

Run, Mary, Run

For SATB a cappella with Percussion

Duration: ca. 3:15

Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by BRIAN TATE

With energy and rhythm (♩ = 76)

Soprano Alto
p unis.
Run(n)*, Mar - y run, — run(n), Mar - y run, —

Tenor Bass
p unis.

— I say. — Run(n), Mar - y, run, — you

got a right to the tree of life, — you got a right to the

Djembe cue
tree of life. —

15 *p*
Run(n), Mar - y, run, — run(n), Mar - y run —

p unis.

*Breathy; close to the "n" right away.

DO NOT
PHOTOCOPY



— I say. — Run(n), Mar - y, run, — you

18

got a right to the tree of life, — you got a right to the

21

Soprano 25 *mp*
tree of life. — You got a right, — you got — a right. —

Alto *mp*
tree of life. — Run, run, — run, run, — you

Tenor *mp unis.*
— — — — —

Bass
— — — — —

24

O lit - tle Mar - y, you —

got a right to the tree of life. — Run, run, —

27

— got a right. — Mm hm — The

run, run, — you got a right to the tree of life. —

30

He - brew chil - dren got a right. —

Run, run, — run, run, — you got a right to the

unis. >

33

With all them sor - rows, you — got a right. —

tree of life. — Run, run, — run, run, — you

unis. >

36

Solo ad lib. or a few singers
(for soloist, written notes are a guideline only)

mf

cue new djembe rhythm

41

Run, Mar - y, run. —

Soprano ***mf***

Alto got a right to the tree of life. — Run, Mar - y, run, —

mf

39

Run,

RUN, MARY, RUN – SATB

Run, Mar - y, run. — O Mar - y run, —

run, Mar - y run — I say. —

42 run, Mar - y run. — Run, Mar - y run. —

Mar - y — run, —

Run, Mar - y, run — you got a right to the

45 Run, —

you got a right. — O yes. —

tree of life, — you got a right to the tree of life. —

48

51 cue new djembe rhythm

mp Mar - y run. — *mf* Mar - y run. — *mf* O Mar - y. —

Mar - y run, — Mar - y run, —

mp *mf*

51

Mar - y run. _____

mp Mar - y run. _____ *mf* Mar - y run. _____ *f* Mar - y run. _____

Mar - y run. _____ Mar - y run. _____ Mar - y run. _____

54

Solo ad lib.
or a few singers

f [58] *mf*

O I come to tell you, you got a right. _____
O well, ups and downs, but you got a right. _____

mf Run, run, run, run, you

57

O chil - dren gone but you _____
True hard born but you _____

got a right to the tree of life. _____ Run, run, _____

unis. You got a right to the tree of; Run, run, _____

60

_____ got a right. _____ The
_____ got a right. _____ O

unis. run, run, you got a right to the tree of life. _____

run, run. _____ You got a right to the tree of;

63

cross is heav - y but you got a right. —
 weep - in' Mar - y — you got a right. —

unis.

Run, run, — run, run, — you got a right to the

unis.

66 Run, run, — run, run. — You got a

O weep-in' Mar - y, you — got a right. —
 I come to tell — you, you — got a right. —

unis.

tree of life. — Run, run, — run, run, — you

69 right to the tree of; Run, run, — run, run. —

f [74]

Run, Mar - y run, —
 O Mar - y run, —

f *cue new djembe rhythm*
optional clapping on 2 and 4

got a right to the tree of life. — Run, Mar - y, run, —

unis.

72 You got a right to the tree of; Run,

run, Mar - y, run. — O Mar - y —

run, Mar - y run — I say. —

75 run, Mar - y run. — Run, Mar - y run. —

Mar - y — run. —

Run, Mar - y, run — you got a right to the

78 Run, — you got a right to the

unis. p

unis. p

mp

You got a right. —

1. to m. 51

End clapping

tree of life. — You got a right to the tree of life. —

81 tree of life. — You got a right to the tree of life. —

unis.

