

Tewa Entrance Song

Informant/Performer:
Louis W. Ballard
1973

Source:
Louis W. Ballard
American Indian Music for the Classroom
Canyon Records 4143

♩ = 160



The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 160. The time signature changes throughout the piece: 4/8, 3/8, 4/8, 3/8, 6/8, 4/8, and 3/8. The lyrics are written below the staff, with syllables aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: Ho - oh - oh - we hung' äh Hä - we ho - oh oh - we__ hung' - äh, Hä - we ho - oh oh - we__ hung' äh, hä - we ho - oh oh - we__ hung' äh, Hä - we ho__ ho__ ho - oh - we ho - we hung' äh Aa - aa - aa - aa aa - aa - aa - wah - nay - aa - aa - aa, aa - aa - aa - wah nay - aa aa, Hä - we nay - aa aa aa aa__

Background Information

The word Tewa is derived from the word meaning "moccasins," their Keresan name. These Pueblo dwellers belong to the Tanoan linguistic family and occupy the villages of San Ildefonso, San Juan, Santa Clara, Nambe, Tesuque (all in the valley of the Rio Grande River in northern New Mexico), and Hano, located in the Hopi country in northeast Arizona...

An entrance song is used by the ceremonial dancers or the singers to indicate the time of prelude or beginning of a particular ceremony or dance. Since this song contains no actual Tewa language and liturgical meaning, it will not violate the sanctity of the Tewa religion to use the song out of context. Therefore, it should be regarded as a beautiful melody and a rhythmic musical experience for all to enjoy.