

Where Are My Unnumbered Days?

*for SATB choir, with divisi:
score with piano reduction*

Once, I lived in a beautiful town;
Once, I owned a beautiful house,
with a grand garden full of flowers,
and I was prince of it all. Once,
I lived in a house with a name;

And now, I am just a number.
Nations talked to nations
and robbed me of myself.
They made me
a number among millions.

But my rights have no number.
My home had no number.
I could not count the petals of the flowers.
My childhood in the garden
had no limits on it.

Take me back to my country
and I can show you the numbers.
The numbers who suffer.
The quantities of beauty.
The fallen flowers.

Mohamed Assaf (12)

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Piano reduction version - a choral-only score is available at
#choirsagainstracism: hutchingsmusic.co.uk/choirsagainstracism

Music: Chris Hutchings
Lyrics: Mohamed Assaf

Very flexible, speech rhythm ($\text{♩} = \text{c. } 54$)

Soprano
p *accel.* *rit.* *a tempo* *p* *cresc.*
Once, I lived in a beau - ti - ful town; Once, I

Alto
p *cresc.*
Once, I lived in a beau - ti - ful town; Once, I

Tenor
p *cresc.*
Once, I lived in a beau - ti - ful town; Once, I

Bass
p *cresc.*
Once, I

Piano
p *cresc.*
accel. *rit.* *a tempo*

poco accel. *mp* *mf* *poco rit.* *mp*

S
mp *mf* *mp*
owned a beau - ti - ful house, with a grand gar - den full of flow'rs,

A
mp *mf* *mp*
owned a beau - ti - ful house, with a grand gar - den full of flow'rs,

T
mp *mf* *mp*
owned a beau - ti - ful house, with a grand gar - den full of flow'rs,

B
mp *mf* *mp*
owned a beau - ti - ful house, with a grand gar - den full of flow'rs,

Piano
poco accel. *mp* *mf* *poco rit.* *mp*

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With more excitement (♩ = c. 66)

S *mp* and I was prince of it all, *mf* *pp* *Solo p* *rit.* I was prince of it all.

A *mp* and I was prince of it all, *mf* *pp*

T *mp* and I was prince of it all, *mf* *pp*

B *mp* and I was prince of it all, *mf* *pp*

With more excitement (♩ = c. 66)

Tempo I (♩ = c. 54)

Tutti *p* *mf* *f*

S Once, I lived in a house with a name, I lived in a house with a

A *p* *mf* *f*

T *p* *mf* *mp*

B *p* *mf* *mp*

Once, I lived in a house with a name,

Tempo I (♩ = c. 54)

Mechanical (♩ = c. 60)

mf *subito p*

S name, And now...

mf

A name,

subito p

T And now _____ I am a num - ber, _____

p

B I am a num - ber, _____ I am a

Mechanical (♩ = c. 60)

mf *p*

S _____

mp

A _____ I am a num - ber, _____

cresc. poco a poco *mp*

T _____ I am a num - ber, _____ I am a

cresc. poco a poco

B num - ber, _____ I am a num - ber, _____

cresc. poco a poco *mp*

all S&A singing independently, ad lib., louder & faster each time

molto accel.

f (S1) I am a num - ber...

f (A1) I am a num - ber...

mf (S2 only) I am a num - ber...

mf I am a num - ber...

mf I am a num - ber...

mf num - ber, I am a num - ber.

mp T&B continue in tempo I am a num - ber.

mf

molto accel.

cresc.

ff

sudden cut-off: G.P. c.2"

sudden cut-off

* where no dynamics are given for a hairpin, it's just a slight crescendo - not as far as *f* - and then back to the original dynamic

With a dark energy (♩ = c. 120)

Upper parts divide into 3 until the last few bars: equal volumes sopranos, mezzos & altos

mf angry, heavy Na - tion talked to na - tion and

mf angry, heavy Na - tion talked to na - tion and

mf angry, heavy Na - tion talked to na - tion and

mf angry, heavy Na - tion talked to na - tion and robbed me of my - self,

mf angry, heavy Na - tion talked to na - tion and robbed me of my - self,

With a dark energy (♩ = c. 120)

mf angry, heavy

mf

S
robbed me of my - self, robbed me of my -

M
robbed me of my - self, of my -

A
robbed me of my - self, robbed me of my -

T
robbed me, na - tion talked to na - tion and robbed me of my -

B
robbed me, na - tion talked to na - tion and robbed me of my -

f⁺ is shorthand for a dynamic between *f* and *ff* ;
 louder than *f*, but not maximum singing volume yet

S
self. ...a - mong mil - lions.

M
self. ...a - mong... (sing "aw": don't pronounce "ng")

A
self. ...a num - ber...

T
self. They made me a num - ber...

B
self. ...a num - ber...

43 *mf* Na - tion talked to na - tion and

43 *mf* Na - tion talked to na - tion and

43 *mf* Na - tion talked to na - tion and

43 *mf* Na - tion talked to na - tion and robbed me of my - self,

43 *mf* Na - tion talked to na - tion and robbed me of my - self,

46 robbed me of my - self, robbed me of my -

46 robbed me of my - self, of my -

46 robbed me of my - self, robbed me of my -

46 robbed me, na - tion talked to na - tion and robbed me of my -

46 robbed me, na - tion talked to na - tion and robbed me of my -

Where Are My Unnumbered Days?

