

The Magic Bongo Man

Music and Text
by Elizabeth Kennedy Bayer

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All performers of *Bongo Man* should read from a score as each part relies heavily on cues from other players. The vocal quality should be clear and not use wide vibrato. It should be performed as a folk song. The violinist should think of him/herself as a fiddle player. He/she also adds pops and clicks and other idiosyncracies that might be found on an old record. The bongo player's main priority is to keep the tempo steady and help with tempo changes. He/she is welcome to add any improvisations that will add to the overall character of the piece.

1. One Day I Saw Him

One day I saw him
White beard on this chin-
Blue eyes in his sockets
Matched his denim pockets,
Dust on his shoulders,
Dust in his shoes... dust in his shoes...
“Where ya goin’?” “Where ya goin’?” I asked his grey bones.
“How ya doin’?” “Where ya goin’?” I asked his cold bones.
“I never know’d, kid, I never know’d!!
I go where my feet take me...
But the only way they move s’to the sound of my bongos...”

2. He Wanders

He waders, He wanders to the sound
Of his drums Of his Drums.
He never rests He always walks to the sound
Of his drums Of his Drums.
Why does HE walk, Why DOES he walk, Why does he WALK?
Why does HE walk, Why DOES he walk, Why does he WALK??
To his drums To his drums To his drums TO HIS DRUMS!?!?

3. That's Where I'm Goin'

Said the Magical Bongo Man:
“I won’t grant you no wishes, and I ain’t gonna tell you
Where I’m goin’ or where’d I been.
But you can choose to come with me and the dust in my shoes
“You see that line up there- Where the trees and clouds sit a kissin’?
That’s where I’m goin’! That’s where I’m goin’.”

4. I'm Goin' Some Place

“I was born 1,000 years ago, I count them by the lines on my face
Time’s been rough to my soul an’ my shoes-
But I don’t care! I’m goin’ someplace!
You ask me where I’d been-
I’ve been all over this world.
You ask me what I’d seen-
I’ve seen everything!
How many folks do you know, who have the power
To walk to their own beat?
How many folks do you know, who have the power to dance
To their own drum!?”

Well I do! I have that power!
It comes to me from...grass, trees, air, flowers...trash, cars, dirt, road, miles....
I don't care 'bout you! You snickerin' snob!
I know me an' I know God!
How many folks do you know, who have the power
To walk to their own beat?
How many folks do you know, who have the power to dance
To their own drum!?
Well I do! I have that power!
It comes to me from the...grass, trees, air, flowers...trash, cars, dirt, road, miles....
I'll be here 1,000 years from now, I'll count them by the lines on my face
Time's been rough to my soul an' my shoes-
But I don't care! I'm goin' someplace!"

5. Epilogue

Now you know the story, of the Magical Bongo Man
Didn't think of fame or glory...
Now you know what I saw, when I met the Bongo Man
The Magic in his drumming fingers,
His old, decrepit hands.
Look to that line- where the trees and clouds are kissin'-
Only when you dream, race off into that distance.

6. Lullaby

One day in the future,
Don't put on your socks.
Put on an old shirt
That matches your tired irises.
Walk out your front door-
Forget to shave.
Maybe when you dream tonight,
You'll hear faint pulses
From a set of magical drums
Played by an old dream-man.
Maybe when you dream tonight,
You'll feel the power
Of your feet moving in
Time with your own heart.
And when you wake up,
Brush the dust off your shoulders,
And knock the dust from your shoes,
The dust from your shoes.

The Magic Bongo Man

1. One Day I Saw Him

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You are telling a story ♩ = 70

Soprano

Violin

Piano

Bongo Drums

mf *f*

Swift movements

One day I saw him, White beard on his chin,

mf *mp* *mf*

Random taps, quick rhythms where appropriate. Echo violin.

S

Vln.

Pno.

Bgo. Dr.

f *mp* *sf* *subito mp*

blue eyes in his sock-ets, matched his den-den-im pock-ets. Dust on his should - ers, Dust - in - his shoes!

mf *mf* *subito mp*

9 *mf* // *mp* *mf* *f*

S Dust in his shoes. Where ya go-in'? Where ya go-in'? I asked his grey bones!

Vln. *fp* *f* *f* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *f* *f*

Bgo. Dr. As written *fp* *fp* *mf*

14 *mf* *f*

S How ya do-in'?— Where ya go-in'? I asked his cold bones! "I nev - er know'd, kid! I nev - er know'd!

Vln. *f* *mf* Strained, scratchy

Pno.

Bgo. Dr. *f*

18 *mf* *subito mp* *p*

S I go where my feet take - me, but the on-ly way— they move s'to the sound of my bon-gos...

Vln. *mp* *p*

Pno. *mf* *subito mp* *p*

Bgo. Dr. *p*

2. He Wanders

Rapidly ♩ = 130

Soprano
Begin second time
Slow, scratchy slides,
does not need to be in rhythm
f He - - - wan - ders, he wan - - - - ders

Violin
p

Piano
f *mf*

Bongo Drums
f *mp* *Sim.*

S
mp *mf* *f*
to the sound of his drums, of his drums.

