

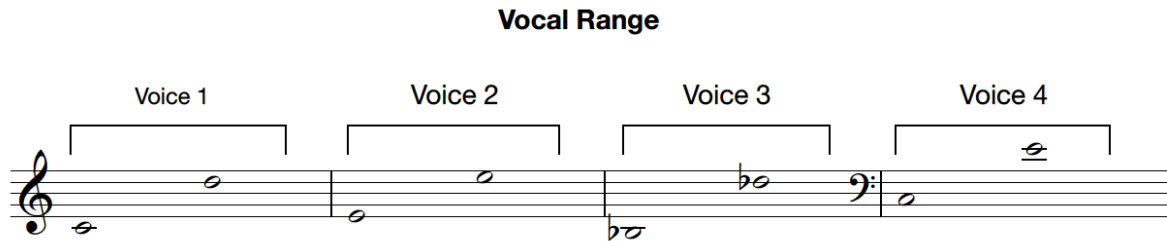
Kenrick Ho

Hard Choices

For Four Voices, A Cappella
(2019)

Preface

This piece is intended to be performed by four singers, ideally covering the following vocal range.



However, if the vocal range above does not match with the range of the performers, the piece is also performable by moving the voice parts up or down an octave.

Inspired by Mansell's poem *Hard Choices*, this piece is based on a homophony where the accompanying three parts can arbitrarily choose what pitch to sing. The result should sound different every time, as a different harmony would be created each time beneath the same melody. However, if singers find difficulty in pitching their choices, it is recommended that they use a pencil and circle their chosen notes, and practice their line beforehand, rather than making choices in real time.

Duration: ca. 3'00"

Hard Choices

By Jojoba Mansell

A path is laid out ahead,
It forks before your feet.
A decision filled with dread,
Uncertain of what you'll meet.

A game full of chance,
Of many hidden pit falls.
To find true romance,
Dare you risk losing all?

Choices never easy to make,
Fog seems to cloud your way.
You fear making a mistake,
Of gambling and losing the day.

But life is full of Hard Choices,
And risk is part of the game.
Be brave, ignore doubting voices,
Make the choice, life won't be the same

Hard Choices

For Four Voices, A cappella

Jojoba Mansell

Kenrick Ho

♩ = 80 **Unsettling, Legato**

non. vib.

mp

Voice 1



A path is laid out a head, _____ it forks be-fore your feet.

6

Voice 1



A de-ci-sion _____ filled with dread, _____ Un-cer tain _____ of what you'll meet.

A

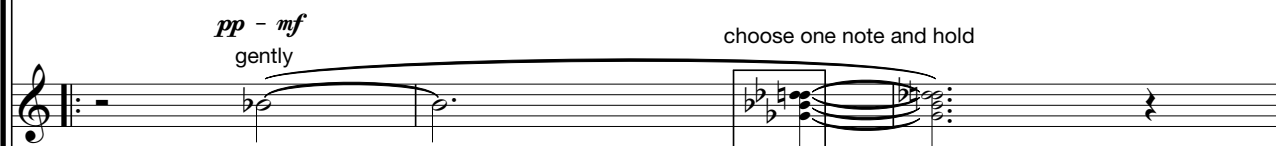
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Voice 1