(the *ff* here is as loud as you can sing without forcing it)

49 *f+* *mp* *f* *ff*

S self. ...a num - ber a - mong mil - lions.

M self. ...a (same num - ber a - mong... (sing "aw": don't pronounce "ng")) *ff*

A self. ...a num - ber... *ff*

T 8 self. They made me... a num - ber... *ff*

B self. They made me... *ff*

49 *f+* *mf* *ff*

53 **Slower but determined** (♩ = c. 108) *f*

S But my rights have no num - ber, my

M But my rights, my

A But my rights, my

T 8 But my rights have no num - ber, my

B But my rights, my

53 **Slower but determined** (♩ = c. 108) *f*

56 *mf* *rit.*

S rights have no num - ber, my rights have no num - ber. My

M rights, my rights, my

A rights have no num - ber, my rights have no num - ber. My

T rights, my rights, my

B rights, my rights, my

60 *mp* *pp* *p* Lightly (♩ = c. 60)

S home had no num - ber. I

M home had no num - ber.

A home had no num - ber. I could not count the

T home had no num - ber.

B home had no num - ber.

60 *mp* *p* *pp* Lightly (♩ = c. 60)

Where Are My Unnumbered Days?

63 *accel. poco a poco* *cresc. poco a poco*

S could not count the pe - tals of the flow'rs, I could not count the pe - tals of the

M *p cresc. poco a poco*
I could not count the pe - tals of the flow'rs, I

A *cresc. poco a poco*
pe - tals of the flow'rs, I could not count the pe - tals of the flow'rs, I could not count the

T *pp*

B

accel. poco a poco *cresc. poco a poco*

66 *mp rit.* *p* *Calm but wistful (♩ = c. 66)* *Solo mp*

S flow'rs, I could not count the pe - tals of the flow'rs. My child - hood in the

M *mp pp*
could not count the pe - tals of the flow'rs

A *mp pp pp p*
pe - tals of the flow'rs. (ah)...

T

B

mp rit. *p mp* *Calm but wistful (♩ = c. 66)*

Yearning (♩ = c. 54)

Tutti

69 *rit.* *f+* *mf*

S gar - den had no li - mits on it. — Take me back to my coun - try,

M — Take me back to my coun - try,

A *pp* *f+* *mf*

T — Take me back to my coun - try,

B — Take me back to my coun - try,

69 *rit.* *f+* *mf*

Yearning (♩ = c. 54)

73 *f* *mf* *mf* *p*

S take me back — to my own coun - try, take me back to my

M take me back — to my own coun - try, take me back to my

A take me back — to my own coun - try, take me back to my

T take me back — to my own coun - try, take me back to my

B take me back — to my own coun - try, take me back to my

73 *f* *mf* *mf* *p*

Where Are My Unnumbered Days?

With rising anger (♩ = c. 66)

S
M
A
T
B

76 *p* *pp* *p*

home (mm) take

home (mm) take

home (mm) take

8 home ...the num - bers, the num - bers,

home and I can show you the num - bers who

p *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

p *cresc. poco a poco*

With rising anger (♩ = c. 66)

76 *p* *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

S
M
A
T
B

80 *mf* *f+* *p* *mp*

me back to my home. The

(mezzos are above sopranos) *mf* *f+* *p*

me back to my home.

me back to my home.

8 the num - bers who suf - fer. The

80 suf - fer, the num - bers...

f *f+* *p* *mp*

f *f+* *p* *mp*

80 *f* *mp*

Brightening (♩ = c. 60)
mp cresc. poco a poco

S
 quan - ti - ties of beau - ty, — the quan - ti - ties of beau - ty, — the

M
 — The quan - ti - ties of beau - ty, — the quan - ti - ties of

A
 The quan - ti - ties of beau - ty, — the quan - ti - ties of

T
 8 quan - ti - ties of beau - ty, — the quan - ti - ties of beau - ty, — the

B
 Take me back to my old coun - try,

Brightening (♩ = c. 60)
pp cresc. poco a poco

p

rit. molto **Delicately** (♩ = c. 42)
ff p

S
 quan - ti - ties of beau - ty. — The fal - len flow'rs, the

M
 beau - ty, — the beau - ty. — *Mezzos return to soprano and alto parts until end*

A
 beau - ty, — the beau - ty. — The fal - len flow'rs, —

T
 8 quan - ti - ties of beau - ty. — The fal - len

B
 to my home...

rit. molto **Delicately** (♩ = c. 42)
ff p

92 *rit.*

S fal - len flow'rs, the fal - len flow'rs, the fal - len flow'rs, the

A the fal - len flow'rs, the fal - len flow'rs, the fal - len, fal -

T flow'rs, the fal - len flow'rs, the fal - len flow'rs, the fal - len

B *mp* the

95 *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

S fal - len flow'rs, the fal - len flow - ers.

A - len flow'rs, the fal - len flow'rs. *pp*

T flow'rs, the fal - len flow'rs. (same note) *pp*

B fal - len flow'rs, the fal - len flow'rs. *pp*