

Musical Notes

Kaki Lambe: Kah-kee LAHM-beh = protector of the harvest
Kecombe: KEH-cohm-beh = come to me, come to us

Kaki Lambe: An invocation to Kaki Lambe, the masked Father of Destiny, who appears from the forest to revitalize and heal the community.

This arrangement of this traditional song from Senegal is an invocation to Kaki Lambe, the masked father of destiny, who appears from the forest to revitalize and heal the community. It is often sung during the harvesting of rice, may be performed by any combination of mixed voices and percussion.

Tone: Singers should not sing in a classical manner, but in a folkloric style. The tone should be very bright and nasal, with straight tone and no vibrato.

Rhythm: although the rhythm should be tight, especially at the ends of phrases, the music as a whole should feel loose and flowing.

Articulation: the first two parts (up to m.9) should be sung in a detached and very rhythmic manner, keeping the final eighth note of each phrase very short. The melodic lines (beginning at the pickup to m.21) are more legato and should have a slight scoop on the downbeat of the first and third measures of the phrase.

Percussion: the percussion parts included are simplified: you can access more complex parts through the internet. Although a single djembe (or other hand drum) may be used, the minimum instruments recommended are djembe, bell, and djun-djun (bass drum). To replicate the sound of the djun-djun, use a dampened bass drum or floor tom from a drum kit. Extra bells and shakers may be used for added rhythmic color and energy.

Begin with the djun-djun and bell parts, then add shaker and djembe. Once all parts have entered, play continuously except when the “break” occurs (from mss. 41-49 and from mss.73-81), where only the bell and djun-djun continue. At the final bar, all parts play a continuous “roll” as a pause, and end with an accented note.

Form: This arrangement as written is only one way to perform Kaki Lambe. Feel free to be creative in your use of this arrangement!