

# Rising from Sorrow

for Voice and Guitar

Langston Hughes (1901–1967)

Gwyneth Walker

## 1. Mother to Son

Slowly, mournfully (♩ = ca. 100)

Guitar

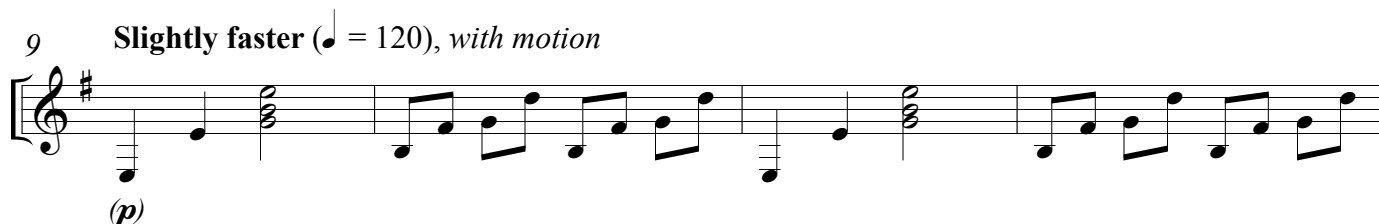


5



9

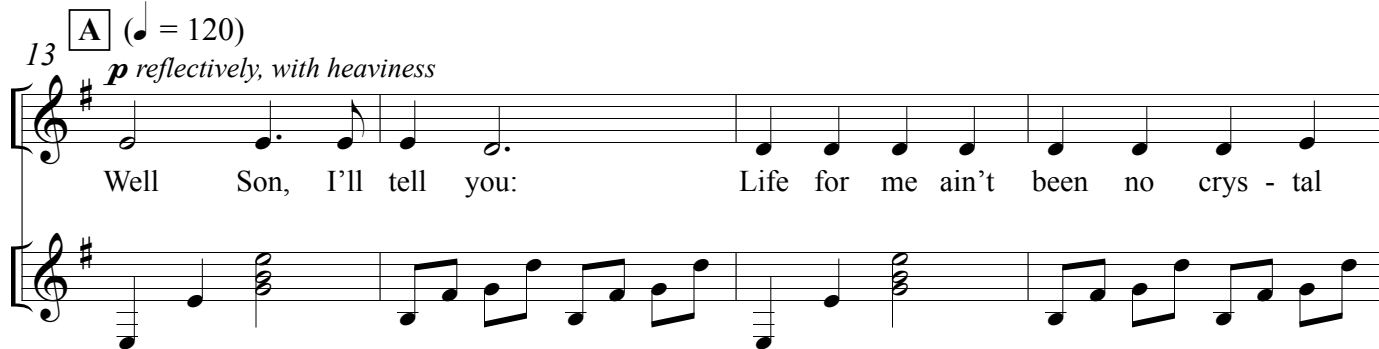
Slightly faster (♩ = 120), with motion



13


**A** (♩ = 120)  
*p* reflectively, with heaviness

Well Son, I'll tell you: Life for me ain't been no crys - tal



17

stair. It's had



21 **B**

*mp* *mf*

tacks in it, And splin-ters, And boards\_ torn\_ up, And

*mp*

25

pla - ces with no car - pet on the floor—

*mf*

29 **C**

Bare. Bare.

*rit.* *p*, *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

*slow arpeggio*  
harm. VII  
*gva*

*p*

34

*p*

no crys - tal stair.

38

**D** *cresc. poco a poco*

But all the time—

*cresc. poco a poco*

42 *(cresc.)*

I's been a climb-in' on, And reach-in' land-in's

*(cresc.)*

46 *(cresc.)* *f*

And turn-in' cor-ners, And some-times go-in' in the

*(cresc.)* *f*

50 *(cresc.)* **E**

dark where there ain't been no light. So boy, don't you

*(cresc.)* **E**

54

turn back, Don't you set down on the steps 'cause you find it's kind-er hard.

*gentle strum, roll*

57 *p* **F** With motion (♩ = 120)

Don't you fall now. For I'se still go-in';

*p* **F** With motion (♩ = 120)

harm. XII XII

62 *cresc.*

hon-ey, — I's still climb-in', climb-in', climb-in', climb-in', climb - in' —

*cresc.*

66 *rit.* **Slower, more freely** *f*

— for life — for me ain't been no crys - tal stair. —

*f*

70 **G With motion** (♩ = 120) *p*

Ah —

harm. XII VII V

*p*

74

Ah —

3

78 *(p)* **H** *cresc.*

For I'se still go - in'; hon-ey, — I'se still climb-in',

*cresc.*

Slower, more freely

82 *(cresc.)* *rit.* *f*

climb-in', climb-in', climb-in', climb-in', and life for me ain't

*(cresc.)* *f*

harm. XII

I With motion (♩ = 120)

86

been no crys-tal, been no crys-tal, been no crys-tal stair.

