

Michael Kaulkin

TUMBALALAYKA

for mixed chorus *a cappella*

2015

Michael Kaulkin

TUMBALALAYKA

for mixed chorus *a cappella*

Tumbalalayka is one of the most performed and beloved Yiddish folksongs. It is, quite simply, a riddle:

*Shteyt a bokher. Shteyt un trakht.
Trakht un trakht a gantse nakht.
Vemen zu nemen un nit farshemen.*

*Tumbalalayka, shpil balalayka
Tumbalalayka, freylekh zol zayn*

*Meydl, meydl, 'khvil bay dir freygn,
Vos ken vaksn, vaksn on regn?
Vos ken brennen, un nit oyfhern?
Vos ken benken, veynen on ttern?*

*Narisher bokher, vos darfstu freygn?
Shteynen ken vaksn, vaksn on regn!
Libe ken brenen, un nit oyfhern,
A harts ken benken, veynen on ttern!*

A young lad stands there thinking all night long:
Whom shall I choose, without causing her shame?

Tumbalaika, play the balalaika.
Tumbalaika, be joyful.

Young girl, I've got a question:
What can grow without rain?
What can burn forever?
What can weep without tears?

Silly lad! What are these questions?
Stones can grow without rain!
Love can burn forever!
The heart can weep without tears!

This choral setting employs the use of instrument-like sounds imitating the strumming of the *balalayka*, a Russian folk instrument similar to a guitar, and contrasts the upbeat “*Tumbalalayka*” refrain with dark harmonic colors and occasional smooth polyphonic textures.

Are you performing this piece? Let us know the details!
info@swirlymusic.org

About the Composer

Oakland, California composer Michael Kaulkin has written several works for orchestra, chorus and the musical stage. He holds a Master of Music from the San Francisco Conservatory, and previously studied at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest, Hungary. Visit www.MichaelKaulkin.com for more information.

Available from www.SwirlyMusic.org
Catalog No. SWM-013

Copyright © 2015 by Michael Kaulkin (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Unauthorized photocopying or reproduction of any part of this material is prohibited.

Tumbalalayka

for mixed chorus *a cappella*

Traditional Yiddish Folksong

Michael Kaulkin

J=144

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

5

* - "badladlay" is an attempt to imitate the strumming of the balalaika, a Russian folk instrument similar to a guitar. The "lay" syllable should sound like the word "lie".

S.

A.

T.

B.

9

S.

A.

T.

B.

Copyright © 2015 by Michael Kaulkin (ASCAP), Oakland, California.
International copyright secured. All rights reserved.
Unauthorized reproduction of this publication is prohibited by Federal Law and subject to criminal prosecution.

2

13

S. Trakht un trakht a gan - tse nakht. Ve - men tzu

A. *mp* Trakht un trakht a gan - tse nakht. *p dolce* Vem -

T. *p* tum ba-dl-la-dl-lay ba-dl-la-dl-lay tum - ba - la - lay - ka *dolce* Vem -

B. *p* tum - ba - la tum - ba - la tum - ba - la - lay - ka tum

18

S. nem - en un nit far - shem - en Vem - en tzu nem - en

A. - en tum tum un nit far - shem - en

T. - - - en tsu nem - en nit far - shem - en

B. tum tum tum tum tum tum -

23

S. *p* un nit far - shem - en tum - ba - la, tum - ba - la tum - ba - la -

A. tum tum tum *p* tum - ba - la, tum - ba - la tum - ba - la -

T. *mf* tum tum tum ba - la - lay - ka *p* ba-dl-la-dl-lay ba-dl-la-dl-lay

B. ba - la - lay - ka tum - ba tum - ba tum - ba - la -

28

S. lay - ka tum - ba - la, tum - ba - la tum - ba - la - lay - ka

A. lay - ka tum - ba - la, tum - ba - la tum - ba - la - lay - ka

T. 8 ba-dl-la-dl-lay ba-dl-la-dl-lay ba-dl-la-dl-lay tum - ba - la - lay - ka

B. lay - ka tum - ba tum - ba tum - ba - la - lay - ka

33 *mp*

S. tum - ba - la - lay - ka Shpil ba - la - lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka, frey-lekh zol

A. tum - ba - la - lay - ka Shpil ba - la - lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka, frey-lekh zol

T. 8 tum - ba - la - lay - ka Shpil ba - la - lay - ka Shpil ba - la - lay -

B. *mp* tum - ba - la tum - ba - la tum - ba - la - lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka frey-lekh zol

