

Commissioned by the Chesapeake Chorale  
Paul Rardin, Artistic Director

Premiere Performance May 12, 2001  
Bowie, Maryland

# Harlem Songs

for SATB Chorus and Piano

Langston Hughes

Gwyneth Walker

## 1. Spirituals

**Slowly, with a sense of grandeur**

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

*p* *f*

8<sup>vb</sup> Ped.

*l.v.*

2

*p* *f*

8<sup>vb</sup> Ped.

*l.v.*

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3

*p* *f*

(Ped.)

8<sup>vb</sup>

4

Stately ♩ = 66

*f*

Rocks and the firm roots of trees. The ris - ing shafts of

*f*

Rocks and the firm roots of trees. The ris - ing shafts of

*f*

Rocks and the firm roots of trees. The ris - ing shafts of

*f*

Rocks and the firm roots of trees. The ris - ing shafts of

Stately ♩ = 66

*f* *p*

(Ped.)

8<sup>vb</sup>

7

moun - tains. Some - thing strong to put my hands on.

moun - tains. Some - thing strong to put my hands on.

moun - tains. Some - thing strong to put my hands on.

moun - tains. Some - thing strong to put my hands on.

*f* *p*

(8<sup>vb</sup>)  
(Ped)

Ped.

10

Sing, O Lord Je - sus! Song is a strong thing.

Sing, O Lord Je - sus! Song is a strong thing.

Sing, O Lord Je - sus! Song is a strong thing.

Sing, O Lord Je - sus! Song is a strong thing.

*f*

Ped.

12

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*solo mf quasi recitative*

I heard my moth - er sing - ing when life hurt her:

*p* — *f*

*l.v.*

*Ped.*

14 In a lilting, relaxed manner ♩ = 100

*swung eighths mf*

Gon - na

*swung eighths mf*

Gon - na

*p imitating a cymbal swung eighths*

tss — ta — ta ta ta

*p imitating a cymbal swung eighths*

tss — ta — ta ta ta

In a lilting, relaxed manner ♩ = 100

*p*

*Ped.*

*sim.*

18

ride in my char - iot some - day! — Gon - na ride in my char - iot

ride in my char - iot some - day! — Gon - na ride in my char - iot

tss \_\_\_\_\_ ta ta ta ta tss \_\_\_\_\_

tss \_\_\_\_\_ ta ta ta ta tss \_\_\_\_\_

21

some - day! — Gon - na ride in my char - iot some - day, —

some - day! — Gon - na ride in my char - iot some - day, —

ta ta ta ta tss \_\_\_\_\_ ta ta ta ta

ta ta ta ta tss \_\_\_\_\_ ta ta ta ta





36  $\text{♩} = 66$  *straight eighths f*

The

*straight eighths f*

The

*straight eighths f*

The

*straight eighths f*

The

$\text{♩} = 66$

*p* *f* *p* *f*

*Ped.* *Ped.*

40

branch - es rise From the firm roots of trees. The moun - tains rise From the

branch - es rise From the firm roots of trees. The moun - tains rise From the

branch - es rise From the firm roots of trees. The moun - tains rise From the

branch - es rise From the firm roots of trees. The moun - tains rise From the

*p* *f* *p*

*Ped.* *Ped.*



43

sol - id lap of earth. The waves rise From the

sol - id lap of earth. The waves rise From the

sol - id lap of earth. The waves rise From the

sol - id lap of earth. The waves rise From the

*f* *p* 6 6 6 6

(Ped.) Ped.

45

dead weight of sea. Sing, O black moth - er!

dead weight of sea. Sing, O black moth - er!

dead weight of sea. Sing, O black moth - er!

dead weight of sea. Sing, O black moth - er!

**E**

*f*

**E**

3

47 *rit.* ----- **(f) Slowly**

Sing, O black moth - er! Song is a strong, is a strong, is a strong.

Sing, O black moth - er! Song is a strong, is a strong, is a strong

Sing, O black moth - er! Song is a strong, is a strong, is a strong

Sing, O black moth - er! Song is a strong, is a strong, is a strong

*rit.* ----- **Slowly**

49 *accel.* ----- **a tempo ♩ = 66**

thing.

thing.

thing.

thing.

*accel.* ----- **a tempo ♩ = 66**

*p* ----- *f*

*Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.* 6 6

*rit.* ----- *start slowly and accel.* -----

*p* gradual cresc. to end

51

Song  
*p* gradual cresc. to end

Song  
*p* gradual cresc. to end

Song  
*p* gradual cresc. to end

Song  
*p* gradual cresc. to end

*rit.* ----- *start slowly and accel.* -----

*p* gradual cresc. to end

*p* ----- *f*

*p* gradual cresc. to end

54

**Quickly**

*rit.* -----

*ff*

is a strong, strong thing. *ff*

is a strong, strong thing. *ff*

is a strong, strong thing. *ff*

is a strong, strong thing. *ff*

**Quickly**

*rit.* -----

*ff*

*ff*

Ped.