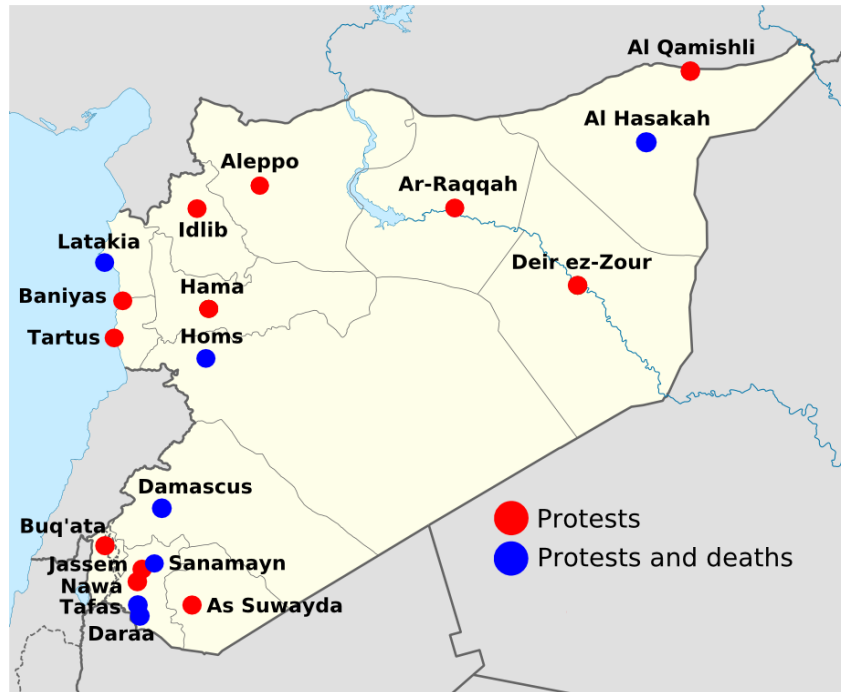




Carol Barnett

MY PEOPLE ARE RISING




BEADY EYES PUBLISHING
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My People Are Rising

My people are rising; my people are rising,
with olive branches and song, they are waking;
the earth underneath their marching is shaking.
My people are rising! They are no longer crouching;
they are no longer stooping;
and they are not hungry for bread alone.

...
My people are rising; they are shaking off
what has bound them, and their bonds scatter like moths.

...
My Sanameyn, my Jeezah, my Inkhel are rising, bless them;

...
My Banyas is rising and my Homs is rising; bless them.
My Duma is marching in the streets and my Latakia is marching; bless them.
My Qamishlo,

...
My Idlib...my Hama is marching; bless them.

...
I see them mustering unarmed, Kurd and Assyrian and Arab and Ghajar, bless them.
Christian and Alawite and Druze, bless them, Sunni and Shia and Ismailia, bless them;
tribe and tent and house and clan, bless them.

...
My people are rising. A blessing on my people.
They stand before tanks unarmed and they fall under bullets while calling,
"The earth is big enough for all of us! Let us have a little of it too! The earth is big!"
And as they bleed out on the cement in the street
where they played as children, their blood mixes with rain and runs off
into the big, big earth for which they longed.

And the young Horani said, as he lay dying that March day in Daraa City,
in the pool of rain mixed with his blood,
"It's worth it to have lived these last moments free."

...
I hear his words, and his blood runs into the soil of my dark
dark heart like the rain of this springtime in Syria.

by Mohja Kahf
(used with permission)

duration: c. 7:15

composer's note

I first heard this text in a 2016 BBC podcast; it is part of a longer work by Mohja Kahf entitled "My People Are Rising: An unfinished poem begun in Spring 2011 for an unfinished Revolution begun in March 2011." It spoke so viscerally of the tragic events in Syria that it was impossible for me to imagine setting it with Western harmonies. And so began an exploration of Arabic music, with its quarter-tone scales, its lack of vertical chordal structure, its abundantly ornamented heterophony. Since quarter-tones are not a part of our Western choral training, I opted to temper the scales a bit (resulting in a fair number of augmented seconds) and add a violin to the melodic mix for pitch support. The voices and violin are accompanied by a doumbek player, who is highly encouraged to improvise; the written notation is only there as a guide.

IPA pronunciation guide

Sanameyn
sanamen

Jeezah
ʒiza

Inkhel
ˈɪnχɛl

Banyas
bænjæs

Homs
hɔms

Duma
dumə

Latakia
lɛtakɪə

Qamishlo
kɔmɪʃlɔ

Idlib
ɪdlɪb

Hama
hama

Ghajar
ɣaʒar

Druze (Drooze)
druːz

Ismailia
ɪsmɑ-ɪliə

Horani
hɔrɑni

Daraa City
dɑrɑ-ɑː


beady eyes
publishing

Jointly commissioned by Elektra Women's Choir, Morna Edmundson, Artistic Director;
Canzona Women's Ensemble, Jill Anderson and Cricket Handler, Artistic Directors;
and Peninsula Women's Chorus, Martin Benvenuto, Artistic Director.