40

S. zayn. tum tum tum tum ba-dl-la-dl-lay ba-dl-la-dl-lay

A. zayn. ba-dl-la-dl-lay tum tum - ba tum - ba

T. 8 *p* ka ba-dl-la-dl-lay tum tum *mf*

B. zayn. tum - ba - la tum - ba - la tum *mf*

4

45

S. ba-dl - la - dl-lay ba-dl - la - dl-lay ba-dl - la - dl-lay ba-dl - la - dl-lay

A. *mp* tum - ba tum - ba tum - ba tum - ba

T. *mp* tum tum tum tum

B. *p* Mey - dl, mey - dl,

mp (melody)

49

S. ba-dl - la - dl-lay ba-dl - la - dl-lay ba-dl - la - dl-lay ba-dl - la - dl-lay

A. *mp* tum - ba tum - ba *p* ba-dl - la - dl-lay ba-dl - la - dl-lay

T. *mp* tum - ba - la tum tum

B. *p* tum tum - - sn

'khvil bay dir frey - gn vos ken vak - - sn

53

S. ba - dl - la - dl-lay tum ba - dl - la - dl-lay tum tum tum

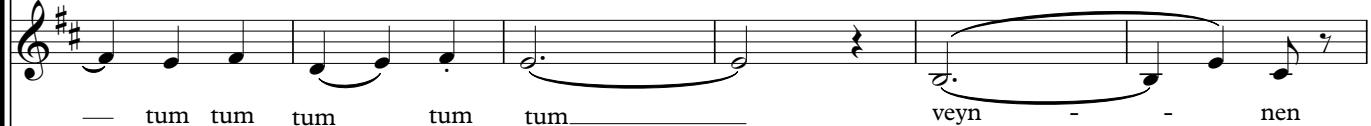
A. ba - dl - la - dl-lay tum ba - dl - la - dl-lay tum tum

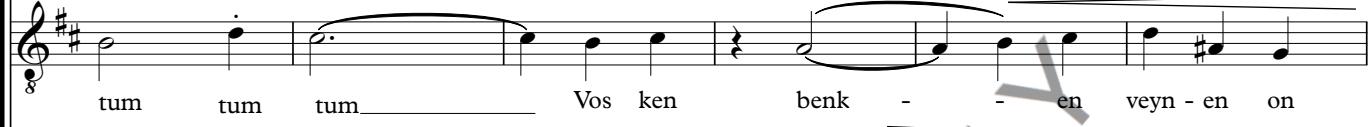
T. tum tum tum tum tum

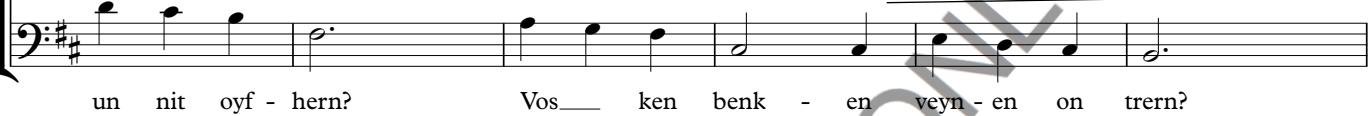
B. vaks - sn on re - - gn? Vos__ ken bren - en

57

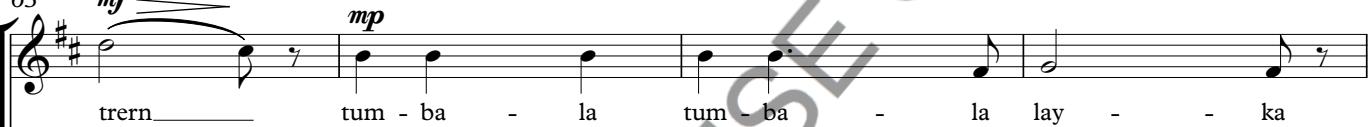
S. 

