

VIOLA

Gwyneth Walker

From the Depths of the Soul

songs for Contralto and Viola

“Go Down, Moses”

“Deep River”

Interlude: “Time for Reflection”

“Down to the River to Pray”

“Every Night (When the Sun Goes Down)”

From the Depths of the Soul

Viola

Gwyneth Walker

1. Go Down, Moses

VERSE 1

Slowly, with the weight of sorrow and oppression

Op - pressed so hard they could not stand, Let my peo - ple _

rit.

REFRAIN

Slower

poco accel.

With some motion ♩ = 108

VERSE 2

Same tempo

rolled pizz.

rolled pizz.

arco

REFRAIN

rit.

INTERLUDE

Slower

poco accel.

With some motion ♩ = 108

36

39 *agitated*

43

VERSE 3

47 *snap pizz.* Mo - ses said. *arco* *snap pizz.* first - born dead.”

53 *arco* fore you stand.”

58 Prom - ised Land.”

REFRAIN

63 *rit.*

67 **Slower** *p* *(with voice)* **Freely** *mf* let — my — peo - ple, —

71 *accel. snap pizz.* *a tempo* (♩ = 108) *arco* *rit.*

f with anger and determination

2. Deep River

Gently flowing ♩ = 100 (or slower)

con sord.
smoothly, as a river

mf cantabile

5 **REFRAIN**

9 *rolled pizz.* *arco*

13 *poco accel.* **VERSE 1** Slightly faster ♩ = 108

18 **REFRAIN** (♩ = 108)

23

28 *rolled pizz.* *arco*

33 **VERSE 2** *sim.*

37

41 **REFRAIN**

mf

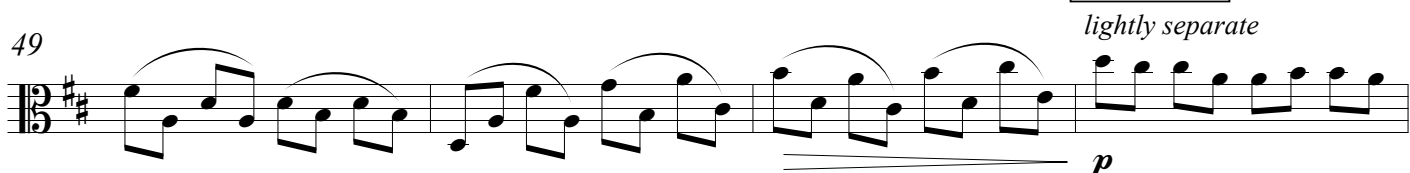
* The Viola should play whichever notes the Contralto does NOT sing, to harmonize with the voice.

45 *rolled pizz.* *arco*



INTERLUDE

49 *lightly separate*



p

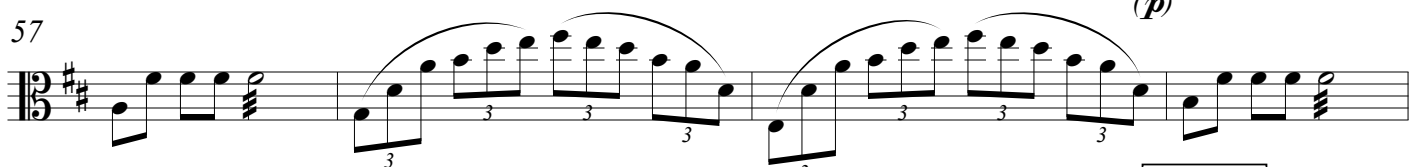
53 *growing into (mild) anxiety of the river travel*



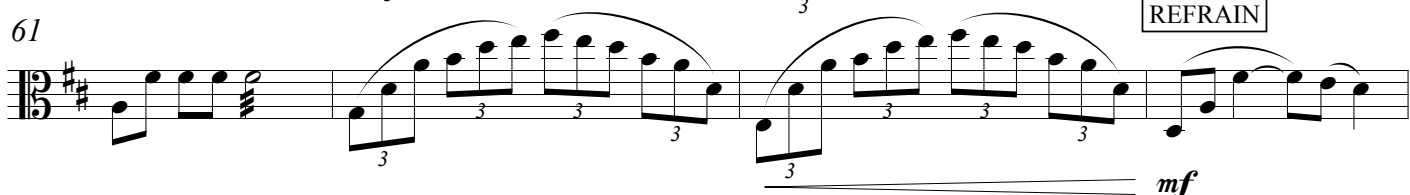
VERSE 3

(p)

