When

B. *pp* *f* still. I got a mo-ther in heav - ven, I got a mo-ther in heav - ven, When

22 *p* *build steadily.....*

S. hea - ven, Lord, I can't stan' still. My Lord, stan' still_ Jor - dan, Stan' still Jor - dan,

A. hea - ven, Lord, I can't stan' still. My Lord, stan' still_ Jor - dan, Stan' still Jor - dan,

T. I get up in glo - ry, Lord, I can't stan' still. stan' still_ Jor - dan, Stan' still Jor - dan,

B. I get up in glo - ry, Lord I can't stan' still. stan' still_ Jor - dan, Stan' still Jor - dan,

29 *broaden.....* *sfp* *suddenly twice as fast* ♩ = 144

S. Stan'__ still__ Jor - dan, Lord I can't stan'__ still. *sfp*

A. Stan'__ still__ Jor - dan, Lord I can't stan'__ still. *sfp*

T. Stan'__ still__ Jor - dan, Lord I can't stan'__ still. *sfp*

B. Stan'__ still__ Jor - dan, Lord I can't stan'__ still. *sfp*

bell

shaker

drums

Ewe pronunciation key: open "low pitched" vowels: ò = 'taught'; è = 'bed'
closed "high pitched" vowels: ó = 'boat'; é = 'late'
'ts' pronounced as a soft 'ch' as in 'cheese'
all b's and d's should be "bounced" with the lips
the elision [wò_ ng] should be pronounced like 'song'

[Today's riches have made you forget yesterday;] [Send cloth to your mother in the grave.]

35 *solo* *solo*

S. 'Gbe nu kpò- wò_ nglò tsò be _____ 'Gbe nu kpò wò_ nglò tsò be _____

A. *S.* *A.* Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me' *S.* *A.* Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me'

T.

B.

bell

shaker

drums

39 *all S1*

S. *all S1*

'Gbe nu kpò-wò nglò tsò be _____

'Gbe nu kpò wò nglò tsò be _____

A. *S2*

A Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me'

A Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me'

T.

B.

bell

shaker

drums

43

S.

A.

T. *solo*

'Gbe nu kpò wò nglò tsò be _____

'Gbe nu kpò wò nglò tsò be _____

B. *T*

B Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me'

B Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me'

bell

shaker

drums

47

S.

A.

T. *all T1* *all T1*
 'Gbe nu kpò wò nglò tsò be_____ 'Gbe nu kpò wò nglò tsò be_____

B. *T2* *T2*
 Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me' B Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me'

bell

shaker

drums

51 *solo* *solo*
 'Gbe nu kpò-wò nglò tsò be_____ 'Gbe nu kpò wò nglò tsò be_____

A. *S.* *A.* *A.*
 Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me'

T. *solo* *solo*
 'Gbe nu kpò wò nglò tsò be_____ 'Gbe nu kpò wò nglò tsò be_____

B. *T* *B*
 Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me'

bell

shaker

drums

54

all S1

S. 'Gbe nu kpò-wò nglò tsò be_____

A. *S1* Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me' *S2* Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me'

T. *all T1* 'Gbe nu kpò wò nglò tsò be_____

B. *T* *B* Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me' *T2* *B* Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me'

bell

shaker

drums

57

all S1

S. 'Gbe nu kpò wò nglò tsò be_____ I can't stan' still___ O Lord I can't stan' still

A. *S2* Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò I can't stan' still___ O Lord I can't stan' still

T. *all T1* 'Gbe nu kpò wò nglò tsò be_____ O Lord I

B. *T2* *all B* *B* Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me' O Lord I

bell

shaker

drums

61

S. 'Gbe nu kpò-wò nglò tsò be_____

A. 'Gbe nu kpò-wò nglò tsò be_____

T. can't stan' still___ O Lord I can't stan' still___ Jor-dan Ri - ver_____

B. can't stan' still___ O Lord I can't stan' still___ Jor-dan Ri - ver_____

bell

shaker

drums

65

S. Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me' Jor-dan Ri - ver_____

A. Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me' Jor-dan Ri - ver_____

T. chil - ly and cold___ Jor-dan Ri - ver_____

B. chil - ly and cold___ Jor-dan Ri - ver_____

bell

shaker

drums

69 *molto dim.....* *ppp*

S. chil - ly and cold Can't stan' still, O Lord, I can't stan' still.

A. chil - ly and cold Can't stan' still, O Lord, I can't stan' still.

T. chil - ly and cold *ppp*

B. chil - ly and cold

bell

shaker

drums

73

S.

A.

T. can't stan' still.

B. can't stan' still.

bell

shaker

drums

76

bell

shaker

drums

diminuendo molto *ritardando.....*

$\text{♩} = 60$ (a little slower than at the beginning)

79

pp *(non cresc)* *allargando*

S. It will chill - a my bo - dy, - it will chill - a my bo - dy, - it will chill my bo - dy but not

A. It will chill - a my bo - dy, - it will chill - a my bo - dy, - it will chill my bo - dy but not

T. 8 It will chill - a my bo - dy, - it will chill - a my bo - dy, - it will chill my bo - dy but not

B. It will chill - a my bo - dy, - it will chill - a my bo - dy, - it will chill my bo - dy but not

molto rall.....
(give each 8th note)

86

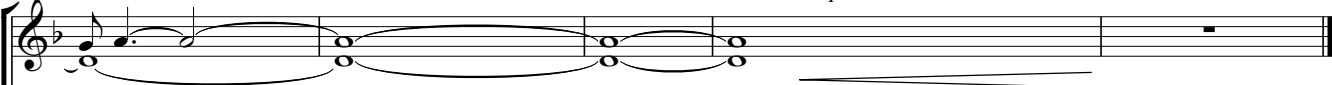
S. my soul! I can't stan' still. *p solo* 'Gbe nu kpò wò nglò

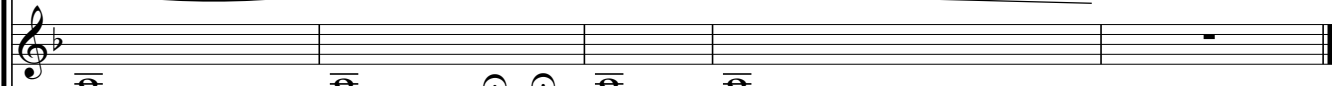
A. *sfp* my soul! I can't stan' still. *p*

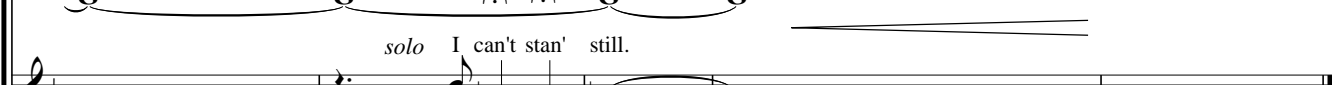
T. 8 *sfp* my soul! I can't stan' still. *p*


B. *sfp* my soul, My Lord, I can't stan' still. *p*


90 *tsò be* *rallentando.....* *ppp* ♩ = 144 *subito tempo II*

S. 

A. 

T. *solo* *I can't stan' still.* 

B. *solo* *Dè dò dó dé 'nò le yò me'* 

drums *mf* ♩ = 144 

August 3, 2006