

SING!



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Victor C. Johnson  
edited by

DISTINCTIVE CHORAL MUSIC FOR CLASSROOM, CONCERT AND FESTIVAL

CGE639

*Also available: Accompaniment mp3 (CGE639a)*

Two-part

# The Skeleton Dance

Brian Childers



[www.choristersguild.org](http://www.choristersguild.org)

## The Skeleton Dance

This piece gives singers the opportunity to sing, dance, play instruments...or do all three!  
Below is the text and optional movements for choirs to incorporate into the performance.

First your left arm starts to quiver,  
*(shake left arm)*  
then, your right arm shudders and shivers.  
*(shake right arm)*  
Then both legs join in the trance:  
*(wobble on both legs)*  
Now you're doing the skeleton dance!

Howling winds begin to moan,  
*(include rain stick and/or ocean drum)*  
femurs rattle bone on bone.  
*(random tapping on rhythm sticks)*  
Feel your feet begin to prance.  
*(random feet moves)*  
Now you've joined the skeleton dance!

### BRIDGE

Feet are flailing, hips are silly,  
*(Feet kick out to the side, hips rotate as if doing a hula-hoop)*  
now your body is feeling chilly!  
*(wrap yourself in a warm hug)*

### CHORUS

Shakey-shakey, rattle-rattle, clink, clank, bump.  
*(In addition to rhythm instruments in score...)*  
*(left arm shake, right arm shake, clap-clap, rest, stomp)*

Scrapey-scrapey, razzle-dazzle, glitter, clatter, thump!  
*(rub hands together, jazz hands, body wriggle, rest, stomp)*

I'm so scared, oh, this is not fun!  
Skeletons are lurching now... RUN!  
*(Skeletons are lurching now Frankenstein moves,  
on "Run" throw hands in the air and mock yell)*

Clattering skulls are on the move.  
*(King tut! Or left head jerk and right head jerk)*  
 Their shoulders shake and jitter and groove.  
*(twist left shoulder then right shoulder)*  
 If spines are tingling there's a chance:  
*(jitterbug spine)*  
 That you're doing the skeleton dance!

Now we must bid you, "Goodbye."  
*(wave "goodbye!")*  
 Sorry if we made you cry!  
*(rub eyes with index fingers with a sad face)*  
 There's still time, you have a chance!  
*(tap watch twice and point to audience twice)*  
 Let's all do the skeleton dance!

Feet are flailing, hips are silly,  
*(Feet kick out to the side, hips rotate as if doing a hula-hoop)*  
 Now your body is feeling chilly!  
*(wrap yourself in a warm hug)*

What comes next, I haven't a clue!  
*(shoulder shrug)*  
 Could it be a scary ghost? BOO!  
*(look around, questioning...scary jump/squeal)*

## Skeleton Dance Instrumental Parts

### **Shakey-shakey, rattle-rattle, clink, clank, bump**

Measure 34: play quarter notes on beats 1 and 2 with Shakers  
 Measure 34: play quarter notes on beats 3 and 4 with Tambourines  
 Measure 35: play quarter notes on beats 1 and 2 with Triangles  
 Measure :play quarter note on beats 4 with Drums (accented)

### **Scrapey-scrapey, razzle-dazzle, glitter, clatter, thump**

Measure 36: play quarter notes on beats 1 and 2 with Guiros  
 Measure 36: play quarter notes on beats 3 and 4 with Sandblocks  
 Measure 37: play quarter notes on beats 1 and 2 with Rhythm Sticks  
 Measure 35: play quarter note on beats 4 with Drums (accented)

(Instrumental Parts repeat at measure 46 with the same patterns)

At measure 57, all instruments play a quarter note on beat two after the shouted "Boo!"

# The Skeleton Dance

Unison/Opt. Two-part and Piano\*

Words and Music by  
Brian Childers



**Allegro** (♩ = 132-138)

*mp*

4

7 *mf*

First, your left arm starts to quiv - er, then, your right arm  
Clat - t'ring skulls are on the move. Their shoul - ders shake and

*mf*

10

shud - ders and shiv - ers. Then both legs join in — the trance:  
jit - ter and groove. If spines are ting - ling, there's — a chance:

Performance time: ca. 2:45

\*Also available: Accompaniment mp3 (CGE639a).

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13

Now, you're do - ing the ske - le - ton dance!  
That you're do - ing the ske - le - ton dance!

16

*sub.p*

19

*mf*  
Howl - ing winds be - gin to moan. Fe - murs rat - tle  
Now, we must bid you "Good - bye." Sor - ry if we

*mf*

22

bone on bone. Feel your feet be - gin to prance.  
made you cry! There's still time, you have a chance!

37 (Rh. St.) (Drum)

clit - ter, clat - ter, thump! I'm so scared, oh this is not fun!  
What comes next, I have-n't a clue!

40

Ske - le - tons are lurch - ing now...  
Could it be a scar - y ghost?

RUN!  
BOO!

43

2. *rit.*

2. *mp* *rit.*

3 3 3 3

**Boldly** (♩ = ca. 100)

46 *f* (Shak.) (Tamb.) (Tri.) (Drum)

Shak - ey, shak - ey, rat - tle, rat - tle, clink, clank, bump.

**Boldly** (♩ = ca. 100)

*f* 3 3 3 3 3 3



48 (Gui.) (SB) (Rh. St.) (Drum)

Scrap - ey, scrap - ey raz - zle, daz - zle, clit - ter, clat - ter, thump!—

Tempo I (♩ = 132-138)

50

What comes next, I have - n't a clue. Could it be a real ghost?

Tempo I (♩ = 132-138)

53

*sub.p*

55

Could it be a real— ghost?

**ff** BOO! (shouted)

**ff**

*8vb*