57



61



REFRAIN

mf

65

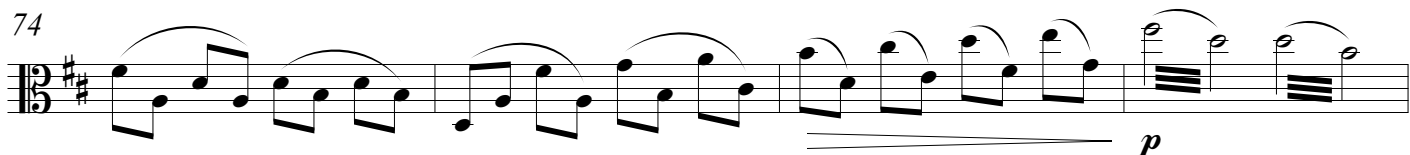


69 *rolled pizz.* *arco*



sul pont.
delicately, shimmering

74



p

VERSE 4

rolled pizz.
with entire hand, Slowly, freely

78 *ord. in a gesture of a blessing*



83 *arco* *gentle tremolo* *rolled pizz.*



REFRAIN

88 *accel.* *arco* *a tempo* (♩ = 108)

92

95 *rolled pizz.* *rit. to end*

98 *(rit.)* *arco*

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

A Time for Reflection

(as a bridge between songs 2 and 3)

Slowly ♩ = 100

(con sord.) gently, reflectively

p legato

6

mp

11

cresc. poco a poco (to m. 16)

15

(cresc.) *f* *mf* *mp* *rit.* *via sord.* *p*

With energy ♩ = 120

19 gently tap instrument (to set tempo for next song)

(no break, connect directly to next song)

p [x x x x x x x x]

[The singer continues tapping (hands) in the same tempo, directly into the next movement]

3. Down to the River to Pray

With energy ♩ = 120

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

senza sord.

mf

5 **REFRAIN**

10

15 **VERSE 1**

p playfully

19

mf

23 **REFRAIN**

mf

28 *lightly*

mf

32

37 **VERSE 2**

VERSE 2

41

p *mf*

45

p *mf*

50 **REFRAIN**

p *mf*

54

p *mf*

INTERLUDE

With much energy and joy (and extra swing!)

59

f **boldly** *mf*

63

mf

66

mf

69 [Voice enters]

p *sub.* *mf*

73

p *mf* *rit.*

VERSE 3

Slower, straight eighths

77 *pizz.*

p *col canto* *p*

Start slowly and accel.

82 to de - lay... but...] *arco* *long pause* swing eighths (answering voice) has - ten on the good old, *p* *mf*

86 (accel.) (from random high pitch) **REFRAIN** With energy ♩ = 120 *lightly* *f*

gliss. and trem.

89

92 *pizz.* *p*

96 *arco* *cresc. poco a poco (to m. 102)*

100 (cresc.) *rit.* *f* *gliss.*

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4. Every Night When the Sun Goes Down

VERSE 1

Slowly, freely

Ev - 'ry night _____ when the sun goes

REFRAIN

a tempo ♩ = 60

cry. _____ True love don't

rolled pizz.

p very gently

10

INTERLUDE

Slightly faster ♩ = 66

14

VERSE 2

rit.