2. 85

O you got a right. — Yes, you got a right. —

cresc. poco a poco

tree of life. — You got a right to the tree of life. — You

unis. cresc. poco a poco unis.

84 tree of life. — You got a right to the tree of life. — You

— Mar - y, run. — *End clapping*

cue djembe ***f***

got a right to the tree of life. — You got a right to the

unis. f

87 got a right to the tree of life. — You got a right to the

f

Run, Mar - y, run. —

div.

tree of life!

90 tree of life!

Run, Mary, Run

11

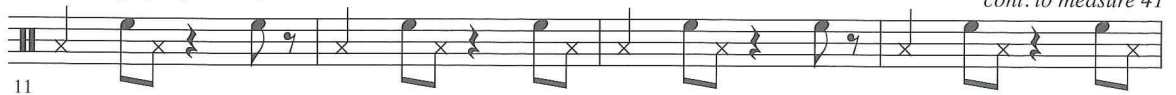
DJEMBE (muted bass tone)

Guideline Part

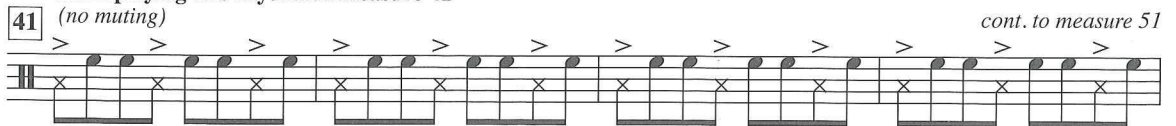
Player may add preferred sense of the groove.

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Start playing this rhythm in measure 11



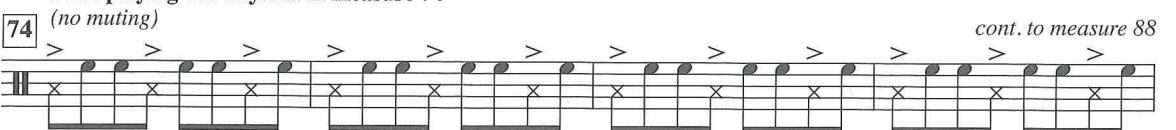
Start playing this rhythm in measure 41



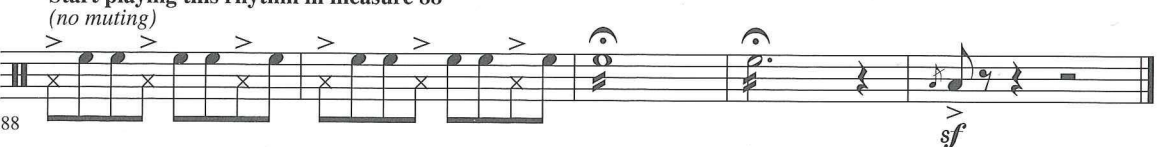
Start playing this rhythm in measure 51



Start playing this rhythm in measure 74



Start playing this rhythm in measure 88



Notes from the Arranger

Run, Mary, Run is an arrangement of an African-American Ring Shout – a sacred, African-derived dance with singing that originated during times of slavery and continues to this day in the Gullah community of the Georgia Sea Islands.

A Ring Shout is a counter-clockwise circular dance with a strong rhythm sustained by the shuffling of feet, hand clapping, and often a pounding stick. The ritual could send participants into an ecstatic, trance-like state that may last for hours.

The text of this particular Ring Shout is, as many are, based on gaining freedom from slavery. I also hear it as a song espousing our fundamental human rights, powerfully expressed by the repeated lyric: *You got a right to the tree of life!*

I first learned the song from Linda Tillery, one of my mentors in the music of African-American traditions. I wanted to give it a more contemporary feel, since virtually all soul, gospel, and hip-hop music have their roots in the music of Africa. The song should be performed with a loose, pop-like sound, contrasting a breathy, mysterious tone with a forward, brassy sound. Singers should convey a feeling of encouragement and self-determination embodied in the text and the music. Although solo parts are notated to reflect the style, singers should be encouraged to improvise their lines as “the spirit moves them.”

Brian Tate