*port.*

90

*p*

*p*

94 *rit. to end*

*p*

97 *(rit.)* [ossia if needed]

Hmm

XII

## 2. Motherless Child

Traditional spiritual

Slowly, mournfully (♩ = ca. 60)

Voice

Guitar

[D tuning] *gently rolled with thumb*

*p*

4 A *p* *mournfully*

Some-times I feel like a moth-er-less child.

7

Some-times I feel like a moth-er-less child. Some-times I feel\_ like a

*gliss.*

10

moth-er-less child,\_ a long way\_ from home,\_\_\_\_\_ a

13 *(choose either pitch)*

long way from home. mm

*gliss.*

17 **B**

Some-times I feel like I'm al-most gone.

*pitches barely audible (fading, "gone")*

*gliss.*

20

Some-times I feel like I'm al-most gone. Some-times I feel like I'm

*pitches barely audible*

*gliss.*

23

al-most gone. a long way from home, a

*pitches barely audible*

*gliss.*

26 *(choose either pitch)*

long way from home. mm

*gliss.*

29 **C** (*p*) *recitative style, tenderly, sadly*

Some-times, some-times, some-times, some-times,

31

some-times, some-times, some-times, some-times,

*accel. poco a poco*

33

*cresc. poco a poco with increased urgency*

Some-times, I feel like a moth-er-less, like a moth-er-less, a moth-er-less child.

*cresc. poco a poco with increased urgency*

35

*(accel.)**(cresc.)*

Some-times I feel like a moth-er-less child, like a moth-er-less child, like a moth-er-less child, like a moth-er-less child.

*(cresc.)***Quickly**

37

*(cresc.)*

child, like a moth-er-less child, like a moth-er-less child.

*(cresc.)***f**



39 **D** Original tempo (♩ = ca. 60)

*pp* *very lightly and gently, to suggest wings* *p* My wear - y soul — take your

41 wings — and fly. — My wear - y soul take your

43 wings — and fly. — My wear - y soul — take your

45 wings — and fly. — a long way — from

*p*

47 home, — a long way from —

49

*rit.*

*Slowly, freely*

home, \_\_\_\_\_ a long \_\_\_\_\_ way, a long \_\_\_\_\_ way, a

*with voice*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 49 through 52. It consists of two staves. The upper staff is a vocal line in G major with lyrics: "home, \_\_\_\_\_ a long \_\_\_\_\_ way, a long \_\_\_\_\_ way, a". The lower staff is a piano accompaniment. The tempo marking is "rit." and "Slowly, freely".

53

*(choose either pitch)*

long \_\_\_\_\_ way\_ from home. \_\_\_\_\_ mm

*gliss.*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 53 through 56. It consists of two staves. The upper staff is a vocal line with lyrics: "long \_\_\_\_\_ way\_ from home. \_\_\_\_\_ mm". The lower staff is a piano accompaniment. A dashed line above the vocal line indicates a choice of pitch. The word "gliss." is written below the piano line in measure 54. The piece ends with a double bar line.

3:45  
January 10, 2022  
New Canaan, Connecticut

### 3. Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Traditional spiritual

**With joy** (♩. 112)\*

[E (regular) tuning]

Guitar

*mf*

3

6

*mf*

Swing-

9 **A**

low, \_\_\_\_\_ sweet\_ char - i - ot, \_\_\_\_\_ com-in' for to car - ry me

12

home. \_\_\_\_\_ Swing low, \_\_\_\_\_ sweet\_ char - i - ot, \_\_\_\_\_

\*Thinking of the lyrics "Always my soul is heaven-bound."

12

15

com-in' for to car-ry me home.

18

**B**

I looked o-ver Jor-dan, and

21

what did I see, com-in' for to car-ry me home, a

24

band of An-gels com-in' af-ter me, com-in' for to car-ry me

27

**C**

home. Swing low, sweet char-i-ot,

30

com-in' for to car-ry me home. Swing low, sweet

33

char-i-ot, com-in' for to car-ry me home.

36

XII

*p*

40

*p* **D**

Some-times I'm up, some-times I'm down.

43

*mf* *p*

Yes, dear Lord. But al-ways my soul is

*mf* *p*

46

*mf*

hea - ven bound. — Com - in' for to car - ry me home. Swing -

*mf*

49 **E**

low, — sweet — char - i - ot, — com - in' for to car - ry me

52

home. — Swing low, — sweet — char - i - ot, —

55

com - in' for to car - ry me home. —

58 **F**

61

64

**G**

68

*rit.*

**Slowly, recitative style**

71

73

76

**H**

If you get there be - fore I do

79

*ossia (for lower voices)*

tell all my friends

82

*(assertively!)*

I'm com - in' too! Swing

85

**I** *a tempo* (♩. 112)

low, sweet char - i - ot,

*strum*

87

com - in' for to car - ry me home. Swing



89

low, sweet char - i - ot,

*strum*

91 **J** *p sub.*

com - in' for to car - ry me, com - in' for to car - ry me,

*p sub.*

94

com - in' for to car - ry me home,

*f*

98 *ossia (for lower voices)*

home, ho - o - o - o - o - ome.

XII