Slightly faster ♩ = 72

18

22

25

REFRAIN

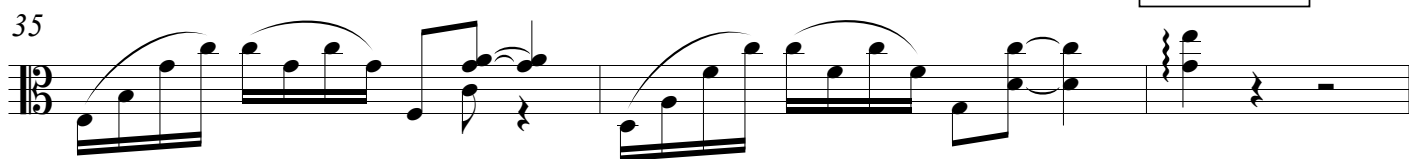
Slightly faster ♩ = 80

28

31

INTERLUDE

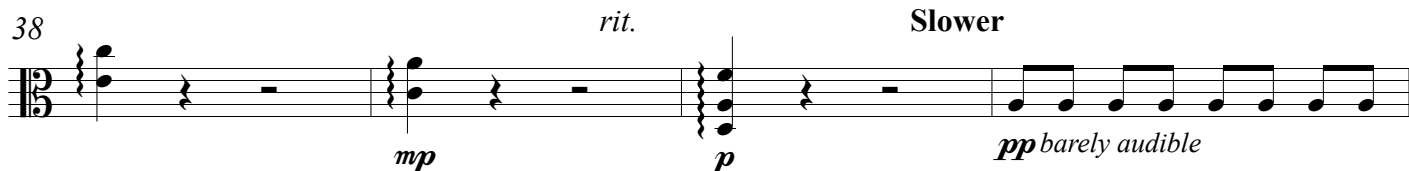
35



38

rit. **Slower**

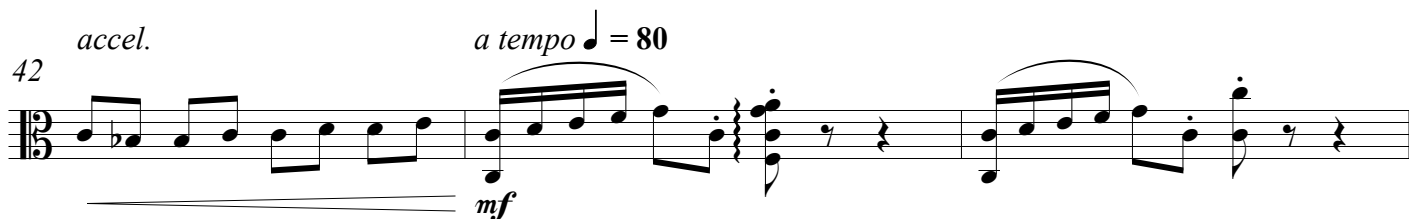
mp *p* *pp* barely audible



42

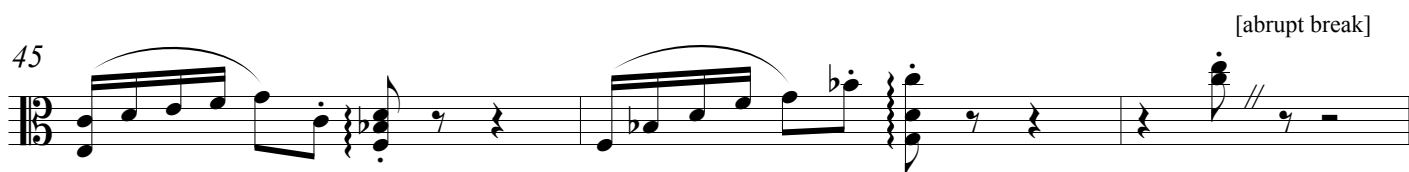
accel. *a tempo* ♩ = 80

mf



45

[abrupt break]



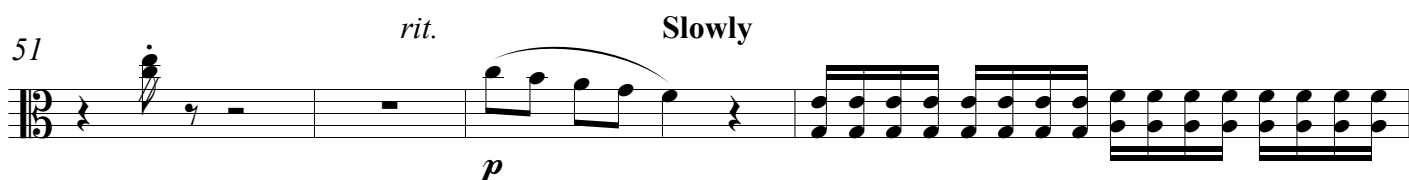
48



51

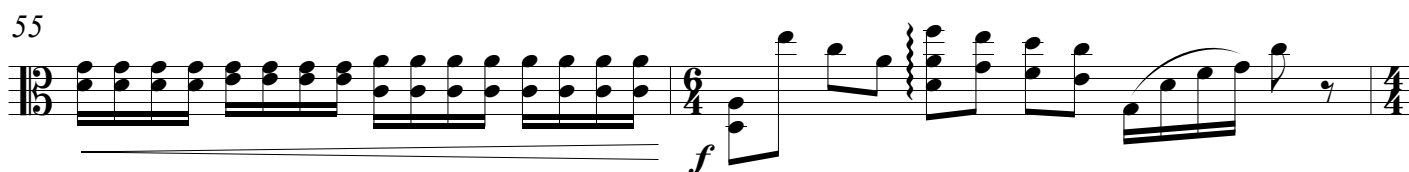
rit. **Slowly**

p



55

f



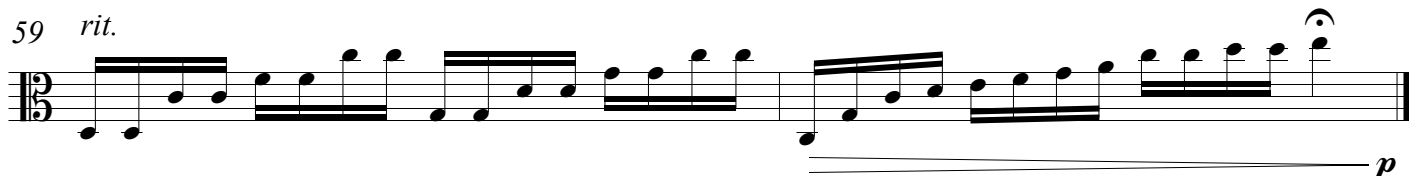
Faster

57 *as a bird in flight*



59 *rit.*

p



Program Notes

The Contralto voice and Viola are characterized by *depth of sonority*. Similar in range, they speak with a deep, rich tone. Thus, **From the Depths of the Soul** was created to explore this powerful combination of low voices. 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 Contralto 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 viola underline the conviction/command of the song.

“Deep River” features a flowing, *arpeggiated* viola 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* viola 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 viola 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 viola accompaniment. This is to symbolize the spirit of a bird hovering close by.