

Where Are My Unnumbered Days?

for SATB choir, with divisi

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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Where Are My Unnumbered Days?

Music: Chris Hutchings

Lyrics: Mohamed Assaf

Very flexible, speech rhythm (♩ = c. 54)

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

Soprano
Once, I lived in a beau-ti-ful town; Once, I

Alto
Once, I lived in a beau-ti-ful town; Once, I

Tenor
Once, I lived in a beau-ti-ful town; Once, I

Bass
Once, I

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

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

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

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

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

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With more excitement ($\text{♩} = \text{c. } 66$)

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

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

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

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

Tempo I ($\text{♩} = \text{c. } 54$)

S *Tutti p* *mf* *f*
Once, I lived in a house with a name, I lived in a house with a

A *p* *mf* *f*
Once, I lived in a house with a name, a house with a

T *p* *mf* *mp*
Once, I lived in a house with a name,

B *p* *mf* *mp*
Once, I lived in a house with a name,

Mechanical (♩ = c. 60)

21 *mf* *subito p*

S name, And now...

21 *mf*

A name,

21 *subito p*

T 8 And now _____ I am a num-ber, _____

21 *p*

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

25

S

25 *mp*

A (A2 only) I am a num - ber, _____

25 *cresc. poco a poco* *mp*

T 8 _____ I am a num - ber, _____ I am a

25 *cresc. poco a poco*

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

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

molto accel.

all 4 parts together for approx 10", crescendo to ff; cut off mid-phrase

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

S *mp* I am a num - ber... *f* (S1) I am a num - ber...

A *mp* (S2 only) I am a num - ber... *mf* I am a num - ber... *f* (A1) I am a num - ber...

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

B I am a num - ber. *mp* *mf*

T&B continue in tempo

With a dark energy (♩ = c. 120)

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

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

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

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

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

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

* 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

36

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 -

39

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...

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

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 *rit. f* robbed me of my - self, robbed me of my -

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

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

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

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

(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.

49 *f+* *mp* *f* (same note) *ff*

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

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

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

49 *f+* *mf* *ff*

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

49 *f+* *mf* *ff*

B self. They made me...

Slower but determined (♩ = c. 108)

53 *f*

S But my rights have no num - ber, my

53 *f*

M But my rights, my

53 *f*

A But my rights, my

53 *f*

T But my rights have no num - ber, my

53 *f*

B But my rights, my

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

Lightly (♩ = c. 60)

60 *mp* *pp* *p*

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.

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

66 *rit.* *mp* *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

Yearning (♩ = c. 54)

rit. *f+* *Tutti* *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*
Take me back to my coun - try,

T
f+ *mf*
Take me back to my coun - try,

B
f+ *mf*
Take me back to my coun - try,

S
f *mf* *mf* *p*
take me back to my own coun - try, take me back to my

M
f *mf* *mf* *p*
take me back to my own coun - try, take me back to my

A
f *mf* *mf* *p*
take me back to my own coun - try, take me back to my

T
f *mf* *mf* *p*
take me back to my own coun - try, take me back to my

B
f *mf* *mf* *p*
take me back to my own coun - try, take me back to my

With rising anger (♩ = c. 66)

76 *p* > *pp* *p*

S home (mm) take

M home (mm) take

A home (mm) take

T *p* *p* *cresc. poco a poco* take

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

B *p* *p* *cresc. poco a poco* take

home and I can show you the num - bers who

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

S me back to my home. The

M *mf* *f+* *p* *mp*

(mezzos are above sopranos)

me back to my home.

A *mf* *f+* *p* *mp*

me back to my home.

T *f* *f+* *p* *mp*

the num - bers who suf - fer. The

B *f* *f+* *p* *mp*

suf - fer, the num - bers...

Brightening (♩ = c. 60)

85 *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
85 *mp cresc. poco a poco*
quan - ti - ties of beau - ty, — the quan - ti - ties of beau - ty, — the

B
85 *p cresc. poco a poco*
Take me back to my old coun - try,

rit. molto

Delicately (♩ = c. 42)

89 *ff* *p* *p*

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

M
89 *ff* *p* *p* *Mezzos return to soprano and alto parts until end*

A
89 *ff* *p* *p*
beau - ty, — the beau - ty. — The fal - len flow'rs, —

T
89 *ff* *p* *p*
quan - ti - ties of beau - ty. — The fal - len

B
89 *ff* *p* *p*
to my home...

rit.

92

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

S *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
fal - len flow'rs, the fal - len flow - ers.

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

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

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