

# We Wear the Mask

*for SATB Chorus and Djembe*

Paul Laurence Dunbar  
(1872–1906)

Kenney Potter  
(ASCAP)

$\text{♩} = 120$

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is for Soprano and Alto voices, both in treble clef and common time. The bottom staff is for the Djembe, indicated by a bass clef and common time. Measure 1 starts with a rest for the voices followed by a rhythmic pattern on the Djembe. Measure 2 begins with a vocal entry for the Alto. Measures 3-4 show a vocal entry for the Soprano. Measures 5-6 show a vocal entry for the Alto. Measures 7-8 show a vocal entry for the Soprano. Measures 9-10 show a vocal entry for the Alto. The lyrics are as follows:

We wear the mask that grins and lies,  
It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes,  
This debt we pay to hum-  
an guile;  
With torn and bleed - ing hearts we smile,

Text: "We Wear the Mask" from *Majors and Minors* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, 1895, alt. (PD).

13

S A      And mouth with myr - iad sub - tle - ties.

T B      *p* We wear the mask. We

Dje.      *p* We wear the mask. We wear the mask.

wear the mask. We wear the mask. We

16

T B      We wear the mask, we wear the mask. We wear the mask.

Dje.      We wear the mask, we wear the mask.

wear the mask. We wear the mask. We

18

S A      *Alto p* We wear the mask. We

T B      We wear the mask, we wear the mask. We wear the mask.

Dje.      We wear the mask, we wear the mask.

wear the mask. We wear the mask. We

20

(Alto)      wear the mask. We wear the mask. We

We wear the mask, we wear the mask. We wear the mask.

We wear the mask, we wear the mask.

We wear the mask, we wear the mask.

22 (Alto) +Sop. *mf*

wear the mask. Why should the world be o -  
We wear the mask, we wear the mask. We wear the mask.

24  
- ver - wise, In count - ing all our tears -  
We wear the mask we wear the mask. We wear the mask.

26  
and sighs? Nay, let them on - ly see -  
We wear the mask, we wear the mask. We wear the mask.



28

— us, while — With torn and bleed - ing hearts —

We wear the mask, we wear the mask.

We wear the mask.

— we smile, — unis. And mouth with myr - iad sub -

We wear the mask, we wear the mask.

32

tle - ties.

We wear the mask. We

We wear the mask.

We wear the mask.

We wear the mask.

We

34

wear the mask.  
We wear the mask, we wear the mask.  
We wear the mask.

36

*mf*  
wear the mask.  
We wear the mask.  
*mf*  
We wear the mask, we wear the mask.  
We smile, but, O God, our

39

S  
A  
T  
B  
cries To thee from tor - tured souls a -  
cries To thee from tor - tured souls a -

43

*p*  
rise.  
We sing, but the clay is vile Be -  
*p*  
rise. We sing, but the clay is vile Be -

47

S A      neath our feet, and long the mile; \_\_\_\_\_ But let the world dream

T B      neath our feet, and long the mile; \_\_\_\_\_ But let the world dream

Dje. [H]      - - - - - | - - - - - | - - - - - | 6 f - - - - - | 3

51

oth - er - wise, let the world dream oth - er - wise, p

oth - er - wise, let the world dream oth - er - wise, p

3 6 4 - - - - - | 3 - - - - - |

55

We wear the mask. ff

We wear the mask. ff

We wear the mask. We wear the mask. We wear the mask.

We wear the mask. mf We wear the mask. We wear the mask.

p sfzp

59

mask, we wear the mask.  
We wear the mask.

We wear the mask.  
We wear the mask.

We wear the mask.

61

mask, we wear the mask.  
We wear the mask.

We wear the mask.  
We wear the mask.

We wear the mask.

63 *with strength*

mask, we wear the mask.  
We wear the mask.

We wear the mask.  
We wear the mask.

We wear the mask.