

“You Are The Sunshine Of My Life”

Written and performed by Stevie Wonder

From *Talking Book* (1972)

Arranged TTBB + SSAATTB + VP for *Everyone In Harmony 2022*

(All files can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#))

FORM

This song is broken into a fairly simple VERSE-CHORUS structure with each being 16 bars. Because of the nature of our project, I have edited the form slightly. Each section is indicated by a rehearsal letter in the score which should allow for easier navigation. I have indicated the section, it's rehearsal mark, and the measure numbers here:

TAG (mm. 1-8)

INTRO (A, mm.8-15)

CHORUS 1 (B, mm. 16-31)

VERSE 1 (C, mm. 32-47)

CHORUS 2 (D, mm. 48-63)

VERSE 2 (E, mm. 64-79)

CHORUS 3 (F, mm. 80-95)

TAG (G, 96-end)

I would recommend learning sections of the same color, because they have *mostly* corresponding material. For example, each of the three **CHORUSES** is nearly identical to the last, with the exception being the 3rd chorus which is the same content but modulated up a half step. Both of the **VERSES** are the same content, modified in the 2nd verse only to change the lyrics (and the a cappella group leads the charge). The only section that doesn't have recycled material is the **INTRO** (A, mm. 7-14), and the end of the final tag (G, mm. 98-end)

I would advise learning the **CHORUSES** first, then the **VERSES**, then the **INTRO** and the **TAGS**, but you can do whatever makes the most sense for the ensemble!

PART TRACKS

There are two types of part tracks available for learning this song. They are panned and dominant:

- Panned part tracks for EACH part - these are panned, meaning the singers' part is in the LEFT EAR and the rest of the ensemble is in the right ear. **Singers will need to use headphones to hear this panning- it will not work on regular speakers.**
- Part dominant tracks (barbershop only) - in these tracks, the singer's part is LOUDER, but it is NOT PANNED. This option will work for those without headphones.
- Demos - I have included a demo of BARBERSHOP only, A CAPPELLA only, and ALL PARTS COMBINED.

My suggestion for learning with part tapes is similar to my suggestion for teaching from the score- learn in small and similar chunks. Singers should choose a section of the song (indicated by the letter rehearsal mark) and focus on learning that one section until they feel confident. To do this, a singer should:

1. Listen to the part and section they are learning a handful of times while looking at the score
2. Attempt to sing along with the part while looking at the score
3. Stop and replay/retry any sections that are challenging, emulating what they hear in the part tracks, and taking a note to bring up in rehearsal any lingering challenges
4. Listen to the demo and part tracks repeatedly out of the context of rehearsal for familiarity with the overall piece and part interplay.

Once the singers are familiar with their parts, it may also be helpful to sing along out loud with the demo recording as a section or a whole ensemble. This will let the demo serve as guide rails.

SOLOS

I do not personally feel strongly about how the solos are split up between the ensembles. In later versions of the score, I omitted suggestions so that you could decide in your groups. My thought is that there could be 1 or 2 from each group splitting each section in half. The only parts that should not be changed are where the solo is written into a chorus part, e.g. in the barbershop bass part starting at mm. 32 "I feel like this is the beginning".

LYRIC BREAKDOWN

TAG

*You are the sunshine of my life
That's why I'll always be a...*

INTRO (A)

CHORUS 1 (B)

*You are the sunshine of my life
That's why I'll always be around
You are the apple of my eye
Forever you'll stay in my heart*

VERSE 1 (C)

*I feel like this is the beginning
Though I've loved you for a million years
And if I thought our love was ending
I'd find myself drowning in my own tears*

CHORUS 2 (D)

*You are the sunshine of my life
That's why I'll always stay around
You are the apple of my eye
Forever you'll stay in my heart*

VERSE 2 (E)

*You must have known that I was lonely
Because you came to my rescue
And I know that this must be heaven
How could so much love be inside of you?*

CHORUS 3 (F)

*You are the sunshine of my life, yeah
That's why I'll always stay around
You are the apple of my eye
Forever you'll stay in my heart
you are the sunshine of my life*

TAG - OUTRO (G)

*You are the sunshine of my life
I will love you 'til my dying day
Don't take the sun, don't take my sun
Away*