

The Great Rain-dance of the Zuñis.

The Great Rain-dance, of all the sacred ceremonials, is considered the oldest traditional song-dance known among the Zuñis, as we are assured by the oldest members of the Priesthood of the Bow. Deeply rooted in the tribal life, exciting and popular in a high degree, it has for its special purpose the supplication for rain to the Rain and Thunder-god and the production of rain by means of the sacred fires. Extensive preparations are made and great care is exercised in carrying out this ceremonial. At sundown numerous fires are lit on the housetops of all the cliff-dwellings, and particularly on the heights of the surrounding mountains and mesas. These fires are prepared and kept burning for nights and days together, till rain welcomes the worshipers and relieves their efforts and prayers.

The rain-priests, sitting directly in front of the fires, which are never allowed to go out, ignite a certain firewood which develops a thick smoke which rises in curled and straight lines towards the sky. Hundreds of such fires are kept up and supported by the Priests and the people. Incantations and entreaties are made to the Rain-god to give them the needed rain and long and ardent chants are sung by the young braves and especially the "Virgin maidens," while the Rain-priests exhort the dancers to sing and dance with all the fervor of their souls. The maidens are dressed in white robes and wear tablets on their heads, which are figured with scalloped lines of cumulous clouds, on either side of which are represented a bolt of lightning.

The dance and song is continued both by men and women, and lasts not only for hours, but for days in succession, and the endurance of the dancers is something beyond belief. Their resolution, enduring faith in their ultimate success, their willingness and transfixed gaze, bespeak the deep and undying confidence they repose in the Rain-god to bring them the desired rain.

To show what importance is attached to the performance of this event, the Grand Master of ceremonies, who is also the song and dance leader in chief, every year and at every repetition of the rain ceremonials personally directs all the exercises with great minuteness, accuracy and zeal. The slightest defect, either in modulation or rhythm of the song or motion of the dancers, is instantly and severely reprimanded. Those so instructed are only the young braves and the Virgin daughters of the higher cast or offsprings of distinguished chiefs and those risen to high degrees of their order. All implicitly and faithfully obey, which in general is a national characteristic with them, inasmuch as they regard all their instructions as being handed down to them from their great forefathers, whom they ever honor and highly revere.

To follow the superhuman efforts of this exciting ceremonial to their end, is to behold the accomplishment of their purpose—the downpour of a copious rain. Through the influence of what power, the observance of what natural law this is accomplished, we may not know with certainty, but it is a singular fact that their rain-ceremonials have invariably resulted in an abundant downfall of rain.

In the present version of the Rain-dance, the greatest care and attention has been exercised to preserve the true and simple outline of the melody, and in harmonizing it, to follow the natural impression their support of crude instruments would convey and to render their expressions and sentiments as descriptive and realistic as possible. So simple, true and brave a people, so dignified and refined in manner and action, require no fanciful embellishment or ornamentation to their singing nor their instrumental music.

TRADITIONAL ZUÑI SONGS. Second Series.

No. 9790

The Great Rain-dance of the Zuñis.

Recorded and harmonized
by CARLOS TROYER.

Precipitáto con fuóco. (Striking the wolf-drums to announce the opening of the rain-dance cer-

PIANO. *ff* *Ped.*

emonials.

p *mormoroso.*

* *2 Ped.* * *Ped.* *

Moderato (Chief Rain-master calling out the "Virgin-maids," to open the rain-dance.)

tranquillo

Come ad-vance, Vir - gin-maids,

senza Pedale

tranquillo

come ad-vance.

Stand in line, Vir - gin-maids, sing and dance. See! the clouds are forming,

Down be-low'tis storm-ing, Watch! the lightning flashing, Hear! the thun-der crashing,

Clouds a - rise, Up the skies Do you see them ris - ing yon-der?

poco *a* *poco* *res*

They are com-ing, they are com-ing, Fill - ing up the skies.

cen *do.*

** Ped. **

General hailing, shouting and beckoning the clouds to descend.

ff accelerando

Hail them, hail them, hail them, hail them, Hail them, they are com-ing low-er down up-on the

ff

Ped.

ground.

deces *cen*

scintillante

Signal for silence. Striking the chime-plates -

pp

Ped.

Listening to the distant roar of thunder.

lunga pp

ppp

* Ped. * 2 Ped.

dim.

R. H. pp mormorendo

L.H. Sva bassa.....

* Ped. *

Moderato.

SONG OF THE VIRGINS.