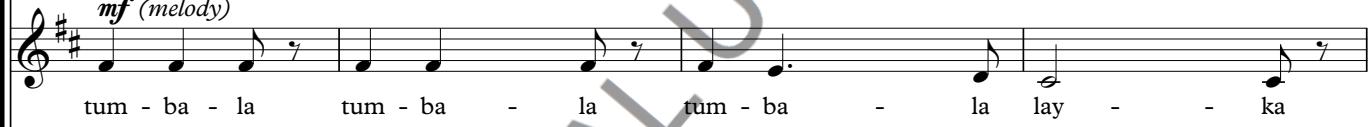
A. 

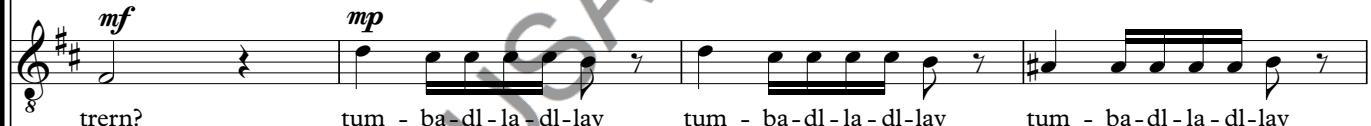
T. 

B. 

63

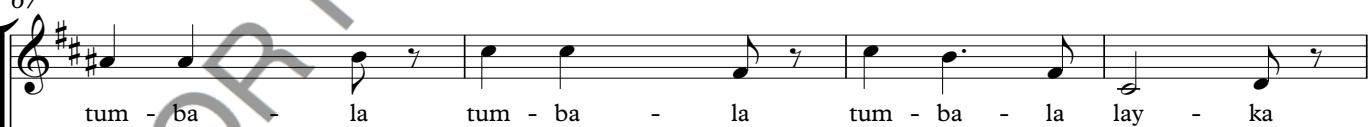
S. 

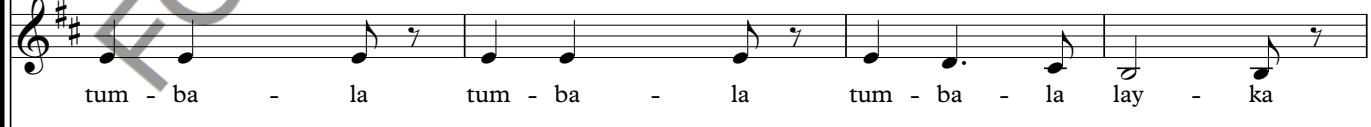
A. 

T. 

B. 

67

S. 

A. 

T. 

B. 

71

S. *p*
tum - ba - la shpil ba - la - lay - ka frey -

A. *mp*
tum - ba - la - lay - ka shpil ba - la - lay - ka *p*
tum - - - ba - la

T. *p*
tum - - - ba tum - ba - la - lay - ka

B. *p*
tum - ba - la - lay - ka shpil ba - la - lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka

*poco rit.**Meno Mosso (♩=c.132)*

S. *mp*
- lekh zol zayn. *mp (melody)*
Na - rish - er bo - kher vos darfs - tu

A. *mp*
tum - ba - la - lay - ka *pp* *p*
tum(mm) - ba - la tum - ba - la

T. *mp*
tum - ba - la - lay - ka tum tum *pp* *p*
tum(mm) - ba - la tum - ba - la

B. *pp* *p*
frey - lekh zol zayn. tum(mm) - ba - la tum
tum(mm) - ba - la tum

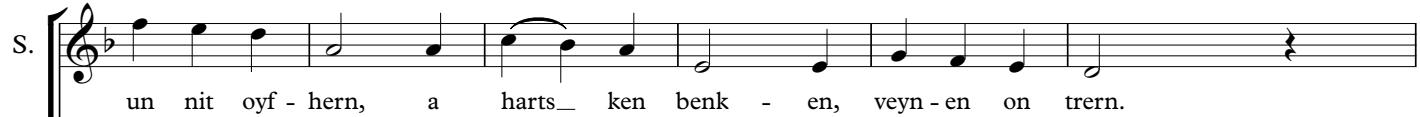
S. *pp*
frey - gn? Shteyn-en ken vak - sn *p*
vak - sn on re - gn Li - be ken bren - en

