

Preface

As recounted in the *Bhagavad Gita*, that Indian text of great and ancient wisdom, Arjuna's dilemma seems simple enough: to fight or not to fight. Arjuna, the great warrior prince, leads the forces of the right in a civil war. However, on the eve of the ultimate battle, his family and loved ones arrayed against him on the battlefield lead him to his charioteer, the god Krishna, for guidance; Krishna tells him he cannot fight. The metaphoric question of his willingness to engage in a physical battle really asks whether he is ready to do battle with evil.

Symbolically, Arjuna represents us. We are asked to ask whether we will use the good inside our hearts to fight the evil that resides there as well. Will we use our physical and spiritual life? That is what Arjuna and each of us must decide.

In the choral setting of *Arjuna's Dilemma*, from which this piece is adapted, the female chorus, like the Greek chorus, voicing the thoughts and emotions of the audience, sings to Krishna at various times. *Oh Krishna*, and *Oh Krishna*, the male chorus, is taken from two parts of the opera. In the first, which comes from an early section, Arjuna spells out why he feels he cannot fight. The second is based on the final section of the opera, when Arjuna is finally convinced by Krishna to fight. The diminuendo down to a soft, *semplice* voice in the final coda is symbolic: although Arjuna's decision has been made, it is not a moment of exaltation or triumph, but rather a marking of the beginning of the challenge he has accepted in taking up this fight.

Oh Krishna

Text from the Bhagavad Gita
Translated by Dr. Ramanand Prasad

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$\text{♩} = 100$

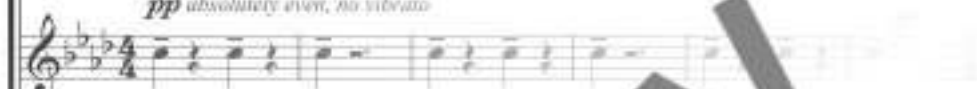
pp absolutely even, no vibrato

Soprano



Oh Krish - na Oh Krish - na Oh Krish - na

Alto



Oh Krish - na Oh Krish - na

Tenor



Oh Krish - na Oh Krish - na

Bass



Oh Krish - na Oh Krish - na

Λ

$\text{♩} = 110$

mp

S.



This is a great sin_____ to

mp



This is a great sin_____



kill our own peo - ple to kill our own

A.



This is a great sin_____ to kill our own peo -

17 *mf*

S. peo - ple Through greed for the plea-sures of the King

A. *mf*
ple To kill

T.

B. *mp*
Great

22 *mf* *mp* *mf*

S. King - dom Through greed

A. ple our peo - ple To kill

T. *mp* *mf*
King - dom This is a great sin to kill

B. *mf*
sin This is a great sin to kill our own peo

27

S. for the plea - sures of the

A. — our own peo - ple through greed for

T. — our own peo - ple through greed for the plea -

B. — ple through greed for the plea - sures of —

31

S. — dom! King - dom! King - dom!

A. of the King - dom! King - dom! King - dom!

I. sures of the King - dom! King - dom! King - dom!

B. — the King - dom! King - dom! King - dom!

Tempo primo ♩ = 100

37 *pp* absolutely even, no vibrato

S. Oh Krish - na Oh Krish - na Oh Krish - na

A. Oh Krish - na Oh Krish - na Oh Krish - na

T. Oh Krish - na Oh Krish - na Oh Krish - na

B. Oh Krish - na Oh Krish - na Oh Krish - na

B

43 *p*

S. My head turns Oh Krish - na I am un-a-ble to stand

A. My head turns Oh Krish - na I am un-a-ble to stand

T. My head turns Oh Krish - na I am un-a-ble to stand

B. My head turns Oh Krish - na I am un-a-ble to stand

48

S. *mf p*
I see bad o - mens Oh Krish - na

A. *mf p*
O - mens Oh Krish - na

T. *mf p*
O - mens Oh

B. *mf p*
O

51

S. *mf p*
Oh see in kill - ing my kins - men in bat - tle

A. *mf p*

T. *mf p*
Ah

B. *mf p*
Ah

♩ = 74

54

S. _____

A. _____

T. _____

B. *mf* Oh Ar-ju _____ Did you _____
 _____ and you list-en did you _____

S. Ah _____

A. *p* Ah _____

1. *f* hear? Has your il-lu *mf* sion_ born of ig-nor-ance _____
 3-1

B. *f* hear? *p* Ah _____ been de-stroyed?