Vln.
mf *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *mf*

Pno.
f *mf*

Bgo. Dr.
mf *f* *mf*

12 *mf*

S He ne - - - - - ver rests. He walks - - - - - al - - - - - ways.

Vln. *p*

Pno. *mp*

Bgo. Dr. *mp* *Sim.*

16 *subito p* *mf* *f* *mp*

S to the sound of his drums, of his drums. Why does HE walk, why DOES he walk,

Vln. *arco* *mp* *f* *mp* *Agressive*

Pno. *p* *mf* *f* *mp*

Bgo. Dr. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

20 *mp* *f*

S why does he WALK? Why does HE , why DOES he waalk, why does he WALK?! To his drums?

Vln. *f*

Pno. *mp* *f*

Bgo. Dr. *f* *mp* *f*

24 *p* *ff*

S To his drums, to his drums, TO HIS DRUMS!

Vln. *f* *mp*

Pno. *mp* *f*

Bgo. Dr. *f*

28 Soloist should be part of ensemble *f* *ff*

S Ah - - - ! Ah - - - ! Ah - ! Ah - ! Ah -

Vln. *f* arco

Pno. *ff*

Bgo. Dr. 28 IMPROV Loud, with abandon until end *ff*

34 *ff*

S - - - ! Ah - ! Ah - - - !

Vln. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

Bgo. Dr. *ff*

3. That's Where I'm Goin'

You are singing to a waxed tin can ♩ = 85

Rhythm and tempo are to be loosely interpreted.
Does not have to line up exactly.

mf

Soprano

Said the mag - ic - al bon - go - man:

Violin

Tinker around on wht. keys of upper octave of piano. Use both hands.

mp

pp

mf

Etc.

Piano

f *f*

Bongo Drums

4

S

"I won't grant no wish - es - . And

f

Vln.

p

mf

4

8

Pno.

p

Etc.

mp

f

Bgo. Dr.

That's Where I'm Goin'

S
6
I - ain't gon na tell you where³ I'm go-in', or where'd I been. But you can choose

Vln.
6
f *mp* *f*

Pno.
6
Etc. *f* *mp* Etc.

Bgo. Dr.
6
f

S
10
to come - with - me³ - . And the dust in my shoes. You see that line up ther' - where the trees -
Push forward to end of line.

Vln.
10
mp *p* *f*

Pno.
10
mp *f* Push forward to end of line.

Bgo. Dr.
10
mf

S
16
and clouds - sit a - kiss in' - ? That's where I'm go-on'. That's where I'm go-in'.
Let it ring

Vln.
16
f *rit.* Let it ring

Pno.
16
f *rit.* Let it ring

Bgo. Dr.
16
f

4. I'm Goin's Some Place

Like a chain gang song ♩ = 70

Soprano *f*
I was born — thous-and years a-go, I count them by the lines on my face. Time's been rough to my soul —

Violin Strong clap mm. 1-6

Piano Strong clap mm. 1-6

Bongo Drums *mf*

S *mf* — 'n' my shoes But I don't care, I'm go in' some place. You ask me just where I'd been, *f* I've been all ov-er this world!

Vln. *p* Tinker around on white keys in designated range

Pno. *p* Tinker around on white keys in designated range

Bgo. Dr.

I'm Goin's Some Place

9

(You are angry that no one listens)

9

S
You ask me just what I'd seen Well I've seen ev - 'ry thing!

Vln.
p Lightly slide between pitches (do not have to be exact)

Pno.

Bgo. Dr.

12

S
f > How man - y folks ___ do you know who have the pow'r ___ to walk to their own beat?

Vln.
mf

Pno.

Bgo. Dr.
12 Heavy on the beat

14

S
How man - y folks ___ do you know who have the power ___ to dance to their own drum? Well

Vln.
f

Pno.

Bgo. Dr.

I'm Goin's Some Place

(You mumble to yourself)

p *mf*

S
I do! I have that power! It comes to me from grass, trees, air, flow-'rs, trash, cars, dirt, road, mi-les...

Vln.
mp

Pno.

Bgo. Dr.
f *mp*

f *molto rit.*

S
I don't care a - bout you! You snick-er - in' snob. I know me an' I know

Vln.
f

Pno.
f

Bgo. Dr.
f

mf

S
God! How man-y folks do you know who

Vln.
p *mp*

Pno.
mf *mp*

Bgo. Dr.
mp

$\text{♩} = 75$

I'm Goin' Some Place

11

27

S
have the pow'r ___ to walk to their own beat? *f* How man - y folks ___ do you know who

Vln.
mf

Pno.
mf

Bgo. Dr.
mf

29

S
have the power ___ to dance to their own drum? Well

Vln.
f

Pno.
f

Bgo. Dr.

