

Gwyneth Walker

From the Depths of the Soul

songs for Baritone and Piano

“Go Down, Moses”

“Deep River”

Interlude: “Time for Reflection”

“Down to the River to Pray”

“Every Night, When the Sun Goes Down”

Program Notes

The Baritone voice is characterized by *depth of sonority*, speaking with a deep, rich tone. Thus, **From the Depths of the Soul** was created to explore the powerful expression of the low range. Each of the songs in this set contains the words *deep* or *down* in the title. These are dark songs – traditional American spirituals which are rooted in sorrow and suffering.

“Go Down, Moses” is placed in the key of C Minor, with the Baritone often singing in the low range around G below middle C. The message is one of oppression. Starting quietly and sadly, the music grows in strength with emphatic statements of *Let my people go!* Accented chords in piano underline the conviction/ command of the song.

“Deep River” features a flowing, *arpeggiated* accompaniment, as a river. Contrasting sections stop the flow briefly, rising to a higher range with thoughts of the *Promised Land*. There is some anxiety about the river travel (*tremolo* piano patterns), but with the Lord’s blessing, the journey is taken in safety.

The tempo quickens for a swing rhythm version of “Down to the River to Pray.” The trip is joyous, with a *crescendo* ending of “Lord, show me the way!” In the last measure, the pianist slides down into the river (musically, with a *glissando!*).

This arrangement of the traditional Appalachian song, “Every Night, When the Sun Goes Down,” focuses on the transcendence of faith over sorrow and of peace (through death) over suffering and pain:

True love, don't weep or mourn for me. The Lord has come to set me free.

A new verse is added at the end:

*And when I rise up in the sky, if you look up quickly,
You will see me passing by. On wings of silver, I will fly.*

During this verse, the listener might hear a fluttering of wings (gently repeated notes) in the accompaniment. This is to symbolize the spirit of a bird hovering close by.

From the Depths of the Soul

for Bass-Baritone and Piano

Traditional

Gwyneth Walker

1. Go Down, Moses

VERSE 1

Slowly, with the weight of sorrow and oppression

**** p**

Voice

When Is - rael was in E - gypt Land, Let my peo - ple —

4

go! Op - pressed so hard they could not stand, Let my peo - ple — go!

REFRAIN

9 *mf with strength* *rit.*

Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt Land. —

**Cue-sized notes are an *ossia* for higher voices.

13 **Slower** *p* *poco accel.* **With some motion** ♩ = 108 *mf*

Tell_ old Phar - aoh to let me peo - ple_ go!

Slower *loco* *poco accel.* **With some motion** ♩ = 108 *mf* *loco*

8^{vb} *loco*

VERSE 2

17 *(mf)* **Same tempo**

The Lord told Mo - ses

Same tempo

21

what to do, *Let my peo - ple go!* To lead the child - ren of

Red.

25

Is - rael through, *Let my peo - ple, let my peo - ple go* _____

REFRAIN

28

_____ down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt Land. _____

rit.

rit.

8va

p

32

Tell old Phar - aoh to let my peo - ple _____

Slower *p*

poco accel.

Slower *loco* *(p)*

poco accel.

8vb

INTERLUDE

With some motion ♩ = 108

35

mf

go! _____

mf

8^{va} - - - -
with pedal

loco

38

f agitated

42

46

assertively, *f*
with anger

VERSE 3

“Thus spoke the Lord,” bold Mo - ses said.

8^{va} - - - -

loco

50

“If not I’ll smite your first - born dead.”

54

“Your foes shall not be - fore you stand.”

58

“I’ll lead you to the Prom - ised Land.”

62

REFRAIN

Oh, — go — down, Mo - ses,

65 *rit.* **Slower** *p*

way down in E - gypt Land. Tell old Phar -

rit. **Slower** *loco* *p*

68 *mf* **Freely** *p* *mp* *accel.*

- - aoh to let my peo-ple, let my peo-ple, let my peo-ple

Freely *accel.* *p*

72 *a tempo* (♩ = 108) *f* *rit.*

> go, > go!

a tempo (♩ = 108) *rit.* *p* *f*

Dur. 3:00

2. Deep River

Gently flowing ♩ = 100 (or slower)
smoothly, as a river

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The tempo is marked 'Gently flowing ♩ = 100 (or slower)' and the mood is 'smoothly, as a river'. The dynamics are marked 'mf cantabile' and 'with pedal'.

