

## Ise Oluwa

Nigerian Folksong (Yoruba)  
Arranged by Ron Kean

Translation and Pronunciation

*I-fe o-lu-wa ko-le ba-je-o*  
Ise oluwa kole bajeoh

God's work will never be destroyed.<sup>1</sup>

### Background

Ise Oluwa is a praise song from the Yoruba people of Nigeria, West Africa, based on the arrangement made popular by the African American vocal group, *Sweet Honey in the Rock*.

### Recordings

Marin School of the Arts Advanced Choir, 2010: <https://youtu.be/V5Mub6FrZpw>

Singing Sensations Youth Choir, 2018: <https://youtu.be/KNRTw5siLUc> Not the arrangement we are using, but a great version.

### Analysis

Key: C Major

Meter: Essentially 6/8, in 2

Texture: Homophonic, homorhythmic with polyrhythmic percussion accompaniment

Form:

A A B A

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<sup>1</sup> Translation - Kean, Ron. "Ise Oluwa". Pavane, 2002, p. 4.

SECTION	MEASURE	EVENT AND SCORING
introduction	1-4	Percussion only
A	5-12	sung in unison
A	12-20	same as 5-12
interlude	21-23	percussion only
B	24-31	sung in unison
A	32-39	sung in unison
interlude	40-42	percussion only
A A (variation)	43-58	43-44 – unison, part II only; 45-58 in two part triadic harmony, mainly stacked in thirds; melody in lower voice
B (variation)	59-66	Three part triadic harmony, stacked primarily in thirds, melody in lowest voice
A (variation)	67-79	the same two part harmony as in ms 47-58