


Marking Joe
MCP - Chicago

O WHAT A BEAUTIFUL CITY

for SSAATTBB Chorus and Piano

arr. SHAWN KIRCHNER

SKP SHAWN KIRCHNER PUBLISHING

NOTES ON THE PIECE

In the mid 1990's a friend gave me a recording of Chanticleer's thrilling rendition of "O What a Beautiful City" as arranged by Joseph Jennings. The song stayed with me, having made a powerful first impression. A few years later I was living in Chicago, and happened to sing for some Ukrainian Orthodox Easter services. The unique five-syllable "al-le-lu-i-a's" got into my brain. One afternoon a few weeks after Easter, the idea for this piece suddenly "showed up": five-syllable "halleluia's" adorning the timeless melody of the old spiritual. For the last decade, I have performed the piece with my church choir, improvising an accompaniment. Now a piano part is finally written out, along with a newly-added (but strictly optional) "cut time" coda for any choir blessed with a great gospel soloist who can help take things even higher!

In terms of performance, the piece lends itself to movement. If stepping or clapping is added at any point, it's best done at half-note intervals rather than quarters. So, clapping would only come on beat 3 of every measure, for example, rather than on 2 and 4.

If the optional coda is used, quick stepping and clapping is really fun, stepping on every quarter, clapping on every off-beat 8th.

NOTE FOR THE PIANIST

For those pianists less familiar with gospel style, the only imperative is that the 8th notes must all be swung, of course. It may be a little tricky when a tied note precedes the swung 8th, as often happens before the "and" of 2 in this arrangement. If in doubt, don't hesitate to consult with an experienced jazz or gospel player to make sure you're feeling things right. At the coda, the 8ths are straight, though!

It also goes without saying that experienced gospel players may depart freely from the printed accompaniment.

O What a Beautiful City

Traditional Spiritual

*This pattern of articulation
continues* sustained tones non-vibrato

arr. Shawn Kirchner

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 63 \text{ Swing}$ $\text{♩} = \text{♩}^{\#}$

Soprano *pp* Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a —

Alto *pp* Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a —

Tenor *pp* Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a —

Bass *pp* Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a —



5

Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, ha —

Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, ha —

Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, ha —

Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a —

p marcato

9

O what a beau-ti-ful ci - ty!

Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, ha

(a) Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a -

Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, ha

(a) Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a -

(a) Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a -

p marcato O what a beau-ti-ful ci - ty! O



13

Twelve gates to the ci - ty, Hal - le

Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a

(a) Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a -

Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a

(a) Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a -

(a) Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a -

O what a beau-ti-ful ci - ty! Twelve gates to the ci - ty, Hal - le

25

gold? Paved with

heard a-bout the ci-ty? The streets are paved with gold! Have you

mf

29

gold? Are paved with

heard a-bout the ci-ty? The streets are paved with gold!

mf

New!

33

gold! Hal - le - lu!

Twelve gates to the ci-ty, hal - le - lu!

Hal - le - lu - ia,

Hal - le - lu - ia,

mf *f* *sub. mp leggiero*

cresc.

STRAIGHT,
PURE triads
like Bluegrass

37 *mp marcato*
S I O what a beau-ti-ful ci-ty! O what a beau-ti-ful ci - ty,

S II *p* Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a

A *p* Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a *p* Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a,

T *p* Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a *p* Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a,

B I *p* Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a -

mp marcato
B II O what a beau-ti-ful ci-ty! O what a beau-ti-ful ci - ty,

p

light accent

41 *mf*

O! What a beau-ti-ful ci-ty! Twelve gates to the ci-ty, Hal - le -

cresc. poco a poco

Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, ha

cresc. poco a poco
(a)

Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, ha

cresc. poco a poco
(a)

Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, ha

cresc. poco a poco
(a)

Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, ha

mf

O! What a beau-ti-ful ci-ty! Twelve gates to the ci-ty, Hal - le -

cresc. poco a poco

3

45

f
 lu - - - ia!

mf Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a
cresc.

(ha) Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a
mf Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, *cresc.*

(ha) Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a
mf Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, *cresc.*

mf (ha)

f
 lu - - - ia!

Equal
Divisi
until
61

10
49

S
Three gates in - a the east! — Three gates in - a the west! —

A

53

S
Three gates in - a the north! — Three gates in - a the south! —

A

Twelve gates of

57

See those gates of pearl, — o - pen to all the world! —

See those gates of pearl, — o - pen to all the world! —

8
pearl, — o - pen to all the

407
Dw/51

61

Twelve gates to the ci - ty, Hal - le - lu - - ia!