My People Are Rising

Mohja Kahf

Carol Barnett

♩ = 56; freely

Soprano

Alto

Violin

Doumbek

S

A

Vln.

S

A

Vln.

pp

(hum)

p

3

5

3

5

3

3

3

3

mp

My People Are Rising

11 *cresc. poco a poco*

S

A *cresc. poco a poco*

A

Vln. *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

14 *mf* *p*

S *ah*

A *mf* *p* *dim. poco a poco*

A *ah*

Vln. *f* *mp* *mf* *mp*

18 *pp*

S

A *pp*

Vln. *mp* *mp* *p*

21 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 116$

S *p* My peo-ple are ris - ing;

A *p* My peo-ple are ris - ing; — my peo-ple are ris - ing, my

Vln. *pp* *p* pizz.

Doum. *mp* *p* light fill light fill light fill

28 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 116$

S *mp* my peo-ple are ris - ing, my peo-ple are ris - ing, with o - live branch - es,

A *mp* peo-ple are ris - ing, my peo-ple are ris - ing, my peo-ple are ris - ing, with

Vln. *mp* arco

Doum. (time)

33 *mf*

S *mf* with o - live bran - ches, with o - live branch - es and song, — they are

A *mf* o - live branch - es, with o - live branch - es and song, — they are

Vln. *mf*

Doum. *mf*

My People Are Rising

38 *f* wak - ing; *mp* the

S

f wak - ing;

A

f wak - ing;

Vln. *f* *mp*

Doum. *f* medium fill

42 *mf* earth un - der - neath their march - ing is shak - ing, *mp* *mf* the

S

mp *mf* My peo - ple are ris - ing! The

A

mf the

mf the

Vln. *mp*

Doum. *p* (or light fill)

46

S
earth un - der - neath their march - ing is shak - ing.

A
earth un - der - neath their march - ing is shak - ing. My peo - ple are ris - ing!

Vln.
mf

Doum.
mf

46

S
They are no long - er crouch - ing, they are no long - er crouch - ing, and they are

A
They are no long - er stoop - ing, they are no long - er stoop - ing;

Vln.
tr tr (\parallel^{\wedge})

Doum.
50 light fill (\parallel^{\wedge})

55

S *f* not hun - gry for bread a - lone.

A *f* not hun - gry for bread a - lone.

Vln. 55 *pizz.* *f* arco

Doum. 55 *f* medium fill

59

S

A spoken *p* My peo - ple are ris - ing, my peo - ple are ris - ing;

Vln. 59 *mf* *p* light fill

Doum. 59 *mf* *p*

63

S spoken *p* ...they are shak - ing off what has bound them, *mp* they are shak - ing off *mp*

A *mp* my peo - ple are ris - ing, my peo - ple are ris - ing;

Doum. 63 *mp*

68 *cresc. poco a poco*

S what has bound them, they are shak-ing off

A *cresc. poco a poco*
they are shak-ing off what has bound them, they are shak-ing off

68 *cresc. poco a poco*

Doum.



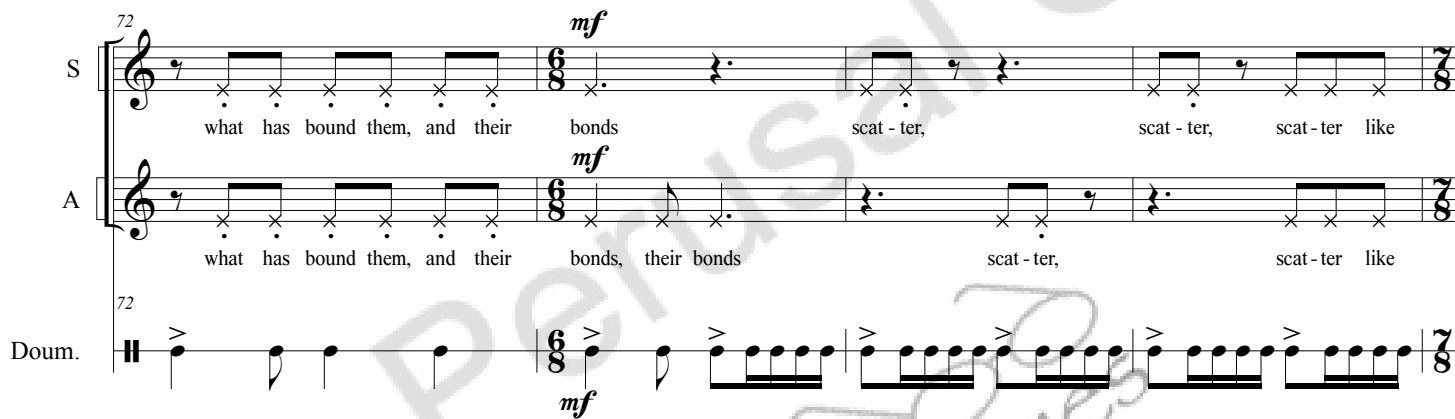
72 *mf*

S what has bound them, and their bonds scat-ter, scat-ter, scat-ter like

A *mf*
what has bound them, and their bonds, their bonds scat-ter, scat-ter like

72 *mf*

Doum.



