

Otherwise

Lyrics: Toos van Raaij

Music: Paul Merkus, Op.32 No.1

Moderately fast ♩ = 132

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major (two flats). It begins with a treble clef staff containing five whole rests. The piano accompaniment starts in the second measure with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note bass line. Chord symbols are placed below the piano staves: Cm, G7, Cm, G7, A^b maj7, B^b7, and E^b E^b.

The second system begins at measure 5, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The vocal line enters with the lyrics "1. Try to es - c on - ly look - ing". The piano accompaniment is marked mezzo-piano (*mp*). Chord symbols below the piano staves are B^b, E^b, Fm, B^b, E^b, and Cm. A large orange watermark with the text "musicalion" and "click for more" is centered over the system.

The third system begins at measure 8. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "at his own face_ . Ra - ging times dis - guise his fee - lings,". The piano accompaniment features chords and a bass line. Chord symbols below the piano staves are F7, B^b7, Cm, E^b, B^b, and Fm.

11

stag - ge - ring re - a - li - ty he al - ways o - beys__.

Cm B $\flat$ 6 A $\flat$ maj7 G7

14

Stop tal-king, stop tal-king, Mu-sic is our lang-uage, mu - sic is our lang-uage,

Cm G7 Cm G7 A $\flat$ maj7 E $\flat$ A $\flat$ maj7 E $\flat$

musicalion
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18

Al - ways tu - ning in to vo - ca - lise ! Need no sto - ries, need no lies,

Gm A $\flat$ maj7 G7sus4 G7 Cm Fm

22 *mf cresc.* *sub p*

let all voi - ces har - mo - nise, har - mo - nise, har - mo - nise.

sub p

G7sus4 G7 Cm Fm Gsus4



26 *mf cresc.* *ff* Fine

We'd ra-ther sing than o - ther - wise, o - ther - wise, o - ther - wise !

ff

G7 A^b maj7 B^b7 E^b

30 To Coda

2. Count your gar-den by the flo - wers,

mp

A^b maj⁷ B^b7 E^b B^b E^b Fm B^b

34

ne - ver by th^e f the ear - ly black - bird, en -

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E^b Cm B^b Fm

38 D.S. al Coda

chan - ting - ly laun - ching a qui - ver - ing thrill

Cm B^b6 A^b maj⁷ G⁷

⊕ Coda

41

3. Beat af- ter beat, blos - som and flou - rish, soft - ly sli - ding your

mp B $\flat$ E $\flat$ Fm B $\flat$ E $\flat$ Cm

44

sor - rows a - out for mu - sic

musicalion
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F 7 B $\flat$ 7 Cm E $\flat$ B $\flat$ Fm

47

once got the clue _____ join us and say:

molto rit. *molto rit.* D.S. al Fine

Cm B $\flat$ 6 A $\flat$ maj 7 G 7

Type: Sheet music

Título: [Otherwise](#)

Compositor: [Paul Merkus](#)

Época: Siglo XXI

Tema: .Misceláneas

Categoría: Canciones (mundanas)

Dificultad: Leicht bis mittel

Instrumentación Grupo: Voz sola con coro y un instrumento

Arrangement: Solo>sop+Coro>SATB+Pno

Instrumentación: Canto coro>voces de bajo = B (1),Canto coro>voces de contralto = A(1),Canto coro>voces de soprano = S(1),Canto coro>voces de tenor = T(1),Canto solo>soprano(1),Piano = Pno(1)

This song was written for singing group Otherwise, to which I was associated as an accompanying pianist.

The text is a call to stop talking, after all "we don't need sweet talk or lies, we prefer to sing rather than do anything else, music is our language!"

Central to this song is the exclamation "Stop talking", followed by the strongly rhythmic "music is our language". However, the next sentence "Always tuning in to vocalise" breathes a much more classic atmosphere (through an authentic cadenza with caveats).

From "need no stories, need no lies" the chorus builds again towards a climax, first around the word "harmonise", and then ends in the exclamation of the word "otherwise", title of the song and also name of the choir.

The verse contrasts with the chorus by a much milder atmosphere, full of cheerfully sung wisdom, supported by a basso continuo-like accompaniment. The melody of the verse always has a different ending for the three verses: the first verse has a melodically flat ending, the second already shows a slightly ascending final line, while the third and last verse ends with an exuberant high-pitched exclamation.