31 *mp* *f* *p*

S
I do! I have that power! It comes

Vln.
Up 1/2 step
subito p

Pno.
subito p

Bgo. Dr.
subito p

33 *mf*

S
to me from grass, trees, air, flow - 'rs, trash, cars, dirt, road, mi - les...

Vln. *f*

Pno. *f*

Bgo. Dr. *f*

35

S

Vln. *rit.* Up 1/2 step *p*

Pno. *p*

Bgo. Dr. *p*

37 *mp* *f*

S
I'll be here ___ thous and years from ___ now, I'll count them by ___ the lines ___ on my face

Vln. *mp*

Pno. *f*

Bgo. Dr. *f*

♩ = 75

I'm Goin's Some Place

13

39 *mf*
S Time's been rough to my soul — 'n' my shoes

Vln. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

Bgo. Dr. *mf*

41 *rit.*
S *f* But I don't care, I'm go - in' some place! *ff* But I don't care!

Vln. Up 1/2 step *f*

Pno. *rit.* *f*

Bgo. Dr. *rit.* *f*

44
S I'm go - in' some place!

Vln. *p*

Pno. *Una corda* *p*

Bgo. Dr. *p* *f*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for the song 'I'm Goin's Some Place'. It features four staves: vocal (S), violin (Vln.), piano (Pno.), and bass drum (Bgo. Dr.). The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 39-40) has a vocal line with lyrics 'Time's been rough to my soul — 'n' my shoes' and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The piano accompaniment is also marked *mf*. The second system (measures 41-43) features a vocal line with lyrics 'But I don't care, I'm go - in' some place! But I don't care!' and dynamics *f* and *ff*. The violin part has a 'rit.' marking and a dynamic of *f*, with a note marked 'Up 1/2 step'. The piano part has a 'rit.' marking and a dynamic of *f*. The bass drum part has a 'rit.' marking and a dynamic of *f*. The third system (measures 44) has a vocal line with lyrics 'I'm go - in' some place!'. The piano part is marked 'Una corda' and *p*. The bass drum part has dynamics *p* and *f*.

5. Epilogue

You are ending a play ♩ = 80

mf

Soprano
Now you know the stor-y of the mag ic-al bon go - man. Did n't think of fame or glor-y...

Violin

Piano

Bongo Drums

Swell

mp

mp

f

S
Now you know what I saw when I saw the bon - go man! Mag-ic drum-ing in his fin-gers - ,

Vln.

Pno.

Bgo. Dr.

f

subito p

mf

subito p

subito p

subito p

Epilogue

15

8 *rit. mf* *a tempo f*

S his old, de-crep-it hands. Look at that line where the trees

Vln. *rit.* *f*

Pno. *rit.* *a tempo f*

Bgo. Dr. *mf* *a tempo f*

11 *mp* *molto rit. mp* *p*

S and clouds are kiss-in'. On ly when you—dream-, race off in-to that dist-ance.

Vln. *rit. Let it ring* *f* *mp* *Swell*

Pno. *mp* *Una corda* *f*

Bgo. Dr. *f* *Swell mp*

6. Lullaby

You are singing to your child ♩ = 80

Soprano

Violin

Piano

Bongo Drums

Sul pont.

p

Rubato

pp

Una corda

mf

pp

Release *una corda* pedal through this measure

S

Vln.

Pno.

Bgo. Dr.

p

mf

One day, in the future, Don't put on your socks. Put on an old shirt that matches your tired i-rises.

p

mp

pp

a tempo

p

mf

7

7

7

7

Lullaby

17

13 *mp*

S walk though your front door, for - get to shave. May be

Vln. 13 *Normale* *p*

Pno. 13 *p*

Bgo. Dr. 13

You are singing to yourself ♩=90

17 *poco accel. mf*

S when you dream to - night, you'll hear fait puls - es

Vln. 17 *p* *poco accel. mp*

Pno. 17 *p* *poco accel.*
Una corda Try and stay between C5 and E6

Bgo. Dr. 17 ♩=90 *mf* *poco accel.*

19 *mf* *f*

S from a set of mag - ic - al drums. Played by an old dream man. -

Vln.

Pno.

Bgo. Dr.

22 *subito p* *f*

S May-be when you dream to-night you'll feel the pow'r of your feet mov-ing in time with your own heart. And

Vln.

Pno. *mp* *subito p* *f*

Bgo. Dr. *f* *subito p* *f*

Lullaby

♩ = 80

S
25 when you wake up, brush off the dust off your shoul³ ders - . And knock the dust - off your shoes. The dust off your

Vln.
25 *rit. mp*
p

Pno.
25 *rit. p*

Bgo. Dr.
25 *rit. mp p*

S
30 shoes.

Vln.
30 *molto accel.*
mf f

Pno.
30 *molto accel.*
mp f

Bgo. Dr.
30 *molto accel.*
mp f