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The Barbershop Harmony Society

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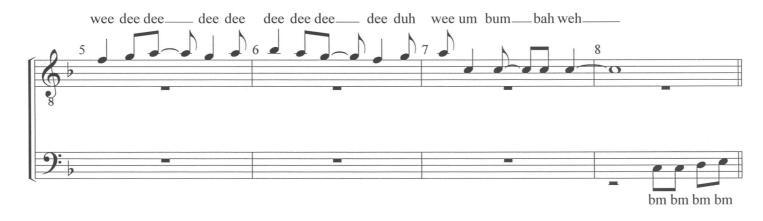
THE LION SLEEPS TONIGHT

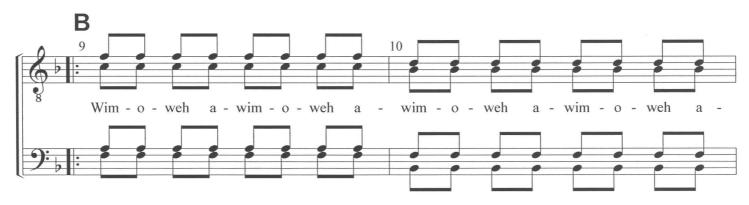
as sung by Metropolis

Words and Music by GEORGE DAVID WEISS LUIGI CREATORE and HUGO PERETTI

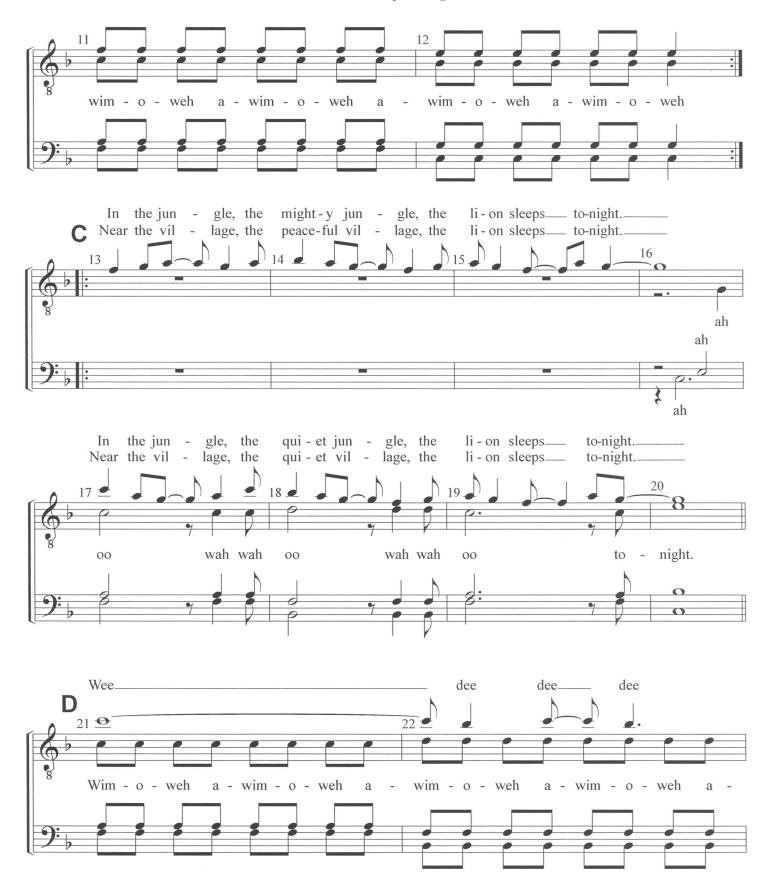
Arrangement by SCOTT TURNBULL



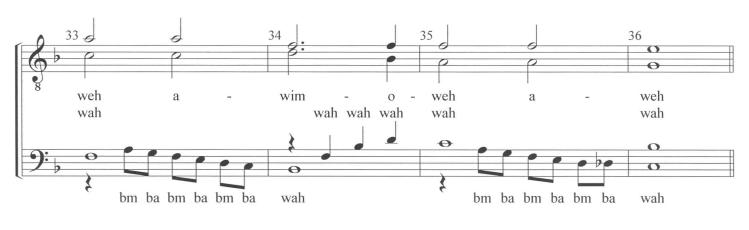




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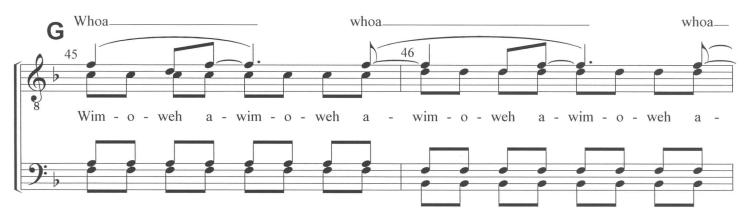
















Performance Notes

This is the story of an African doo-wop song. Its original title was "Mbube" (pronounced EM-boo-beh), which means "Lion," and it was sung with a haunting Zulu refrain that sounded, to English-speaking people, like "wimoweh." "Mbube" was a big hit in what is now Swaziland, selling nearly 100,000 copies in the 1940s as sung by its originator, South African Solomon Linda. Linda had written it based on a boyhood experience chasing lions that were stalking the family's cattle, and recorded the tune in 1939 with his group the Evening Birds.

The Weavers adapted it into a Top 20 hit in 1952, as "Wimoweh." It was basically an instrumental piece, with the group singing "wimoweh" over and over, with other vocal flourishes. The tune really took off in the Weavers' live version at Carnegie Hall in 1957. Linda was not credited as the writer. That honor went to "Paul Campbell," a pseudonym for the group.

However, when the Kingston Trio released their version, in 1959, the writer credit was listed as "Traditional; adapted and arranged by Campbell-Linda." Meanwhile, Linda died with only \$25 in his bank account. His heirs are still pursuing royalties from the song, perhaps one of the best-known worldwide hits ever.

Arranger Scott Turnbull discovered barbershop harmony as a high school student in Detroit, Michigan. After attending a local chapter show, he and three friends organized their own quartet, with Scott singing the lead part. In college at Eastern Michigan University, Scott formed another quartet, the **Ivy League**, which would go on to win the 1985 Pioneer District quartet championship and perform on over 200 chapter shows during its 11-year career. He has directed several choruses in Michigan, Hawaii and, most recently, Florida. Scott's arrangements have been sung by many top quartets and choruses in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any other song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask *before* you sing.