Twelve gates to the ci - ty, Hal - le - lu - - ia!

world, Hal - le - lu! Hal - le - lu - ia, O what a

mp

Surprise
↓ Think
More

66 *mp*

O what a beau-ti-ful ci-ty, a beau-ti-ful ci-ty, O! What a

mp

O what a beau-ti-ful ci-ty, a beau-ti-ful ci-ty, O! What a

beau-ti-ful ci-ty! O what a beau-ti-ful ci-ty, O! What a

sfz *f*

70

beau-ti-ful ci-ty! Twelve gates to the ci-ty, Hal-le-lu-ia!

beau-ti-ful ci-ty! Twelve gates to the ci-ty, Hal-le-lu-ia!

beau-ti-ful ci-ty! Twelve gates to the ci-ty, Hal-le-lu-ia!

Three Part Divisi

75 *ff*

Three gates in - a the east!___ Three gates in - a the west!___

Three Part Divisi

ff

Three gates in - a the east!___ Three gates in - a the west!___

ff

Three gates in - a the east!___ Three gates in - a the west!

ff

ff

79

Three gates in - a the north!___ Three gates in - a the south!___

Three gates in - a the north!___ Three gates in - a the south!___

Three gates in - a the north!___ Three gates in - a the south!

ff

83

See those gates of pearl, — o-pen to all the world! —

See those gates of pearl, — o-pen to all the world! —

— See those gates of pearl, — o-pen to all the

87

Twelve gates to the ci-ty, Hal - le - lu - - - ia!

Twelve gates to the ci-ty, Hal - le - lu, Hal - le - lu - ia, —

Hal - le - lu, Hal - le - lu - ia, —

world! — Hal - le, Hal - le - lu - ia!

4 Part divisi

For Part

if possible

91

SI Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a
sustained tones non-vibrato

SII Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a

AI Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a
sustained tones non-vibrato

AII Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a

TI Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a
sustained tones non-vibrato

TII Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a

B

p *mp*

sustained tones non-vibrato

95 *mf*
 hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a

mf
 Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a
 sustained tones non-vibrato

mf
 hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a

mf
 Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a
 sustained tones non-vibrato

mf
 hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a

mf
 Hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a

f to the fore
 O what a beau-ti - ful ci - ty! O what a beau-ti - ful ci - ty,

mf
 3

f AGAINST
AD

Twelve gates to the ci-ty, Hal - le,

hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a Hal - le,

a Hal - le,

hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, a Hal - le,

T1

Twelve gates to the ci-ty, Hal - le,

T2

hal - le - lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - i - a, Twelve gates to the ci-ty, Hal - le,

B1

B2

O what a beau-ti - ful ci-ty! Twelve gates in the ci-ty. Hal - le,

*Twelve
gates
equal*

f

103 *ff*

SI
SII
Hal - le-lu - i - a, hal-le-lu - i - a, Hal - le-lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - ia! Hal - le-lu - i - a,

AI
AII
ff
Hal - le-lu - i - a, hal-le-lu - i - a, Hal - le-lu - i - a, hal - le - lu - ia! Hal - le-lu - i - a,

TI
TII
ff
Hal - le-lu, hal-le, hal-le-lu - i - a, Hal - le-lu, hal-le, hal-le-lu - i - a, Hal - le-lu, hal-le,

BI
BII
ff



108

molto rit. *ppv.*
hal-le-lu - i - a, Hal - le-lu - i - a, hal-le-lu, Hal-le - lu - ia!

molto rit. *ppv.*
hal-le-lu - i - a, Hal - le-lu - i - a, hal-le-lu, Hal-le - lu - ia!

molto rit. *ppv.*
hal-le-lu - i - a, Hal - le-lu, hal-le, hal-le-lu, Hal-le - lu - ia!

molto rit. *ppv.*

molto rit. *ppv.*

ff

OPTIONAL CODA

♩ = c. 132 straight 8ths

Highly rhythmic singing, going quickly to the "l" to shorten the vowels
Repeat this section freely as the spirit moves, as the soloist improvises

113

Hal - le - lu - ia! shout Hal - le - lu - ia! shout Hal - le - lu - ia! Hal - le - lu - i - a!

Hal - le - lu - ia! shout Hal - le - lu - ia! shout Hal - le - lu - ia! Hal - le - lu - i - a!

Hal - le - lu - ia! shout Hal - le - lu - ia! shout Hal - le - lu - ia! Hal - le - lu - i - a!

Hal - le - lu - ia, hal - le - lu - ia, hal - le - lu - ia, Hal - le - lu - i - a!

mp *p* *f* *sfz*

117

Hal - le - lu - i - a! Hal - le - lu - i - a! Hal - le - lu - i - a! Hal - le - lu - i - a!

Hal - le - lu - i - a! Hal - le - lu - i - a! Hal - le - lu - i - a! Hal - le - lu - i - a!

Hal - le - lu - i - a! Hal - le - lu - i - a! Hal - le - lu - i - a! Hal - le - lu - i - a!

Hal - le - lu - i - a! Hal - le - lu - i - a! Hal - le - lu - i - a! Hal - le - lu - i - a!

f *ff rit.* *rit.* *ff*