

Bring Me Little Water, Silvy

By Huddie Ledbetter (Lead Belly)

Arranged by Moira Smiley

TRIO

SSA/SAA/SAT/ATB + body percussion

Huddie William Ledbetter (January 1888 – December 6, 1949) wrote some of the most beloved American songs while he performed and wrote in his own folk blues style. He recorded for John & Alan Lomax, and for various commercial labels. He became famous in the folk music movement of the 1930s and 1940s.

This song was said to be about his uncle and his uncle's wife, Silvy – this version takes much of its musical choices from Sweet Honey in the Rock's version.

Body percussion is by Evie Ladin.

This trio format has a smaller range than Moira's SSAA and SATB arrangement. This may be especially preferable for young voices, and any groups who prefer to sing in close, one octave harmony

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Bring Me Little Water, Silvy

Body Percussion by Evie Ladin

Hands

Clap in front Clap R side of chest Clap L side of chest Clap in front Brush back of hands on front of thighs as arms swing back Brush palms on backs of thighs as arms swing forward Clap L over R (R is down by R hip) Clap R over L (L is down by L hip) Clap R over L (L is down by L hip) Clap in front

Feet

Lean weight into L foot Stomp R foot Stomp R foot Stomp L foot Stomp R foot

BY HUDDIE LEDBETTER

ARRANGEMENT BY MOIRA SMILEY

INTRO

Body Percussion: 2x

V1

melody

HUM complete verse

V1

Bring me little water, Silvy
Bring me little water now
Bring me little water, Silvy
Ev'ry little once in a while

V2

Bring it in a bucket, Silvy
Bring it in a bucket now
Bring it in a bucket, Silvy
Ev'ry little once in a while

B Section
(CHORUS)

Silvy come a runnin'
Bucket in my hand
I will bring a little water
Fast as I can

REPEAT V1

B Section
(CHORUS)

Can't you see me comin'
Can't you see me now
I will bring a little water
Ev'ry little once in a while

HUM VERSE

Ev'ry little once in a while
Ev'ry little once in a while
Ev'ry little once in a while (No Body Percussion)

Body Percussion Moves On Each 8th Note Beat:

- 1 CLAP hands out in front of you (normal clap)
- 2 RIGHT HAND to RIGHT side of CHEST
- 3 LEFT HAND to LEFT side of CHEST
- 4 RIGHT FOOT stamps
- 5-6 CLAP hands out in front of you (normal clap)
- 7 Torso forward to BRUSH back of HANDS on tops of THIGHS
- 8 BRUSH palms of hands against back of legs (coming back in other direction as your torso comes up)
- 1-2 RIGHT FOOT stamps
- 3 throw LH down onto RH for a "tortilla-making" clap (lean to RIGHT)
- 4 LEFT FOOT stamps
- 5 throw RH down onto LH for a "tortilla-making" clap (lean to LEFT)
- 6 (same as 5) "tortilla clap" again
- 7 RIGHT FOOT stamp
- 8 CLAP hands out in front of you (normal clap)

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Bring Me Little Water, Silvy

For SAA(orSAT) + Body Percussion [EbM]

Huddie W. Ledbetter

**Note: Sop & Alto 1 can swap for mm.1-2
if you prefer not to cross parts*

Huddie W. Ledbetter (Lead Belly), arr. Moira Smiley

A Sing A with body percussion

(Melody) Sop

Bring me lit-tle wa - ter Sil - vy Bring me lit-tle wa - ter now Bring me lit-tle wa - ter
Bring it in a bu - cket Sil - vy Bring it in a bu - cket now Bring it in a bu - cket

Alto 1

Bring me lit-tle wa - ter Sil - vy Bring me lit-tle wa - ter now Bring me lit-tle wa - ter
Bring it in a bu - cket Sil - vy Bring it in a bu - cket now Bring it in a bu - cket

Alto 2/Tenor

Bring me lit-tle wa - ter Sil - vy Bring me lit-tle wa - ter now Bring me lit-tle wa - ter
Bring it in a bu - cket Sil - vy Bring it in a bu - cket now Bring it in a bu - cket

B Sing B without body percussion

6

S

Sil - vy Ev' ry lit-tle once in a while__ Sil - vy come a run nin'_ Bu - cket in my(her)
Sil - vy Ev' ry lit-tle once in a while__ Can't you see me co min' Can't you see me

A1

Sil - vy hm Ev' ry lit-tle once in a while__ Sil - vy come a run nin'_ Bu - cket in my(her)
Sil - vy hm Ev' ry lit-tle once in a while__ Can't you see me co min' Can't you see me

A2/T

Sil - vy (mmm) Ev' ry lit-tle once in a while__ Sil - vy come a run nin'_ Bu - cket in my(her)
Sil - vy Ev' ry lit-tle once in a while__ Can't you see me co min' Can't you see me

'Can't you' can be two quarter notes!
'Hand' and 'Now' can also land on 'and' of 4 of m.11

12

S

hand I will bring a lit-tle wa - ter__ fast__ as I__ can__ Oh...
now I will bring a lit-tle wa - ter__ Ev' ry lit-tle once in a/while Mmm...

A1

hand I will bring a lit-tle wa - ter__ fast__ as I__ can__
now I will bring a lit-tle wa - ter__ Ev' ry lit-tle once in a while__

A2/T

hand I will bring a lit-tle wa - ter__ fast__ as I__ can__
now I will bring a lit-tle wa - ter__ Ev' ry lit-tle once in a while__

To end, repeat m.15-16 1x with BP and 1x without BP, with ritard

1. 2.