

Strange fruit

ton original

En 1937, Abe(l) Meeropol, enseignant militant, écrit sous le pseudonyme de Lewis Allan ce poème, intitulé à l'origine «Bitter Fruit», qu'il met en musique lui-même.

Écrite à l'origine pour Laura Duncan, la chanson est reprise par Billie Holiday en 1939.

First system of the musical score. It features a piano introduction in B-flat major, 4/4 time, with a tempo of quarter note = 58. The music is marked 'Moderately' and 'p' (piano). The melody consists of eighth notes with triplet markings over the first two measures. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with chords.

Second system of the musical score, starting at measure 5. The vocal line begins with the lyrics: "Sou - thern trees bear a strange fruit, blood on the leaves, and blood on the root,". The piano accompaniment includes chord symbols: Dom, Dom11/sol, Sidim/sol, Dom, and Doll/sol. The melody continues with eighth notes and triplet markings.

Third system of the musical score, starting at measure 10. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "black bo - dy han - ging in the Sou - thern breeze, strange fruit han - ging from the pop - lar trees. .". The piano accompaniment includes chord symbols: Sidim/la^b, Rédim, Sol7, Dom/mi^b, Sidim/ré, Dom, Fam, Dom. The melody continues with eighth notes and triplet markings.

15

(Hum) Pas - to - ral scene of the

Dom Do/mi \flat Rédim Do/mi \flat Dom Rédim Sol Dom Rédim

20

ga - lant south the bul - ging eyes and the twis - ted mouth, scent of ma - gno - li - a

Do/mi \flat Dom Rédim Sol Do/mi \flat Rédim

swe - et and fresh, and the sud - den smell of bur - ning flesh!

Dom Sol7 Si \flat 7/fa Si \flat 7/ré Si \flat Sol7

25

Here is a fruit for the crows to pluck, for the rain to ga - ther, for the

Dom Mi \flat /si \flat La \flat Sol9M Sol9M/fa Rédim

30

wind to suck, for the sun to rot, for a tree to drop. (Hum) _____

SiDim/si \flat Sol7/ré Dom/mi \flat Dom RéDim Dom Sol7

35

Here is a strang and bit - ter crop. (Hum) _____

Dom Sol7 La \flat 7M Dom Sol9 Dom Dom6M

Southern trees bear a strange fruit
 Blood on the leaves and blood at the root
 Black bodies swinging in the Southern breeze
 Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees

Pastoral scene of the gallant south
 The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth
 Scent of magnolias, sweet and fresh
 Then the sudden smell of burning flesh

Here is a fruit for the crows to pluck
 For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck
 For the sun to rot, for the tree to drop
 Here is a strange and bitter crop

Les arbres du Sud portent un fruit étrange
 Du sang sur leurs feuilles et du sang sur leurs racines
 Des corps noirs qui se balancent dans la brise du Sud
 Un fruit étrange suspendu aux peupliers

Scène pastorale du vaillant Sud
 Les yeux révoltés et la bouche déformée
 Le parfum des magnolias doux et printanier
 Puis l'odeur soudaine de la chair qui brûle

Voici un fruit que les corbeaux picorent
 Que la pluie fait pousser, que le vent assèche
 Que le soleil fait mûrir, que l'arbre fait tomber
 Voici une bien étrange et amère récolte