



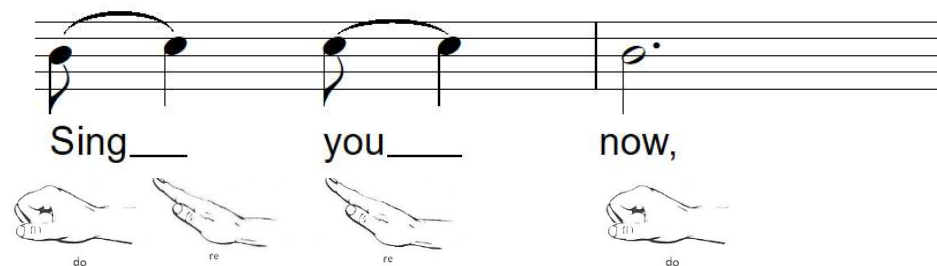
## Sing you now

by Bob Chilcott, setting words by Thomas Ravenscroft  
suitable for: **KS2 / KS3 / Choirs**

*This simple song contrasts unison singing with echoes in 2 parts to great effect. It is a little gem – deceptively simple, quick to learn but full of detail that rewards work. It can make a striking performance piece.*

This song provides **scaffolded part singing**. Each phrase is introduced in unison before the echo effect is introduced.

Take care with the timing of “now” as it must be on the down-beat rather than early. This should be fully established before trying 2 parts. Physicalise with hand gestures or use sol-fa hand signals (do-re-re-do – see below) to make sure.



**Accurate tuning** is very important – once the repeated notes and chords “ring” with each echo, the song has a magical quality. Slow singing with careful pitch matching will help develop the musical and muscle memory. Again, Kodály can work wonders.

- The little chord shapes eg. “after me” are difficult to tune accurately
- The slurred phrase “sing ye” must not slide around, but rather have each note sounding separately within the phrase.

This song has a **dynamic range of ppp to p** – so often we enjoin our students to “sing up” and “sing out”; it can be wonderful and rewarding instead to work in a quiet dynamic range and concentrate on quality of sound. This usually results in improved focus and listening. It is also an excellent way to approach the idea of **vocal blend** – where individual singers match their sound quality and dynamics to the singers around them.

However it’s important to remember that quiet singing is not easier or less effort, so make sure you do a really good warm up before singing this song, and don’t use it as a run-in to a louder, more energetic piece of repertoire. It is best tackled towards the end of a rehearsal when everyone is singing at their best, and it’s a lovely way to finish a session.

# Sing you now

text by Thomas Ravenscroft

music by Bob Chilcott

As soft and as legato as possible

2 *pp*

Sing you now, sing you now, sing you now af-ter me\_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description: This system contains the first five measures of the piece. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are 'Sing you now, sing you now, sing you now af-ter me\_\_\_\_\_'. The dynamic marking is *pp*. There is a fermata over the final note of the first phrase.

11 *pp*

1 Sing\_\_ you\_\_ now, sing\_\_ you\_\_ now,

2 Sing\_\_ you\_\_ now, sing\_\_ you\_\_

Detailed description: This system contains measures 6-10. It is split into two staves. The first staff (1) has the lyrics 'Sing\_\_ you\_\_ now, sing\_\_ you\_\_ now,'. The second staff (2) has the lyrics 'Sing\_\_ you\_\_ now, sing\_\_ you\_\_'. The dynamic marking is *pp*. There are fermatas over the final notes of both staves.

15

1 sing\_\_ you\_\_ now af - ter me, af - ter me,

2 now, sing\_\_ you\_\_ now af - ter me, af - ter me,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 11-14. It is split into two staves. The first staff (1) has the lyrics 'sing\_\_ you\_\_ now af - ter me, af - ter me,'. The second staff (2) has the lyrics 'now, sing\_\_ you\_\_ now af - ter me, af - ter me,'. There are fermatas over the final notes of both staves.

19 *pp*

And as I sing, sing\_\_\_\_\_ ye;\_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15-18. It is on a single staff. The lyrics are 'And as I sing, sing\_\_\_\_\_ ye;\_\_\_\_\_'. The dynamic marking is *pp*. There is a long slur over the final phrase.

23 *ppp*

1 And as I sing, sing\_\_\_\_\_ ye;\_\_\_\_\_

2 And as I sing, sing\_\_\_\_\_ ye;\_\_\_\_\_

*poco rit.*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19-22. It is split into two staves. The first staff (1) has the lyrics 'And as I sing, sing\_\_\_\_\_ ye;\_\_\_\_\_'. The second staff (2) has the lyrics 'And as I sing, sing\_\_\_\_\_ ye;\_\_\_\_\_'. The dynamic marking is *ppp*. The tempo marking is *poco rit.* There are fermatas over the final notes of both staves.

28 *a tempo*  
*p poco più espress.*

So shall we well a - gree, two parts in u - ni - ty\_\_\_\_\_

*poco rit.*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 23-27. It is on a single staff. The lyrics are 'So shall we well a - gree, two parts in u - ni - ty\_\_\_\_\_'. The dynamic marking is *p poco più espress.* The tempo marking is *a tempo*. The tempo marking *poco rit.* appears at the end of the system. There is a fermata over the final note.

33 *a tempo*

2 *pp*

Sing you now, sing you now, sing you now\_\_\_\_\_

*a bit slower*  
*ppp*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 28-32. It is on a single staff. The lyrics are 'Sing you now, sing you now, sing you now\_\_\_\_\_'. The dynamic marking is *pp*. The tempo marking is *a tempo*. The tempo marking *a bit slower* and *ppp* appear at the end of the system. There is a fermata over the final note.

from Bob Chilcott's collection *Singing by Numbers*, OUP (1995)