76 *dim. poco a poco* *pp*

S moths. sh sh sh sh sh sh sh sh sh sh sh

A *dim. poco a poco* *pp*
moths. sh sh sh sh sh sh sh sh sh sh sh

76 *dim. poco a poco*

Doum.



My People Are Rising

80 (♩ = c. 116)

S *p* My Sa - na - meyn, my Jee - zah, my In - khel are ris - ing, ris - *cresc.*

A *p* My Sa - na - meyn, my Jee - zah, my In - khel are ris - ing, — *cresc.*

Vln. *p* *cresc.*

Doum. *p* (time) *cresc.*

85 *mf* *p* *mf*

S ing, bless them; ...is ris - ing, is ris - ing, is ris - ing; ble - ess — them,

A *mf* *p* *mf* — bless them; my Ban - yas and my Homs is ris - ing; ble - ess — them,

Vln. *mf* *p* *mf*

Doum. *mf* *p* *mf*

90

S ble - ess — them. My Du - ma is march - ing in the streets; bless them. My Qa -

A ble - ess — them. ...and my La - ta - ki - a is march - ing; bless them.

Vln. *mf*

Doum. *mf*

94

S mish - lo, my Ha - ma is march - ing; bless them, bless _____ them, bless them.

A My Id - lib, my Ha - ma; _____ bless them, bless _____ them, bless them,

Vln.

Doum.

98

S I see them mus - ter - ing un - armed, _____ ...and

A bless them. I see them mus - ter - ing un - armed, _____ Kurd and As - syr - i - an,

Vln.

Doum. light fill (time)

102

S A - rab and Gha - jar, _____ bless them. _____ ...bless them,

A _____ bless them. _____ Christ - ian and A - la - wite and Druze, _____ bless them,

Vln.

Doum.

106

S
Sun - ni, Shi - a, Is - ma - i - li - a, bless — them, bless them;

A
Sun - ni, Shi - a, Is - ma - i - li - a, bless them, bless them; *p* tribe and tent and

Vln.
p

Doum.
p

111

S
mp tribe and tent and house and clan, *mf* tribe and tent — and

A
house and clan, *mf* tribe and tent — and

Vln.
mp *mf*

Doum.
mp *mf*

115

S
house and clan, bless — bless them. ah ah — ah — ah —

A
house and clan, bless — bless them. ah ah — ah — ah —

Vln.
f

Doum.
f

119 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 108$ *mp* *mf*

S My peo-ple are ris - ing. *A* *mf*

A My peo-ple are ris - ing. ris - ing. *A* *mf*

Vln. *p* *mf*

Doum. busy fill *p*

125 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 100$

S bless - ing on my peo - ple. They stand be - fore tanks un - armed — and they

A bless - ing on my peo - ple. They stand be - fore tanks un - armed — and they

Vln. *p* *mf*

Doum. *p*

131 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 100$

S fall un - der bul - lets while call - ing, call - ing, "The earth is big e - nough for all of us! —

A fall un - der bul - lets while call - ing, call - ing, "The earth is big e - nough for all of us! —

Vln. *p* *mf*

Doum. *p*

137 *p sub.* *mp*

S Let us have a lit-tle of it too! The earth is big!"

A Let us have a lit-tle of it too! The earth is big!"

Vln. *p* *mp*

Doum. *mp*

142 *f* *mf* 3

S And as they bleed out on the ce-ment in the street where they played as

A And as they bleed out on the ce-ment in the street where they played as

Vln. *ff* *mf* 5 3

Doum. *f*

♩ = 88

145

S chil - dren,

A chil - dren, their blood mix-es with rain and runs off in - to the big, big earth for which they

Vln. *mf* 3 *dim.* 3

149

S *p* And the young Ho-ra-ni said, as he lay

A *p* longed.

Vln. *mp* *p*

153

S dy-ing that March day in Da-ra-'a Cit-y,

A *p* "It is worth it to have lived these last mo-ments

Vln. *p*

158

S I hear his

A free."

Vln. *p* Con sord. $\text{♩} = 80; \text{quiet but intense}$

Doum. *p* K D K sim. $\text{♩} = 80; \text{quiet but intense}$

D = doum (low ringing stroke; K = ka (short stroke at the edge of the drum head))

162

S words, _____ and his blood runs in - to the soil... *pp* "It is worth it, worth it."

A *p* "It is worth it." ...of my dark dark heart like the

Vln. 162 pizz.

Doum. 162 *p* K K K K *pp*

167

S *p* ...like the rain _____ of this spring - time _____ in Syr - i - a. *pp*

A rain of this spring-time, _____ spring-time in Syr - i - a. *pp*

Vln. 167 arco

172

S (hum) _____

A (hum) _____

Vln. 172 *dim. poco a poco* *pp*