

FRÈ TIMONIÈ

traditional Haitian boat song

arranged for
SAB chorus
with piano and
optional percussion

also available for TBB chorus

by
Steven
Paxton



CREATIVE SPIRIT

FRÈ TIMONIÈ, a traditional folk song from Haiti, originated as a work song, sung by boatmen in order to keep their rowing strokes in sync. The language is Haitian Creole: the rowers, sitting on their benches facing the back of the boat, are urging the helmsman, who mans the rudder and faces forward, to keep them on the right course as they make their way to shore.

FRÈ TIMONIÈ

Frè timoniè gouvène byen, oh!

Ou pa ouè si n'engagè, oh!

Devan kou dèyè van an fini debòde oh!

Na name' devan oua ban non chimin dèyè, oh!

Bois nan bois sè zaviron, zaviron, zaviron,

Bois nan bois sè zaviron, kotè n'passè sè zaviron.

Brother helmsman, steer the boat well, oh!

Do you not see the danger we face, oh!

From fore and aft the wind swamps our boat,

But we'll row ahead on the course you steer.

All together, row, row, row,

All together row, 'til we reach the shore. Row!

PHONETIC SPELLING [(ⁿ) indicates a nasal vowel]

FREH tsee-MOHN-yeh goo-VEH-nay BEEYE(ⁿ) OH

OO PAH WEH see NAH(ⁿ)-GAH-JEH OH

day-VAH(ⁿ) koo deh-YEH vah NAH(ⁿ) fee-NEE DAY-baw-day OH

NAH rah-MAY day-VAH NOO-ah bah NOH(ⁿ) she-MEEN deh-YEH OH

BWAH nah(ⁿ) BWAH seh ZA-vee-ROH(ⁿ), ZA-vee-ROH(ⁿ), ZA-vee-ROH(ⁿ)

BWAH nah(ⁿ) BWAH seh ZA-vee-ROH(ⁿ), koh-TEH n'pa-SEH seh ZA-vee-ROH(ⁿ)

RHYTHM & PRONUNCIATION PRACTICE


 FREH tsee - MOHN - yeh goo - VEH - nay BEEYE(ⁿ) OH
 IPA: frɛ tʃi - mon - jɛ gu - vɛ - ne bjɛ o


 OO PAH WEH see NAH(ⁿ) - GAH - JEH OH
 u pa wɛ si nɛ̃ - ga - ʒɛ o


 day - VAH(ⁿ) koo deh - YEH vah NAH(ⁿ) fee-NEE DAY - baw - day OH
 de - vɑ̃ - ku dɛ - jɛ va nɑ̃ - fi - ni dɛ - bɔ - dɛ o


 NAH rah - MAY day VAH(ⁿ) NOO - ah bah NOH(ⁿ) she - MEEN deh - YEH OH
 na ra - me dɛ - vɑ̃ nu - a ba nɔ̃ ʃi - min dɛ - yɛ o


 BWAH nah(ⁿ) BWAH seh ZAH - vee - ROH(ⁿ) ZAH - vee - ROH(ⁿ) ZAH - vee - ROH(ⁿ)
 bwa nɑ̃ bwa sɛ za - vi - rɔ̃ za - vi - rɔ̃ za - vi - rɔ̃


 BWAH nah(ⁿ) BWAH seh ZAH - vee - ROH(ⁿ) koh - TEH n'pa - SEH seh ZAH - vee - ROH(ⁿ)
 bwa nɑ̃ bwa sɛ za - vi - rɔ̃ ko - tɛ n'pa - sɛ sɛ za - vi - rɔ̃

FRÈ TIMONIÈ

arranged by STEVEN PAXTON

Traditional Haitian boat song

Slow & deliberate ♩=60

SOPRANO

ALTO

BASS
opt. div.

PIANO

low drum

Frè ti - mon - iè gou - vè - ne byen,

Frè ti - mon - iè gou - vè - ne byen,

Frè ti - mon - iè gou - vè - ne byen,

Frè ti - mon - iè gou - vè - ne byen,

4

oh! Ou pa ouè si n'en - ga - gè, oh! —

oh! Ou pa ouè si n'en - ga - gè, oh! —

oh! Ou pa ouè si n'en - ga - gè, oh! —

4

9 **Faster** *f*

Frè ti - mon - iè gou - vè - ne byen, oh!

f

Frè ti - mon - iè gou - vè - ne byen, oh!

f

Frè ti - mon - iè gou - vè - ne byen, oh!

9 **Faster** *f*

f

13 *mf*

Ou pa ouè si n'en - ga - gè, oh! —

mf

...en - ga - gè, oh! —

mf

...en - ga - gè, oh! —

13 *mf*

17

Frè ti - mon - iè gou - vè - ne byen, oh!

Oh, Oh,

Oh, Oh,

17

21

Ou pa ouè si n'en - ga - gè, oh!

...en - ga - gè, oh!

...en - ga - gè, oh!

21

25

De-van__ kou dè - yè van an__ fi - ni de - bò - de oh!

Oh, ou - - - a oh!

Oh, ou - - - a oh!

25

29

Na ra-me' de-van ou - a ban non chi - min dè - yè, oh!

Oh, ou - a oh!

Oh, ou - a oh!

29

mf

3

3

33

De-van__ kou dè - yè van an fi - ni de - bò - de, oh!

De-van__ kou dè - yè van an fi - ni de - bò - de, oh!

Oh, ou - - - a oh!

33

37

Second time to Coda

Na ra-me' de-van ou - a ban non chi - min dè - yè, oh!

Na ra-me' de-van ou - a ban non chi - min dè - yè, oh!

Oh, ou - - - a oh!

37

Second time to Coda

41 Same tempo but more spirited

Bois nan za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron,

Bois nan za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron,

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron,

41 Same tempo but more spirited

45

Bois bois za-vi - ron, ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za-vi - ron!

Bois bois za-vi - ron, ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za-vi - ron!

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za-vi - ron!

45

49

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron,

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron,

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron,

53

rit.

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za-vi - ron!

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za-vi - ron!

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za-vi - ron!

53

rit.

57 

Bois nan bois sè za - vi - ron, — za - vi - ron, — za - vi - ron, —

Bois nan bois sè za - vi - ron, — za - vi - ron, — za - vi - ron, —

Bois nan bois sè za - vi - ron, — za - vi - ron, — za - vi - ron, —



The piano accompaniment for measures 57-60 consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff features a melody of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The bass staff provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines. The music is in 2/4 time and G major.

61

Bois nan bois sè za - vi - ron, — ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za - vi - ron! —

Bois nan bois sè za - vi - ron, — ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za - vi - ron! —

Bois nan bois sè za - vi - ron, — ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za - vi - ron! —



The piano accompaniment for measures 61-64 continues the musical texture. It includes chords and melodic fragments that support the vocal lines. The notation includes various rests and articulation marks.

65 *f*

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, — za-vi - ron, — za-vi - ron, —

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, — za-vi - ron, — za-vi - ron, —

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, — za-vi - ron, — za-vi - ron, —

65 *f*

69

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za-vi - ron! —

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, — ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za-vi - ron! —

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, — ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za-vi - ron! —

69

73

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron,

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron,

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron, za-vi - ron,

77 **allarg.**

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za-vi - ron!

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za-vi - ron!

Bois nan bois sè za-vi - ron, ko - tè n'pas-sè sè za-vi - ron!