

Glossary

Arrangement – a composition adapted for performance with different instruments or voices than those originally specified

Collaboration – the action of working with someone to produce or create something

Hymn – a religious song or poem of praise to God or a god

Range - the area of variation between upper and lower limits on a particular scale, in this case, of a musical instrument

Viola – an instrument of the violin family, larger than the violin and tuned a fifth lower; the alto voice of the violin family



Listen

Let Us Break Bread Together

The composer, Nkeiru Okoye, used a popular church hymn as the basis for this piece.

The hymn she used is called *Let Us Break Bread Together*. You can listen to it [here](#).

However, Okoye, does not compose an exact arrangement of the melody. Instead, she weaves it in and out of her own composition, *Breaking Bread*.

Dig Deeper

Collaboration

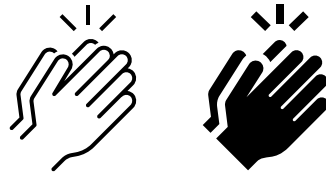
Okoye knew she wanted to write a piece using a hymn as the basis for the piece, so she sent the violist, Amadi Azikiwe, three spirituals to choose from. She also asked him to explain why he liked the arrangements of each of the spirituals he chose. Having Azikiwe select his favorite hymn and Okoye writing specifically for him makes this piece extra special.

In fact, many of the pieces in the LISTEN project were created through a collaborative process between composer and instrumentalist.

Create and Make

Write a hymn

Hymns are religious songs or poems of praise to God or a god, but they don't have to always be religious. They can praise anything! Pick something that you want to praise and write a hymn about it.



Listen

Let Us Break Bread Together

Okoye uses the hymn, *Let Us Break Bread Together*, which is typically sung, as the basis for her piece, *Breaking Bread*. Instead of writing the piece for chorus, she writes it for solo viola. She talks about wanting to use the full range of the viola; resonant in the low notes and intense in the high notes. As you're listening to the piece, can you find the hymn of the melody? Does it ever appear in its entirety? Does it appear at the beginning, middle, or end of the piece? In what part of the range(s) of the viola is it played?

Dig Deeper

Collaboration

Azikiwe talks about knowing Okoye for a long time and that long friendship informing how he approached performing the piece. He also talks about the collaborative process between the two going back and forth talking through the piece measure by measure. This collaborative process culminated in a really special piece, *Breaking Bread*. What activities in your life do you collaborate on? Who do you collaborate with? When you work together with someone to create something, is it challenging? Does it lead to something really amazing?

Create and Make

Write a hymn

A hymn can be about anything, it just needs to praise it. Think of something, someone, or somewhere that you really like. Then make a list of things that you really like about that person, place or thing. Come up with some adjectives that you can use to describe those things. Once you have a list of things to write about, put it in the structure of a poem. Once you have your lyrics, you can try adding music!