

Gwyneth Walker

From the Depths of the Soul

songs for Baritone and Cello

“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 and Cello 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 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 cello underline the conviction/command of the song.

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

From the Depths of the Soul

for Bass-Baritone and Violoncello

Traditional

Gwyneth Walker

1. Go Down, Moses

VERSE 1

Slowly, with the weight of sorrow and oppression

Voice ****p**

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

*Violoncello

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. —

mf with strength

13 **Slower** **p** *poco accel.* **With some motion** $\text{♩} = 108$ **mf**

Tell - old Phar - aoh to let me peo - ple — go! —

p *pizz.* *arco* **mf**

* A separate Violoncello part is available.

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

VERSE 2

18

(mf) Same tempo

The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, *Let my*
rolled pizz.

23

peo - ple go! To lead the child - ren of Is - rael through, *Let my*
rolled pizz.

REFRAIN

27

peo - ple, let my peo - ple go _____ down, Mo - ses, way down in

31

rit.

Slower *p*

poco accel.

E - gypt Land. Tell old Phar - aoh to let my peo - ple _____

INTERLUDE

With some motion ♩ = 108

35

mf

go! _____

39

agitated
f

43

assertively, with anger *f*

“Thus

47

VERSE 3

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

snap pizz. *(f)* *arco*

51

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

snap pizz. *(f)* *arco*

55

foes shall not be - fore you stand.” “I’ll

snap pizz. *(f)* *arco*

59

lead you to the Prom - ised Land." Oh, _____

63

REFRAIN

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

rit.

67

Slower

p *mf* **Freely** *p* *mp*

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

p *mf*

71

accel. *f* *rit.*

a tempo (♩ = 108)

let my peo-ple go, go! _____

snap pizz. *arco*

f with anger and determination

Dur. 3:00

2. Deep River

Gently flowing ♩ = 100 (or slower)

con sord.
smoothly, as a river

mf cantabile

REFRAIN

5 *mf cantabile*

Deep _____ riv - er, my home lies o - ver Jor - dan. _____

9

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

rolled pizz. *arco*

VERSE 1

13 *poco accel.* Slightly faster ♩ = 108

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

17

feast, that prom - ised land _____ where all _____ is

* **

* Cue-sized notes are an *ossia* for lower voices.** The Violoncello should play whichever notes the Baritone does NOT sing, to harmonize with the voice.

REFRAIN

21

(♩ = 108)

peace? _____ Deep _____ riv - er, my home lies o - ver

25

Jor - dan. _____ Deep _____ riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o - ver in - to

rolled pizz.

29

camp - ground. _____

arco

VERSE 2

33

I'll go on up to heav - en, and take my seat, and

p *sim.*

37

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

*** ****

* Cue-sized notes are an *ossia* for lower voices.** The Violoncello should play whichever notes the Baritone does NOT sing, to harmonize with the voice.

REFRAIN

41

mf

Deep riv - er, my home lies o - ver Jor - dan.

mf

45

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

rolled pizz.

arco

INTERLUDE

49

lightly separate

p

VERSE 3

53

p with anxiety

growing into (mild) anxiety of the river travel

Nev - er been so

(p)

57

far from home...

riv - er, riv - er,

REFRAIN

61

car-ry me_ on... car-ry me, car-ry me_ on.

mf

65

Deep... my home lies o - ver Jor - dan.

69

Deep... I want to cross o-ver, I want to cross o-ver, I want to cross o-ver in - to

rolled pizz.

73

camp - ground.

arco

VERSE 4

Slowly, freely
p impassioned

77

Lord, - bless this

sul pont. delicately, shimmering

rolled pizz. with entire hand, in a gesture of a blessing

ord.

p

81

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

85

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

REFRAIN

(accel.)

a tempo (♩ = 108)

mf

89

har - bor. Deep riv - er, my home lies o - ver
arco
mf

93

Jor - dan. Deep riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o - ver, I
rolled pizz.

97

rit. to end

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

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

(con sord.) gently, reflectively
p legato

6

mp

11

cresc. poco a poco (to m. 16)

15

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

19

With energy ♩ = 120

gently tap hands *p*

gently tap instrument (to set tempo for next song)

p

(no break, connect directly to next song)

3. Down to the River to Pray

With energy ♩ = 120

swing eighths (♩ = ♩³ ♩)

(gently tap hands)

mf joyfully

As I went

5 REFRAIN

down to the riv-er to pray, stud-y-ing a-bout the good old way. And

9

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

13

way.

17 VERSE 1

O, my sis-ters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

*p*playfully

21

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

REFRAIN

25

down to the riv - er to pray. As I went down to the riv - er to pray,

29

stud - y - ing a - bout the good old way. And who shall wear the star - ry crown? —

33

— Good Lord, show me, show me, show me the way. —

VERSE 2

37

— O, my broth - ers, let's go

41

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

45

down, down, down, go - in' down to the riv - er, — go - in' down to the riv - er to

REFRAIN

49

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

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* *mf* *p*

Down to the riv - er, — down to the riv - er, — down to the riv - er to pray, — go-in'

p sub. *mf*

73 *rit.* *mf*

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

p *mf*

VERSE 3

Slower, straight eighths

77 *pizz.*

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

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

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

arco *p* (answering voice)

REFRAIN

With energy ♩ = 120

85 *(accel.)* *f*

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

mf *(from random high pitch)* *gliss. and trem.* *f*

88 *lightly*

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

92 *p sub.* *pizz.*

star - ry crown? _____ Good Lord, show me, show me, show me,

p

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

Lord, show me, show me, show me, Lord, _____ show me, show me, show me the

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

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

way, _____ Lord, show me, show me the way! _

(cresc.) *f*

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

8

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

rolled pizz.
p very gently

11

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

arco

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

Slightly faster

♩ = 66

(p)

14

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

INTERLUDE

17

rit.

night, and ev-'ry night, and ev-'ry night, and ev-'ry 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 come. I pray the

23

Lord my train would come. I pray the Lord my train would

Slightly faster

♩ = 80

mf

26

come to take me back where I come from. True love don't

REFRAIN

29

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

18

32

mourn. True love don't weep or mourn for me. The Lord has

35

INTERLUDE

come to set me 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 *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 *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 sil - ver, on wings of

p

55 *f* **Faster**

sil - ver, on wings of sil - ver, I will fly,

f as a bird in flight

58 *rit.* *p*

fly, I will fly.

p