

JESU TI DE S'AYE

(CHRISTMAS CAROL SONG)

[A Composition for Solo, Mixed Voices and Organ/Piano]

Sunday Oludele Oluwaseun BABALOLA Ph.D

Department of Music

Lagos State University of Education, Oto/Ijanikin, Lagos, Nigeria.

+2349075275212 or +2348055254041

whereisseun@gmail.com or babalolaso@lasued.edu.ng

COMPOSITIONAL PROCEDURES AND ANALYSIS OF THE SONG

Title : Jesu ti de s'aye

Composer : Babalola Seun

Date Composed : 2023.

Medium : Mixed Voices and Organ

Tine Signature : Compound Duple Time

STYLE : Tonal, Diatonic, Melodic, Syncopation, Cross rhythm

Form : Classical form ABCDEA (RONDO)

A	A	B	C	D	E
1- 9	14 – 22	23 - 36	37 - 52	53 - 72	73 - 80

Key : F major

Tempo : Vivace (Lively)

Texture : Homophonic and Polyphonic in Nature

Mood : Story about Jesus

Audience : Large Audience

Motif :

Language : Yoruba

Duration : 2: 57 or 3 mins

Analysis of *Jesu ti de s'aye*

The composition *Jesu Ti De S'aye* draws its inspiration from the biblical narrative of Jesus Christ's birth. It reflects the journey of the three wise men who followed the star to Bethlehem, capturing the joyous essence of the Nativity. The work situates itself within the tradition of Christmas carols, inviting listeners to embrace the message of Christ's coming and to acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior.

Structural Analysis

The piece opens with an organ introduction (bars 1–4), establishing a solemn yet anticipatory atmosphere. A female soloist then enters with the line “*Mo gbo ohun kan*” (“I heard a voice”). By bar 14, the full ensemble joins, sustaining long notes on “*OH*” until bar 22, creating a layered texture distinct from the soloist's line.

At bar 23, a true call-and-response dynamic emerges: the soloist sings “*Emmanuel o*”, while the SATB ensemble responds with “*Oba wa, Baba wa*” (“Our King, Our Father”). This exchange reflects reverence and highlights Yoruba cultural elements of communal dialogue and respect.

A bridge follows at bar 37, during which all vocal parts rest until bar 40. From bar 41, sopranos enter sequentially, while alto, tenor, and bass voices maintain rhythmic support. By bar 52, all voices unite with the sopranos, singing the same text together. This section allows interpretive flexibility, accommodating either a slower, meditative tempo or a faster, celebratory pace.

At bar 53, the female soloist reappears, urging listeners to accept Jesus and proclaiming the blessings of doing so. From bar 60 to 66, the choir sings in unison, reinforcing the message with clarity and strength. Bars 67–72 feature harmonized singing across all voice parts, enriching the texture.

At bar 73, the soprano re-enters, declaring the joy of hearing the proclamation of Christ's birth. The piece concludes after 80 bars, marked by repetitions and a piano bridge that provides structural cohesion.

Key Textual Motifs

- *Mo gbo ohun kan*: I heard a voice
- *Jesu ti de s'aye*: Jesus has come into the world
- *Aye a tu ba*: There will be harmony on earth
- *Oba wa*: Our King
- *Baba wa*: Our Father
- *Araye a yo*: The people will rejoice
- *Gba sinu okan re*: Invite Him into your heart
- *A fun o l'ayo*: He will give you joy
- *A fun o ni isegun*: He will grant you victory
- *Mo ti dalayo*: I am now a happy person

Dynamics

- *P* – Soft
- *F* – Loud
- *FF* – Very Loud
- *At Lib.* – At liberty (performer's discretion)

JESU TI DE 'SAYE

FOR MIXED VOICES (SATB)

BABALOLA, SEUN 2023

vivace *p*

Sop. Solo Mo gbo hun kan

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Organ *p*

7

mo gbo hun Re mo gbo hun kan O-lu-wa pe Je - su Kris - ti ti de sa *f*

13

ye mo gbo hun kan mo gbo hun Re mo gbo hun

p oh oh oh oh oh oh oh

p oh oh oh oh oh oh oh

p oh oh oh oh oh oh oh

p oh oh oh oh oh oh oh

p oh oh oh oh oh oh oh

19

kan O-lu-wa pe Je - su Kris - ti ti de sa ye E - ma - nue - li o

p oh oh oh oh oh oh oh O ba

p oh oh oh oh oh oh oh O ba

p oh oh oh oh oh oh oh O ba

p oh oh oh oh oh oh oh O ba

p oh oh oh oh oh oh oh O ba

25

E - ma-nue-li o E - ma-nue-li o a bi Je - su a ye a tu

wa Ba - ba wa O - ba wa a - bi Je - su a - ye a tu

wa Ba - ba wa O - ba wa a - bi Je - su a - ye a tu

wa Ba - ba wa O - ba wa bi Je - su a - ye a tu

wa Ba - ba wa O - ba wa a - bi Je - su a - ye a tu

32

ba a - bi Je - su a ra ye e yo

ba a - bi Je - su a ra ye e yo

ba a - bi Je - su a ra ye e yo

ba a - bi Je - su a ra ye e yo

ba a - bi Je - su a ra ye e yo

39

f A - ra a tu ba a - ra a tu ba
f a - ra tu wa a - ra tu wa a - ra tu wa a - ra tu wa
f a - ra tu wa a - ra tu wa a - ra tu wa a - ra tu wa

45

a - ra a tu me ku nu a-tun-ta-ra i - le e ku e - wu
a ra tu wa a - ra tu wa a ra tu wa a ra tu wa e ku e - wu
a ra tu wa a - ra tu wa a ra tu wa a ra tu wa e ku e - wu
a ra tu wa a - ra tu wa a ra tu wa a ra tu wa e ku e - wu

51

Gba si nu o-kan re___ gba a si nu o-kan re___

o - ni-gba -gbo___

o - ni-gba -gbo___

o - ni-gba -gbo___

o - ni-gba -gbo___

57

a fun o'la - yo___ a fun o ni i se gun___ lo - ri a - ye___

63

p Gba si nu o-kan re _____ *f* gba a si nu o-kan re _____ *ff* a fun o la - yo _____

Gba si nu o-kan re _____ gba a si nu o-kan re _____ wa la - yo _____

Gba si nu o-kan re _____ gba a si nu o-kan re _____ wa la - yo _____

Gba si nu o-kan re _____ gba a si nu o-kan re _____ wa la - yo _____

69

ff mo ti da la - yo _____

a fun o ni i -se-gun _____ lo - ri a ye _____ *ff* a la -

a fun o ni i -se-gun _____ lo - ri a ye _____ a la -

a fun o ni i -se-gun _____ la a ye _____ a la -

a fun o ni i -se-gun _____ la a ye _____ a la -

75

mo ti da la -yo mo gbo hun kan Je - su de

yo a - yo gbo kan pe Je-su wa de

yo a - yo gbo kan Je - su de

yo a - yo gbo kan Je - su de

yo a - yo gbo kan Je - su de

yo a - yo gbo kan Je - su de

fff