A. *pp* *p*
tum(mm) tum tum tum(mm) *pp* tum tum tum

T. *pp* *p*
tum(mm) tum tum tum(mm) tum tum tum tum tum

B. *pp* *p*
tum(mm) tum tum tum(mm) tum tum tum tum tum

90 **poco rit.** - - - **A tempo**

S. 

A. 

T. 

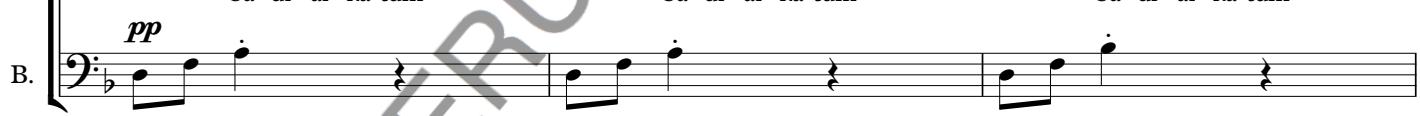
B. 

96 **pp (melody)**

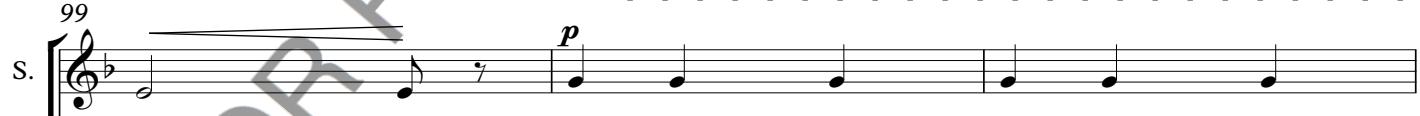
S. 

A. 

T. 

B. 

99 **accel.** - - - - -

S. 

A. 

T. 

B. 

102

S. *mf*
tum - ba - la - lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka Shpil ba - la -

A. *mf*
tum - ba - la - lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka Shpil ba - la -

T. *mf*
8 tum - ba - la - lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka Shpil ba - la -

B. *mf*
tum - ba - la - lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka Shpil ba - la -

107 *f*
S. lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka, frey - lekh zol zayn.

A. *f*
lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka, frey - lekh zol zayn ba - dl - la - dl - lay

T. *f*
8 lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka, frey - lekh zol zayn ba - dl - la - dl - lay

B. *f*
lay - ka tum - ba - la - lay - ka, frey - lekh zol zayn ba - dl - la - dl - lay

112 *ff*
S.

A. tum - ba - dl - la - dl - lay tum - ba - dl - la - dl - la - dl - lay - ka

T. tum - ba - dl - la - dl - lay tum - ba - dl - la - dl - la - dl - lay - ka

B. tum - ba - dl - la - dl - lay tum - ba - dl - la - dl - la - dl - lay - ka

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

\$1.95

Also available from Swirly Music

Choral Works by Michael Kaulkin

SWM-017	The Noble Art of Music	SATB a cappella c. 2"	\$1.95
SWM-016	Remembered Music	SATB a cappella c. 3"	\$1.95
SWM-013	Tumbalalayka	SATB a cappella 2'30"	\$1.95
SWM-006a	Roll the Tide	SATB a cappella 2'50"	\$1.95
SWM-009	Ducks in the Garden	SATB a cappella 2'	\$1.50
SWM-003	Most This Amazing	SATB, 2 pianos, percussion 11'30"	please inquire
SWM-002a	Are Friends Delight or Pain?	SATB + SATB a cappella 1'50"	\$2.50
SWM-002	Cycle of Friends	soprano solo, SATB and orchestra 25'	please inquire

All titles are available for download under a flat license fee.
Please visit www.SwirlyMusic.org for more information.