

## **ONG, Jason: *Ayo Mama* (arr.)**

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**ONG, Jason** (Living) from *Folk Songs of The Asian Archipelago* (2018)

**Voicing:** unison **Accompaniment:** piano

**Duration:** 2' 30" **Availability:** [MusikSEA](#) (JSO5203)

**Difficulty:** easy/accessible **Language:** Ambonese Malay

**Text Source:** Anonymous

### **Text:**

<i>Ayam hitam telurnya putih</i>	A black chicken lays white eggs
<i>Mencari makan di pinggir kali</i>	While looking for food at the edge of the stream
<i>Sinyo hitam giginya putih</i>	Mr. Black's teeth are white
<i>Kalau ketawa manis sekali</i>	If only I could be sweet again.
<i>Ayo mama, jangan mama marah beta</i>	Oh mother, please don't be angry with me
<i>Dia cuma, dia cuma pegang beta</i>	We like each other because we are just friends
<i>Ayo mama, jangan mama marah beta</i>	Oh mother, please don't be angry with me
<i>Lah orang muda punya biasa</i>	This is what young people are like.
<i>Kata mangga la muda manis</i>	We have not had sweet mangoes from above
<i>lama ta datang dari hilah</i>	In a long time
<i>sinyo ambon jo hitam manis</i>	Mr. Black is so sweet
<i>la biki beta tergila gila</i>	That's why I go crazy (for him)

**Tempo/Style:** Graceful Rumba ♩=110; Passionate Tango ♩=110; Joyful Cha-Cha, ♩=110

**Range and tessitura:** (C4 = Middle C)  
C4 - D5

### **Musical characteristics:**

- two bars of divisi (mm. 68-69)
- dynamic range: *mp* - *f*
- three distinct sections: 1. Rumba (mm. 1 - 20), 2. Tango (mm. 21 - 47), and 3. Cha-Cha-Cha (mm. 47 - 73); section 1 and 3 are written in C-major, section 2 is in C-minor, all with varied styles
- consistent eight-bar phrases
- written in 4/4

### **Technical considerations:**

- comfortable range for treble ensemble
- intonation may prove difficult; piano accompaniment will provide support

- attention to rhythmic and text alignment; use of call-and-response/teaching by rote may be effective here
- awareness of difference between two-eighth note and dotted eighth-sixteenth note pick-up
- piano part provides harmonic support and transition throughout
- recurring melodic material allows for ease of learning
- careful attention to key change between C-major and C-minor, with attention to the flat 3rd, 6th and 7th.

### **Supplementary information:**

- arranger's program note:  
 "Ayo Mama comes from the Indonesian province Maluku. It is a children's song, usually sung in Ambonese Malay (also known as Ambonese). This is a form of Malay that is influenced by Dutch and Portuguese, and is the common spoken language among the islands of Maluku. Ambon is the capital and the most populous city in Maluku...It is a children's song, and at one time virtually everyone in Ambon (the largest city of Maluku) could sing it. It is, however, not commonly sung today...There are several verses to the song, and while some seem to veer towards Bahasa Melayu or Bahasa Indonesia, rather than Ambonese, they seem to have one thing in common: they are all written in the style of the Pantun. One characteristic of the Pantun is the first two lines have no connection whatsoever to the next two (in a four-line verse)..."

This particular arrangement of Ayo Mama was conceived with two things in mind: the first is to introduce 3 types of music (and dance) to the singer, and the second is to have them perform these dances, if possible. The song is divided into 3 parts. Part 1, a rumba, and part 3, a cha-cha-cha, are sung in the major scale. Part 2, a tango, is sung in a minor scale. This gives the young singers a clearer understanding of the differences between the major and minor scales.

There are ample opportunities for the choristers to enjoy themselves while performing this song. They can dance the rumba, tango and cha-cha-cha while singing, and the tango section is particularly fun, as the accompaniment incorporates samples of "La Cumparisita" and "Habanera" to which the clever choreographer can tap into. The song ends with a flourish, providing the choir a chance to give the audience an impressive exit.

Finally, to reap the benefits of these three distinct musical forms, I would suggest the choir perform to a minus one backing track. This backing track utilizes many instruments, which help to elevate the styles and moods of each section."

- "This unison version was created specially for APSN Chaoyang School."
- "May your voices soar with joy, and may you find delight in music making."
- score includes pronunciation guide and IPA
- *Ayo Mama* is the third song from *Folk Songs of the Asian Archipelago*

- also available: [2-part treble voices/SA/TB](#) (JSO5201) and [2-part treble voices/SA/TB in D-Major](#) (JSO5204)
- recordings available:
  - [Radin Mad Primary School Choir](#) (unison)
  - [The Joyful Voices 亲子合唱团](#) (parent-child choir) (2-part treble)