GWYNETH WALKER

I’ve Known Rivers

for TTBB Chorus and Piano

1. My Soul has Grown Deep - Cat. No. 7297
2. Troubled Water - Cat. No. 7298
3. Jump Right In! - Cat. No. 7299
4. In Time of Silver Rain - Cat. No. 7300
Notes

*I've Known Rivers* is a set of four songs based on the poetry of Langston Hughes (1902-67), an African-American poet who lived much of his life in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City. However, Hughes was born in Joplin, Missouri, birthplace also of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain). And, like Twain, he held a fascination for the Mississippi River and rivers in general. The theme of water is present in many of his writings.

*My Soul has Grown Deep* reflects upon rivers of historic and geographical importance – the Euphrates, the Nile and the Mississippi. As the rivers have endured over time, so has the human soul. The waters – the blood – runs deep.

In contrast to the universal message of the first song, *Troubled Water* is contemporary and personal. Water becomes an image of the unsettled and uncertain nature of love. The journey of love is a journey of troubled water. There is no resolution.

Undaunted by the elusive nature of love, the poet (chorus) turns flippant, displaying a persevering and humorous outlook in *Jump Right In!* (to the river). Romantic misadventures will not conquer the spirit. “I could’ve died for love, but for livin’ I was born.”

*In Time of Silver Rain* is a song of healing. “In time of silver rain, the earth puts forth new life again.” And with the regeneration of Spring, the poet marvels at the wonder of life.

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Langston Hughes (1902-1967)  Gwyneth Walker

Gently flowing $\frac{J}{4} = 108$

1. My Soul has Grown Deep

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I've evoking the magic and mystery of rivers known
I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human
blood in human veins. My soul has grown deep like the
blood in human veins. My soul has grown deep like the

(poco rit.)

Slower

unis.

Ah,

(poco rit.)

Slower

simile

a tempo (q = 108)
Ah, I built my hut near the Congo and it

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.
Ah, I looked up on the Nile
lulled me to sleep.

and raised the pyramids above it.
heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln went down to

heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln went down to

New Orleans, and I've seen its muddy

New Orleans, and I've seen its muddy

bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

bosom turn all golden in the sunset.
I've known rivers:

Ancient, dusty rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.
I've known rivers, I've known rivers, Ah, I've known rivers.
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**Commissioned by the Holland Chorale, Gary W. Bogle, Music Director**

Premiered by the Holland Chorale on March 15, 2008 – Holland Michigan

Duration: 12 minutes

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Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

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2. Troubled Water

Catalog No. 7298

Commissioned by the Holland Chorale,
Premiered by the Holland Chorale, Gary W. Bogle, Music Director
March 15, 2008 – Holland, Michigan

Be tween us, al ways, loved one,

Be tween us, al ways, loved one,

Be tween us, al ways, loved one,

Be tween us, al ways, loved one,
there lies this troubled water.
You are my sky, my shining sun

You are my sky, my shining sun

You are my sky, my shining sun

You are my sky, my shining sun over troubled
We see yet can not understand.

We see yet can not understand.

We see yet can not understand.

The trip is troubled water.

This
We see yet cannot understand this fateful water. We see yet cannot understand this fateful water.

[a tempo ($\cdot = 120$)]

troubled water.

troubled water.
Deep hearts, dear,

Deep hearts, dear, dream of happiness...
balked by troubled water. Between us always—

love, and this—

love,— and this—

love,— and this—

love,— and this— this sea of troubled water.
* Use ENDING 1 if this song is to be performed individually. Use ENDING 2 if continuing on to Jump Right In.
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3. Jump Right In!

I went down to the river, I set down on the bank. I

tried to think but couldn’t, so I jumped up and sank. Hey!

I came up once and hollered! I

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cried! If that water hadn’t been so cold I

But it was cold in that water!

It was cold!
(vocal rhythm - unpitched)

ch ch ch ka ta ka ch ch    I took the elevator sixteen

floors above the ground. I thought about my baby and I thought I would jump down.

Hey! cried!

stood there and I hol-lered! I stood there and I cried! If it had n't a-been so
But it was high

I might've jumped and died.

It was high!

ch ch ch ka ta ka ch ch ch ka ta ka

ch ch ch ka ta ka
So since I’m still here liv-in’, I

Though

guess I will live on. I could’ve died for love— but for liv-in’ I was born.

you may see hol-ler, and you may see me cry— I’ll be dogged, sweet ba- by,

Hey! cry—
Life is fine!
Life is fine!
Life is fine!
Life is fine!

Fine as wine!
Fine as wine!
Fine as wine!
Fine as wine!

Life is
Life is
Life is
Life is

So since I'm still here liv-in',
So since I'm still here liv-in',
So since I'm still here liv-in',
So since I'm still here liv-in',

Life is fine, life is fine!
Life is fine, life is fine!
Life is fine, life is fine!
Life is fine, life is fine!
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Langston Hughes (1902-1967)  Gwyneth Walker

4. In Time of Silver Rain

At a peaceful tempo \( \frac{\text{\textdagger}}{\text{\textdagger}} = 92 \)

Piano

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T

\( \text{In time of silver rain,} \)

B

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in time of silver rain,

the earth puts forth new

life again,

green grasses grow and
green grasses grow and
Slower

flow- ers lift their heads, and
flow- ers lift their heads, and

rit.

over- all unis. the plain wonder spreads, the wonder spreads of
over- all unis. the plain wonder spreads, the wonder spreads

rit.

unis.
cresc.

o- ver all the plain the wonder spreads, the wonder spreads of
o- ver all the plain the wonder spreads, the wonder spreads

cresc.

T

accel.

C a tempo (q = 92)

life, of life, of life, of life!

B

accel.

C a tempo (q = 92)
of life, of life, life, of...

In time of sil-ver rain, in time of sil-ver rain.
In

unis. mf

the

time of silver rain

but-ter-flies lift sil-ken wings

to

mf

to

mf

mf
catch a rainbow cry, and

catch a rainbow cry, and

trees put forth new leaves to sing in joy beneath the sky, passing boys and

trees put forth new leaves to sing in joy beneath the sky, passing boys and

trees put forth new leaves to sing in joy beneath the sky, passing boys and
Girls go singing, too. In time of silver rain,

Girls go singing, too. In time of silver rain,

In time of silver rain, when spring and

In time of silver rain, when spring and

Life are new...

Life are... In time of silver rain, in time of silver rain,
In time of silver rain
with much pedal

the earth puts forth new life again.

grasses grow

and flowers lift their heads
In time of silver rain,
In time of silver rain,
In time of silver rain,

wonder, wonder of life!
wonder, wonder of life!
wonder, wonder of life!

wonder, wonder of life!
(rit.)