REFRAIN

mf cantabile

4

The second system of the musical score begins at measure 4. It features a vocal line in the bass clef with lyrics: "Deep riv - er, my". The piano accompaniment is in the grand staff. The dynamics are marked 'mf cantabile'.

7

The third system of the musical score begins at measure 7. It features a vocal line in the bass clef with lyrics: "home lies o - ver Jor - dan. Deep". The piano accompaniment is in the grand staff.

10

The fourth system of the musical score begins at measure 10. It features a vocal line in the bass clef with lyrics: "riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o - ver in - to camp - ground." The piano accompaniment is in the grand staff.

VERSE 1

13 *poco accel.*

Slightly faster ♩ = 108

Oh, don't you want to go to that gos - pel

poco accel.

Slightly faster ♩ = 108

17

feast, that prom - ised land where all is

REFRAIN

21

(♩ = 108)

peace? Deep riv - er, my

(♩ = 108)

*Cue-sized notes are an *ossia* for lower voices.

24

home lies o - ver Jor - dan. Deep

27

riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o - ver in - to camp - ground.

with pedal

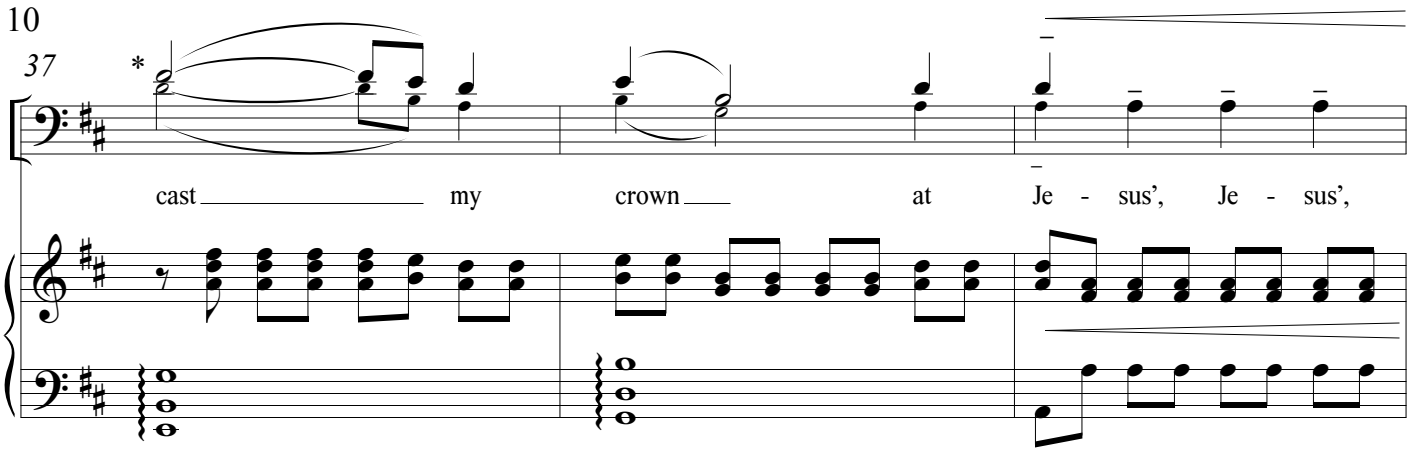
VERSE 2

30

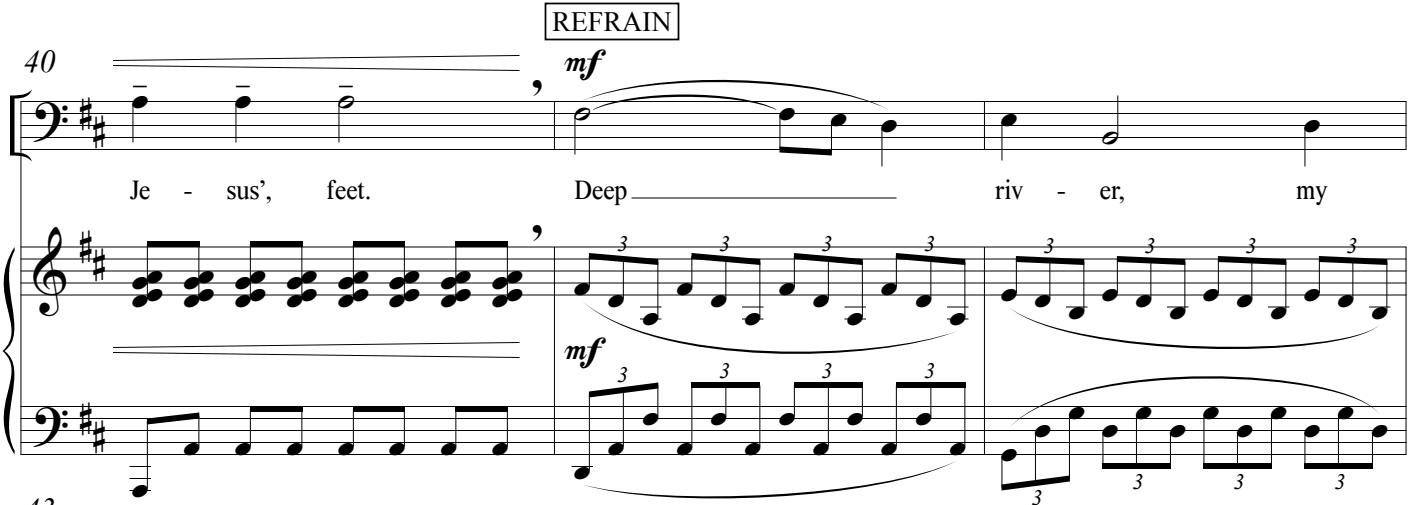
I'll go on up - to

34

heav - en, and take my seat, and

10
37 * 


cast my crown at Je - sus', Je - sus',

40 **REFRAIN** *mf* 

Je - sus', feet. Deep riv - er, my

43 

home lies o - ver Jor - dan. Deep

46 

riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o - ver in - to camp - ground.

*Cue-sized notes are an *ossia* for lower voices.

49

INTERLUDE

52

lightly separate

growing into (mild) anxiety of the river travel

56

VERSE 3

p with anxiety

Nev - er been so far from home... _____

59

riv - er, riv - er, car - ry me on... _____

REFRAIN

62

car - ry me, — car - ry me — on.

65

Deep... my home lies o - ver

68

Jor - dan. Deep... I want to cross o - ver, I

71

want to cross o - ver, I want to cross o - ver in - to camp - ground.

with pedal

74

VERSE 4

Slowly, freely

p impassioned

77

delicately, shimmering

rolled chords, as a gesture of blessing

Lord, - bless this

p

Slowly, freely

