

IKAN KEKEK
arr. Tan

SSA, accompanied

WJMS1205

IKAN KEKEK

SSA with Descant, Piano, and
Body Percussion

Arranged by
Yu Hang Tan

JO-MICHAEL SCHEIBE CHORAL SERIES
Committed to Musical & Educational Excellence


WALTON

About the Work

Ikan Kekek is a Malay folk song about ponyfish. As with many other Southeast Asian folk songs, *Ikan Kekek*'s melody is short and it is made up of only four notes: do, re, mi, sol. Despite the simplicity and repetitiveness of the melody, this song is brought to life by the indirect expressions and metaphors in this pantun (poem). Pantun is a disjunctive form of poetry that comes in two parts: the first two lines being the pembayang (shadow) that usually connects to the isi (the heart of the message) by rhymes and verbal associations. In this pantun, different types of fish ("ikan") are symbols of the simple joys in everyday life that link to the main message: "let's go home together, my dear younger brother/sister." ("nanti adik mak iloi iloi, pulang sama mak ilai ilai") The two verses selected in this arrangement were intended to remind ourselves to not forget to keep searching for beauty and magic in everyday mundane life.

The body percussion (could be choreographed) and descants in this arrangement are meant to be improvised. For suggested performance guide, search USC Thornton Oriana Choir's performance on YouTube.

Text, IPA Pronunciation Guide, and Translation

Ikan kekek mak iloi iloi
[ikan kɛkɛk mak iloɪ iloɪ]

*The ponyfish, mak iloi iloi**

Ikan gelama mak ilai ilai
[ikan ɡɛlama mak ilai ilai]

*The soldier croaker fish, mak ilai ilai**

Nanti adik mak iloi iloi
[nanti adɛk mak iloɪ iloɪ]

*Wait a second, my dear younger brother/sister,
mak iloi iloi*

Pulang sama mak ilai ilai
[pulang sama mak ilai ilai]

Let's go home together, mak ilai ilai

Ada satu ikan parang
[ada satu ikan parɑŋ]

There is a herring

Badannya panjang berbelang-belang
[badɑnɑ pɑŋdʒɑŋ bɛrbɛlɑŋbɛlɑŋ]

Its body is long and striped

Isinya sikit banyak tulang
[isɪnɪɑ sɪkɪt bɑŋkɑk tʉlɑŋ]

There are more bones than flesh

Sedap dimakan kalau masak pindan
[sɛdɑp dɪmɑkɑn kɑlɑʉ mɑsɑk pɪndɑn]

*It tastes good if it is cooked in the style of pindang***

- "Mak iloi-iloi" and "mak ilai-ilai" are nonsense syllables.
- **Pindang (or pindan in ancient Malay) is a common cooking style in Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia, usually referring to cooking fish or meat in a sour and spicy broth flavored with tamarind, lime, chilli, lemongrass, garlic, shallot, and turmeric.
- Final [k], [p], and [t] in Malay are stopped. For example, "kekek", "adik", "mak", "sedap", "sikit", and "masak". In the case where the singers cannot pronounce stopped [k], [t], and/or [p], it is recommended to drop those final consonants altogether.
- "Adik" is commonly mispronounced as [ˈɑ.dɪk]. It should be pronounced as [ˈɑ.dɛk].
- [d] and [t] in Malay are dental consonants.

About the Composer

From Malaysia, Yu Hang Tan (he/him) is a choral conductor and baritone currently pursuing his DMA in Choral Music at the University of Southern California (USC). Before moving to Los Angeles, Yu Hang was an active member of the Atlantic Canada choral scene, where he directed the St. Augustine's Church Choir, Seniors Folk Gospel Choir, and Suara, a semi-professional choir he founded in Fall of 2018. He also co-directed the Memorial University of Newfoundland Choirs, Atlantic Boychoir, and Cantus Vocum Chamber Choir. Performing nationally and abroad, Yu Hang is an alumnus of the 2018 and 2020 World Youth Choir, 2014 Ontario Youth Choir, and the all-professional Elora Parish Choir. In addition to his studies, Yu Hang is currently the lead conductor of the USC Thornton Oriana Choir, Senior TA and Festival Coordinator of the USC Choral Department, and project manager of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Countries' Youth Choir.

