

Recorded by THE BEATLES

Blackbird

For SATB* a cappella

Duration: ca. 3:15

Arranged by
PARIS RUTHERFORD

Words and Music by
JOHN LENNON and PAUL MCCARTNEY

Straight eighths (♩ = ca. 106)

mp

Soprano
Doo _____ doo _____ day

Alto
Doo doo _____ doo _____ doo doo _____ ee ae day

Tenor
Doo doo _____ do _____ doo doo _____ yae day

Bass
Doo _____ doo _____ day

Straight eighths (♩ = ca. 106)

mp (for rehearsal only)

Piano
A^b A^b D^b/A^b Gm⁷(^b5)

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oo. _____ Doo _____ day day oh _____

div. _____

oo. _____ Doo doo _____ yoo _____ doo doo _____

oo doo. _____ Doo doo _____ yoo _____ doo doo _____

div. _____

oo doo. _____ Doo yoo _____ doo doo _____

F² _____ 6 A^b _____ Cm7 D^b2 _____

4

— day day yae oh doo day day oh. _____

— day day yae oh doo doo day oh. _____

— day yae oo doo day do day oh. _____

— day yae doo doo yoo doe. _____

A^b/E^b 3 D^b6 Cm7 G^b9

8

mf

Black-bird sing-in' in the dead of night take these bro-ken wings an' learn to

mf

Black-bird sing-in' in the dead of night take these bro-ken wings an' learn to

12

fly all your life

fly all your life

fly all your life

all your life

Bbm/Db *C* *Abm/Cb* *Bb7*

15

this mo-ment to a - rise. _____
 You were on - ly wait-ing for _____ this mo-ment to a - rise yea yea. _____
 you were on - ly wait-ing for _____ this mo-ment to a - rise yea yea. _____
 you were on - ly wait-ing for _____ this mo-ment to a - rise. _____

18

_____ The day _____ you sing _____
 _____ The dead of _____ night _____ you sing _____
 _____ The dead of _____ night _____ you sing _____
 _____ Day _____ you sing _____

Bbm7 Cm7 Db2

21

and take these old wings and

and take wings and

and take wings and

div. and wings and

$D^{\flat}m/E$ $A^{\flat}/E^{\flat}$ $G^{\flat}9$ $A^{\flat}5$

24

fly. Black - bird sing-in' in the dead of

fly. Sing, sing, dead of

fly. Black - bird sing-in' in the dead of

fly. Sing, sing, dead of

A lyd B^2 $A^{\flat}$ $B^{\flat}m7$ $A^{\flat}maj7/C$

27

BLACKBIRD – SATB

night take these sun-ken eyes and learn to see

night take these sun-ken eyes and learn to see

div.
night take these sun-ken eyes an' learn to see

night take these sun-ken eyes and learn to see

D^b2 3 Gm^{7(b5)} C+7 Fm⁷

30

all your life

to see all your life

all your life

all you life

Dm^{7(b5)} B^bm/D^b A^bm/C^b B^b7

33

this mo-ment to be free. div. div.
 you were on-ly wait-ing for this mo-ment to be free to be free.
 you were on-ly wait-ing for this mo-ment to be free to be free.
 this mo-ment to be free.
 Bbm/Db Ab5

36

40 div.
 Black - bird fly.
 div.
 Black - bird fly.
 Black - bird fly.
 Black - bird fly.
 40 Ab2 Gbmaj7 Dbmaj7 Cb9

39

BLACKBIRD – SATB

fly,
 one singer

div.
 Black - bird fly, just fly,

div.
 Black - bird fly, just fly,

8
 Black - bird fly, just fly,

div.
 Black - bird fly, just fly,

G^bmaj⁷ D^bA^b Fm⁷ G^b6
 42

the mo-ment you could fly,

you were al-ways wait-ing for the mo-ment you could fly, fly, fly.

8
 you were al-ways wait-ing for the mo-ment you could fly, fly, fly.

you were al-ways wait-ing for the mo-ment you could fly,

A^b
 45

fly, just fly.

Black - bird fly just fly.

Black - bird fly, just fly, fly.

fly, just fly, fly.

48

52

Doo day day oh day day

Doo doo yoo doo doo day day

Doo doo yoo doo doo day yae

Doo doo doo day yae

52

B♭m7 Cm7 D♭2 D♭m/E A♭/E♭

52

doo day ___ day day oh. ___ Black-bird sing-in' in the dead of
 doo day ___ day day oh. ___ Black - bird dead of
 oo day ___ day day oh. ___ Black-bird sing-in' in the dead of
 doo day ___ day day oh. ___ Black - bird dead of

Bbm/Db Bbm9 Abmaj7/C E7sus4 A Bm7 A5

night take these bro-ken wings ___ an' learn to
 night take these bro-ken wings ___ an' learn to
 div.
 night take these bro-ken wings ___ an' learn to
 night take these bro-ken wings ___ an' learn to

D2 Dmaj7/A G#m7(b5) C#7

fly, all your life,

fly, learn to fly, your life,

fly, fly, all your life,

fly, learn, fly, all your life,

F#m D#m7(b5) Bm/D C# Am/C B7

61

you were on-ly wait - ing for this mo - ment to a - rise. this mo - ment.

div.

yoo yoo doo, this mo - ment.

you were on-ly wait - ing for this mo - ment to a - rise. this mo - ment.

yoo yoo doo, this mo - ment.

D/F# F9 Dm7 Bbmaj7

64

div.
 this mo-ment to a-rise. Black - bird sing. _____

div.
 You were on-ly wait - ing for this mo-ment to a-rise. Black - bird sing. _____

8
 You were on-ly wait - ing for this mo-ment to a-rise. Black - bird sing. _____

Black - bird sing. _____

A⁵ A^{ma}9 D²

68

div.
 Mo - ment's here, black - bird sing. _____

div.
 Mo - ment's here, black - bird sing. _____

8
 Mo - ment's here, black - bird sing. _____

Mo - ment's here, black - bird sing. _____

A/D A^{ma}7/C# Cm6 Bm7 C7/B^b A²

72

PERFORMANCE NOTES

This a cappella arrangement of Blackbird is designed to pay tribute to the depth found in McCartney's composition, both in the music and especially the lyric. Bars one through five send the message, "Blackbird says it all!" But measures six through eleven respond with "Are you sure? Let's check it out and see!"

Credited to both Lennon and McCartney, Paul's composition is filled with hidden meanings. This arrangement focuses on the sense of freedom suggested by the lyric "fly, just fly" and the beautiful melodic lines.

Measures 61 through 63 are an example of jazz treatment of a melodic line never straying from tonic, thus permitting a descending stepwise bass line that supports interesting harmonies. As an arranger, I smile when finding such opportunities as these, which crop up so consistently with Beatles' music.

Blackbird is one of my favorite songs – I hope that your group enjoys this arrangement.

~Paris Rutherford