a game full of chance _____ of

Voice 2

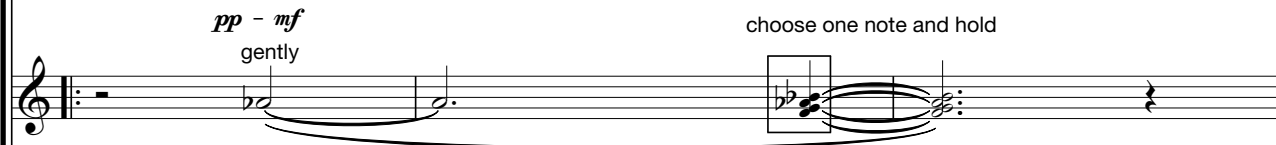


pp - mf
gently

choose one note and hold

ah _____

Voice 3



pp - mf
gently

choose one note and hold

ah _____

Voice 4



pp - mf
gently

choose one note and hold

ah _____

14

Voice 1

ma - ny hid-den pit falls._____ To find____ true ro- mance,____

Voice 2

ah_____ ah_____

Voice 3

ah_____ ah_____

Voice 4

ah_____ ah_____

18

Voice 1

dare you risk lo - sing all?_____ **B** *f - ff* choi - ces,

choose one note from each dyad
mf - f

Voice 2

ah_____ choi - ces,

choose one note from each dyad
mf - f

Voice 3

ah_____ choi - ces,

choose one note from each dyad
mf - f

Voice 4

ah_____ choi - ces,

22

Voice 1

ne - ver ea - sy to make, fog seems to cloud your way. You

Voice 2

ne - ver ea - sy to make, fog seems to cloud your way. You

Voice 3

ne - ver ea - sy to make, fog seems to cloud your way. You

Voice 4

ne - ver ea - sy to make, fog seems to cloud your way. You

26

Voice 1

fear ma - king a mis - take, of gam - bling and lo - sing the day.
on repeat, make new choices

Voice 2

fear ma - king a mis - take, of gam - bling and lo - sing the day.
on repeat, make new choices

Voice 3

fear ma - king a mis - take, of gam - bling and lo - sing the day.
on repeat, make new choices

Voice 4

fear ma - king a mis - take, of gam - bling and lo - sing the day.

C

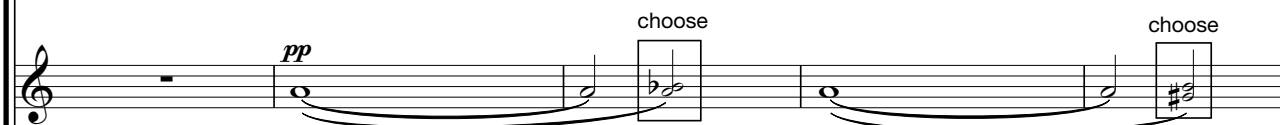
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Voice 1



A path is laid out a head, it forks be-fore your feet.

Voice 2



mm

mm

Voice 3



mm

mm

Voice 4



mm

mm

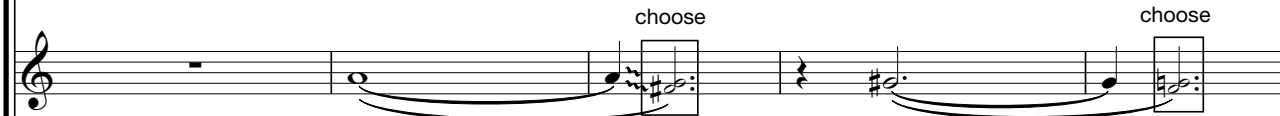
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Voice 1



A de - ci - sion filled with dread, Un-cer tain of what you'll meet.

Voice 2



mm

mm

Voice 3



mm

mm

Voice 4



mm

mm

Hard Choices - Kenrick Ho

D

39 *f* *p* 5

Voice 1: But life is full of Hard Choi - ces, and risk is part of the game. Be brave, ig-

Voice 2: *f* choose one note from every dyad full of Hard Choi - ces, risk is part of the game.

Voice 3: *f* choose one note from every dyad full of Hard Choi - ces, risk is part of the game.

Voice 4: *f* choose one note from every dyad full of Hard Choi - ces, risk is part of the game.

44 *f* *ff* *p* 3

Voice 1: nore doub-ting voi - ces, make the choice, life won't be the same

Voice 2: *f* *ff* *p* doub-ting voi - ces, make the choice, same

Voice 3: *f* *ff* *p* doub-ting voi - ces, make the choice, same

Voice 4: *f* *ff* *p* doub-ting voi - ces, make the choice, same