Duration: Approx. 3:00

for USC Thornton Oriana Choir, TeamO

Ikan Kekek

SA Chorus, Descant with Piano
and Body Percussion

Traditional Malay
Arranged by Yu Hang Tan and
USC Thornton Oriana Choir

Improvised (♩ = 60)

The musical score is written for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Descant (*Desc.), Body Percussion (*B.P.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as 'Improvised (♩ = 60)'. The Soprano part begins with a melody in the key of F# major, starting with a quarter rest followed by a dotted quarter note, then a series of eighth notes. The Alto part has a long note with a fermata. The Descant part has a similar melody to the Soprano. The Body Percussion part has a 'stomp' mark. The Piano part has a long note with a fermata. The lyrics are: 'I - kan ke - kek _ mak i - loi i - loi, i - kan ge - la - ma _ mak i - lai i lai. Nan - ng ti a - dik _ mak i - loi i - loi, pu - lang sa - ma _ mak i - lai i - lai. I -'.

* In keeping with the improvisatory nature of Malay folk songs, the descants and body percussion in this arrangement are intended to be improvised by the choir. The notated descants and body percussion in this arrangement were improvised/composed by the USC Thornton Oriana Choir.

5

kan_ ke - kek i - kan_ ke - kek i -

p
ng

kan ke - kek_ mak i - loi i - loi, i - kan ge - la - ma_ mak i - lai i - lai. Nan-

p Gong-like

7

kan_ ke - kek i - kan_ ke - kek

lai i -

ti a - dik_ mak i - loi i - loi, pu - lang sa - ma_ mak - i - lai i

Gamelan-like ($\text{♩} = 60$)

9

(stomp)

clap

mp

S
lai

f

A
dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang

mf

11

sim.

dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang dang

13

Musical score for measures 13-14. The score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features three staves: a vocal line, a piano accompaniment line, and a grand staff. The vocal line starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and contains the lyrics: "ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding". The piano accompaniment consists of eighth-note chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand. A large watermark "DONOT PHOTOCOPY" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

15

Musical score for measures 15-16. The score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features three staves: a vocal line, a piano accompaniment line, and a grand staff. The vocal line starts with a *sim.* (sotto) dynamic and contains the lyrics: "ding ding ding ding ding ding guh ding ding ding ding ding ding ding". The piano accompaniment consists of eighth-note chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand. A large watermark "DONOT PHOTOCOPY" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

17

Desc. *f*
kek ke - kek ke -

S
dingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingding

A
dang dangdangdangdang dangdang dang dang dangdangdangdangdang

mp

19

- kek ke - kek

Glissando

dingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingdingding

dang dangdangdangdangdangdang dang dang dangdangdangdangdang

a tempo (♩ = 60)

25

mp
i - kan pa -
ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding de reng ding ding
da sa - tu i - kan pa - rang ba -

mp

26

rang be - lang be -
ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding de reng ding ding
dan - nya pan - jang ber - be - lang - be - lang. I -

27

lang ban - yak tu -

ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding de reng ding ding

si - nya si - kit ban - yak lang se -

28

lang ma - sak pin -

ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding ding Hey! I -

dap di - ma - kan ka - lau ma - sak pin - dan. Hey! I -

29

dan i-loi i-loi i-lai i-kan ke-kek mak i-loi i-loi, i-kan ge-la-ma mak i-lai i-lai. Nan-kan ke-kek mak i-loi i-loi, i-kan ge-la-ma mak i-lai i-lai. Nan-

mf

31

lai i-loi i-loi mak i-lai ti a-dik mak i-loi i-loi, pu-lang sa-ma mak i-lai i-lai. I-ti a-dik mak i-loi i-loi, pu-lang sa-ma mak i-lai i-lai

mp
p

Senza Misura

33

improvised, ornamented, come in at different times

S
kan ke - kek_ mak i-loi i - loi, i kan ge-la-ma_ mak i-lai i - lai. Nan-

hold until the melody is over

A
ng

mp

35

ti a - dik_ mak i-loi i - loi, pu-lang sa - ma_ mak i-lai i - lai_____