81

boat I ride, bless it safe - ly on the wa - ter. Bring it home at

gently

Res. simile

85

E - ven - tide to shel - ter in your har - bor, Lord, to

REFRAIN

a tempo (♩ = 108)

mf

88 *accel.*

shel - ter in your har - bor. Deep

accel. *cresc.* *mf*

a tempo (♩ = 108)

91

riv - er, my home lies o - ver

93

Jor - dan. Deep

95

riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o - ver, I want to cross o - ver, I

rit. to end

98

want to cross o - ver in - to camp - ground.

rit.

p

Dur. 3:30

(connect directly to "A Time
for Reflection" without break)

A Time for Reflection

(as a bridge between songs 2 and 3)

Slowly ♩ = 100

p peacefully

with pedal

6

mp

11

cresc. poco a poco (to m. 16)

15

(cresc.) *f* *mf* *mp* *p*

rit.

Ped.

19 With energy ♩ = 120

gently tap hands

p

With energy ♩ = 120

tap gently on piano ledge (to set tempo for next song)

(no break, connect directly to next song)

3. Down to the River to Pray

With energy ♩ = 120

swing eighths (♩ = $\overset{\sim}{\underset{\sim}{\text{♩}}}$)

(gently tap hands)

With energy ♩ = 120
swing eighths (♩ = $\overset{\sim}{\underset{\sim}{\text{♩}}}$)
mf

4 *mf* joyfully **REFRAIN**

As I went down to the riv - er to pray, stud - y - ing a - bout the

8

good old way. And who shall wear the star - ry crown! Good

Lord, show me the way.

VERSE 1

O, my sis - ters, let's go down, — let's go down,

p playfully

come on down. O, my sis - ters, let's go down, — down to the riv - er, —

mf *p*

REFRAIN

go-in' down to the riv - er to pray. As I went down to the riv - er to

28

pray, *lightly* stud - y - ing a - bout the good old way. And

31

who shall wear the star - ry crown? _____ Good Lord, show me,

35

show me, show me the way. _____

VERSE 2

39

O, my broth - ers, let's go down, down, down, come on down,

43

come on down. O, my broth-ers, let's go down, down, down, go - in'

mf

46

down to the riv - er, — go-in' down to the riv - er to pray. As I went

50

REFRAIN

down to the riv - er to pray, stud - y - ing a - bout the

lightly

53

good old way. And who shall wear the star - ry - crown? ————— Good

57

Lord, show me, show me, show me the way.