1. Come a - gain, come a - gain,
2. Rain drops sink, 'neath the hills,

senza Pedale

come, good rain, Fall up - on the moun-tains, and on the plain
there they hide Soon a - gain to come out, in - to the light

Sink in-to the ground, where the springs a-bound; Sink in-to the ground,
Running down the steep rock-y cliffs they leap; Running down the steep

where the springs a-bound. Drop by drop, drop by drop, springs are made;
rock-y cliffs they leap. Look on high, look on high, clouds near by;

poco a poco

Ped......* *Ped.*.....*

Drop by drop, drop by drop springs are made; See the clouds, com-ing nigh,
Hang-ing low, hang-ing low, there they go! Com-ing close, com-ing close,

cres - - - - *cen* - - - - *do* - - - -

Ped......* *Ped.*.....* *Ped.*.....*

near-er, near-er, near-er, near-er, low-er, low-er, low-er, low-er, Hail them! hail them! hail them! hail them!
flood the val-leys and the puebls coming nearer, coming nearer,

f - - - - *ff* *accelerando*

Ped......*

Hail them, they are coming low-er, down up-on the ground.

The first system consists of a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves. The vocal line has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Hail them, they are coming low-er, down up-on the ground." The piano accompaniment features a treble clef and a bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp. The right hand plays chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes.

dolce
decrescendo

The second system shows the piano accompaniment. The right hand has a treble clef and plays chords. The left hand has a bass clef and plays a series of triplets of eighth notes. The dynamics are marked *dolce* and *decrescendo*. The system ends with an asterisk.

pp scintillante
lunga
ppp
2 Ped. * Ped. * 2 Ped.

The third system features a piano accompaniment with a scintillante texture. The right hand has a treble clef and plays a rapid sixteenth-note pattern. The left hand has a bass clef and plays a single note. The dynamics are marked *pp scintillante*, *lunga*, and *ppp*. The system includes the instruction "2 Ped." and ends with an asterisk.

R.H. mormorante
L.H. 8va bassa
* Ped. *

The fourth system features a piano accompaniment with a mormorante texture. The right hand has a treble clef and plays a rapid sixteenth-note pattern. The left hand has a bass clef and plays a single note. The dynamics are marked *R.H. mormorante* and *L.H. 8va bassa*. The system includes the instruction "* Ped. *" and ends with an asterisk.

INVOCATION TO THE RAIN-GOD.

Dolente - mezza voce

Great Rain-god hear us, Watch thou our ef-forts,

The fifth system consists of a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves. The vocal line has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "Great Rain-god hear us, Watch thou our ef-forts,". The piano accompaniment features a treble clef and a bass clef, with a key signature of one flat. The right hand plays chords, and the left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes.

How much we all en - dure Your good will to in - sure,

Hear — our plaint - ive song, See thou our dance pro - long.

molto lento
Good Rain - god help us now, Give us more rain.
molto lento

Allegretto
Come quick - ly

in a tremulous voice

down thus; Rain makes us pros - - - perous;

The first system of the musical score consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins with a melodic phrase that is marked 'in a tremulous voice'. The lyrics are 'down thus; Rain makes us pros - - - perous;'. The piano accompaniment is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and features a complex, rhythmic pattern in the right hand and a more steady bass line in the left hand.

Low - er, still low er, Down, down,

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line has the lyrics 'Low - er, still low er, Down, down,'. The piano accompaniment continues with its intricate texture, featuring a prominent melodic line in the right hand that moves across the system.

low, low, Now! watch the flee - cy cloud,

The third system of the score has the lyrics 'low, low, Now! watch the flee - cy cloud,'. The piano accompaniment includes a section with a crescendo leading into a more active rhythmic pattern.

spread - ing all a - bout.

ritard. *a tempo*

The fourth system concludes the page with the lyrics 'spread - ing all a - bout.'. The piano accompaniment features a section marked 'ritard.' (ritardando) followed by a section marked 'a tempo' (allegretto), where the tempo returns to the original speed.

lunga

RAIN CHORUS.
Allegretto (jubilant.)

Rain now is here with us, We will be pros-per-ous.

8va bassa.....

p

Rain now in plen-ty falls, Light-ning gleams! Thun-der calls!

p

8..... *loco*

Good rain has come to us Let us re-joice.

Rain - god is gen - er - ous Loud - ly raise your voice.

Sva bassa.....

All hail! with grate-ful heart, grate-ful heart, Joy - ous heart:

loco

Hail! all hail, all hail Great Rain - god

Sva bassa.....
Ped...... * *Ped.*..... *

hail Great Rain - god hail! All hail! Great Rain-god hail!

loco.....
Ped...... * *Ped.*..... *

f *ff* *Fine.*

