

9286

No Mirrors in My Nana's House - Ysaÿe M. Barnwell

SATBB Chorus unaccompanied

No Mirrors in My Nana's House

from *Crossings*

YSAÿE M. BARNWELL

SATBB Chorus unaccompanied

YSAÿE M. BARNWELL
COLLECTION

E.C. Schirmer
MUSIC COMPANY
A division of ECS Publishing Group

PROGRAM NOTES

This powerful text, which literally “sings itself” has also been set as a children’s book. It serves as a poignant tool to teach young people that all they need to know about their self-worth can be discovered through the fierce love of an elder.

The divided bass line—baritone and bass—establishes an obstinate pattern to support a rhythmic and lively message.

TEXT

There were no mirrors in my Nana’s house, no mirrors in my Nana’s house.
And the beauty that I saw in everything was in her eyes.

So I never knew that my nose was too flat, and I never knew that my skin was too black,
And I never knew that my clothes didn’t fit, and I never knew there were things that I’d missed
And the beauty in everything was in her eyes.

And I was intrigued by the cracks in the walls.
The dust in the sun looked like snow that would fall, the noise in the hallway was music to me,
The trash and the rubbish would cushion my feet
And the beauty in everything was in her eyes.

The world outside was a magical place, I only knew love and I didn’t know hate,
The beauty in everything was in her eyes.
Child, look deep into my eyes.

—Ysaÿe M. Barnwell

Dr. Ysaÿe M. Barnwell is a commissioned composer, arranger, author, and actress. She began her 15-year violin instruction at age two and a half and went on to earn degrees in speech pathology (BS, MEd), craniotomy-facial studies (Ph.D.) and public health (MSPH). In addition, she was awarded honorary doctoral degrees from theological seminaries in Illinois and Virginia.

Dr. Barnwell taught at Howard University College of Dentistry for over a decade, later moving on to overseeing public health projects. In 1979, she joined the Grammy winning African American female *a cappella* ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock.

She also served as teacher and choral clinician in African American cultural performance, leading a workshop entitled “Building a Vocal Community: Singing in the African American Tradition” both at home and abroad. Conducted in the oral tradition, it utilized an African world view and explored African American history, values, cultural, and vocal traditions to build communities of song among both singers and non-singers. Her pedagogy is highly respected among musicians, educators, health workers, activists, organizers, and members of both corporate and non-profit sectors.

In addition, Dr. Barnwell has published books and made appearances on tv and in film. Composing music for dance, choral, film and video, she has received commissions from countless organizations including Sesame Street, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and the King’s Singers among others.

E. C. Schirmer Music Company is proud to be the publishing home for Dr. Barnwell’s choral music. Please visit ecspublishing.com for a complete listing of her works.

Catalog No. 9286

No Mirrors in My Nana's House

for SATBB Chorus unaccompanied

Words and Music by
Ysaÿe M. Barnwell (BMI)

Lively ♩ = ca. 78

Soprano

Alto *mp*

Tenor

Bass 1 *mp*

Bass 2

Keyboard **Lively** ♩ = ca. 78
(for rehearsal only)

There were no mir - rors in my Na-na's house, _ no mir - rors in my Na - na's _ house. ____

Doom doom doom doom

3 *mp*

There were no mir - rors in my Na - na's house, no mir - rors in my Na - na's _____ house, and the

There were no mir - rors in my Na - na's house, no mir - rors in my Na - na's _____ house, and the

mp

No mir - rors in my Na - na's _____ house, and the

doom doom_ doom do doom doom_ doom do doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom

mp

Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom

5

beau-ty that I _____ saw in ev - er - y - thing, the beau-ty in ev - er - y - thing _____ was in her

beau-ty that I _____ saw in ev - er - y - thing, the beau-ty in ev - er - y - thing _____ yeah, _____ was in her

beau-ty that I _____ saw in ev - er - y - thing, the beau-ty in ev - er - y - thing _____ was _____ in her

doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom

Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom

7

eyes, eyes. eyes, was in her eyes. eyes, eyes. doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom

9 *mf*

mf There were no mir - rors in my Na - na's house, no mir - rors in my Na - na's ____ house. *mf* There were no mir - rors in my Na - na's house, no mir - rors in my Na - na's ____ house. *mf* There were no mir - rors in my Na - na's house, no mir - rors in my Na - na's ____ house. doom doom_ doom do doom doom_ doom doom doom doom_ doom do doom doom_ doom doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom

11

There were no mir - rors in my Na - na's house, no mir - rors in my Na - na's house. So

There were no mir - rors in my Na - na's house, no mir - rors in my Na - na's house. So

There were no mir - rors in my Na - na's house, no mir - rors in my Na - na's house. So

doom doom doom do doom doom doom doom doom doom doom do doom doom doom doom

Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom

13

f I nev-er knew that my nose was too flat, and I nev-er knew that my skin was too black, and

f I nev-er knew that my nose was too flat, and I nev-er knew that my skin was too black, and

f I nev-er knew that my nose was too flat, and I nev-er knew that my skin was too black, and

mf doom doom doom do doom doom doom doom doom doom do doom doom doom doom

mf Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom

17

beau-ty in ev-er-y-thing was in her eyes, beau-ty in ev-er-y-thing yeah, was in her eyes, was in her

doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom

Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom

19

eyes. There were no mir - rors in my Na-na's house, no mir - eyes. There were no mir - rors in my Na-na's house, no mir - eyes. There were no mir - rors in my Na-na's house, no mir -

doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom doom doom_ doom do doom doom_ doom doom

Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom

dust in the sun_ looked like snow that would fall, the noise in the hall - way was mu-sic to me, the

dust in the sun_ looked like snow that would fall, the noise in the hall - way was mu-sic to me, the

dust in the sun_ looked like snow that would fall, the noise in the hall - way was mu-sic to me, the

doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom

Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom

trash and the rub - bish would cush-ion my feet and the beau-ty in ev - er - y-thing_ was_ in her

trash and the rub - bish would cush-ion my feet and the beau-ty in ev - er - y-thing_ yeah, was in her

trash and the rub - bish would cush-ion my feet and the beau-ty in ev - er - y-thing_ was_ in her

doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom

Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom

There were no mir - rors in my Na - na's house, no mir - rors in my Na - na's _____ house. The

There were no mir - rors in my Na - na's house, no mir - rors in my Na - na's _____ house. The

There were no mir - rors in my Na - na's house, no mir - rors in my Na - na's _____ house. The

doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom

Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom

f world out - side was a mag-i - cal place, I on - ly knew love and I did-n't know hate, the

f world out - side was a mag-i - cal place, I on - ly knew love and I did-n't know hate, the

f world out - side was a mag-i - cal place, I on - ly knew love and I did-n't know hate, the

doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom doom doom_ doom do doom doom doom doom

Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom Dat be dat doon dat be da ga doom

Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____ Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____

Child, look deep in - to my eyes. Child, look deep in - to my

mf Child, look deep in - to my eyes.____ Child, look deep in - to my eyes.____

Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____ Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____

Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes. Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.

dim. al fine Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____ Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____

dim. al fine eyes. Child, look deep in - to my eyes. Child, look deep in - to my

dim. al fine Child, look deep in - to my eyes.____ Child, look deep in - to my eyes.____

dim. al fine Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____ Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____

dim. al fine Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes. Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.

45

Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____ Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____

eyes. Child, look deep in - to my eyes. Child, look deep in - to my

Child, look deep in - to my eyes.____ Child, look deep in - to my eyes.____

Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____ Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____

Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes. Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.

47

Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____ Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____ Child.

eyes. Child, look deep in - to my eyes. Child, look deep in - to my eyes.

Child, look deep in - to my eyes.____ Child, look deep in - to my eyes.____ Child.

Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____ Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes.____ Child.

Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes. Child, look__ deep__ in - to my eyes. Child.