INTERLUDE

With much energy and joy (and extra swing!)

61

f **boldly**

65

69

p Down to the riv - er, down to the riv - er, down to the riv - er to pray, go-in' *mf* *p*

p **playfully** *mf*

rit.

73

mf

down by the riv-er, — down by the riv-er, — down by the riv-er to pray. O,

cresc. *mf*

VERSE 3

Slower, straight eighths

77

lift your head, my wear - y friend, and taste the plea-sure that hea-ven will send. Let

Slower, straight eighths

p

81

long pause *p* *Start slowly and accel.*
swing eighths

noth - ing cause you to de - lay... but... has - ten on the good old,

p *long pause* *Start slowly and accel.*
swing eighths

(as if rushing to depart on a trip!) *p* *long pause* *Start slowly and accel.*
swing eighths

REFRAIN

With energy ♩ = 120

85 *(accel.)*

has - ten on the good old way. As I went down to the riv - er to

(accel.)

glissando

f

With energy ♩ = 120

88

pray, stud - y - ing a - bout the good old way. And

lightly

91

who shall wear the star - ry crown? Good Lord, show me,

p sub.

95

show me, show me, Lord, show me, show me, show me, Lord, —

cresc. poco a poco (to m. 102)

98

show me, show me, show me the way, —

cresc. poco a poco (to m. 102)

(cresc.)

rit.

101

Lord, show me, show me the way! —

f

rit.

high gliss.

(cresc.)

Dur. 3:30

4. Every Night When the Sun Goes Down

VERSE 1

Slowly, freely

p mournfully

Ev-'ry night _____ when the sun goes down, Ev-'ry night _____ when the sun goes

4

down, Ev-'ry night _____ when the sun goes down, I hang my head _____ and mourn-ful

REFRAIN

a tempo ♩ = 60

(p)

8

cry. _____ True love don't weep, _____ true love don't mourn. _____ True love, don't

a tempo ♩ = 60

p very gently

with pedal

11

weep, _____ true love don't mourn. _____ True love, don't weep or mourn for _____

Slightly faster

♩ = 66

(p)

14

me. The Lord has come to set me free. And ev - 'ry

Slightly faster

♩ = 66

INTERLUDE

17

night, and ev - 'ry night, and ev - 'ry night, and ev - 'ry night, and ev - 'ry night, and ev - 'ry night, and ev - 'ry

VERSE 2

(rit.)

Slightly faster ♩ = 72

20

night, and ev - 'ry night, I pray the Lord my train would

(rit.)

Slightly faster ♩ = 72

22

come. I pray the Lord my train would

24

come. I pray the Lord my train would come to take me

27

back where I come from. True love don't

Slightly faster
♩ = 80
mf

Slightly faster
♩ = 80

28

REFRAIN

29

weep, true love don't mourn. True love don't

31

weep, true love don't mourn. True love don't

33

weep or mourn for me. The Lord has come to set me

36

INTERLUDE

free. And ev - 'ry night, and ev - 'ry night, and ev - 'ry

38

rit. **Slower**
p

night, and ev-'ry night, and ev-'ry night, and ev-'ry night, and ev-'ry night, and ev-'ry night, and ev-'ry

mp *rit.* **Slower**
p

41

accel. *a tempo* ♩ = 80
mf

night, and ev-'ry night, and ev-'ry night, and ev-'ry night, And when I rise _____ up in the _

pp barely audible *accel.* *a tempo* ♩ = 80
cresc. *mf*

44

sky, _____ and when I rise _____ up in the sky, . if you look up

47

[abrupt break]

quick - ly you will see me pass - ing _ by, on wings of sil - ver I _ will

[abrupt break]

50

fly. ————— If you look up quick - ly, you will see me pass - ing, —

52

rit. *p* **Slowly**

pass - ing, — pass - ing, — pass - ing, — pass - ing — by, on wings of

rit. *p* **Slowly**

54

sil - ver, ————— on wings of sil - ver, ————— on wings of

delicately, as fluttering wings

with pedal

6/4

56 *f*

sil - ver, I will

57 **Faster**

fly, fly,

Faster
as a bird in flight

59 *rit.*

I will fly.

rit.

ped.

Dur. 3:30 | Total: 14:30
 June 12, 2016
 New Canaan, Connecticut