Gwyneth Walker

From the Depths of the Soul

songs for Baritone and Piano

“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 is characterized by depth of sonority, speaking with a deep, rich tone. Thus, *From the Depths of the Soul* was created to explore the powerful expression of the low range. 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 piano underline the conviction/command of the song.

“Deep River” features a flowing, arpeggiated 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 piano 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 pianist 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 accompaniment. This is to symbolize the spirit of a bird hovering close by.
From the Depths of the Soul
for Bass-Baritone and Piano

Traditional Gwyneth Walker

1. Go Down, Moses

VERSE 1

Slowly, with the weight of sorrow and oppression

Voice

When Is rael was in Eg ypt Land, Let my peo ple _

4

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

REFRAIN

Go down, Mo ses, way down in Eg ypt Land.

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

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Tell old Pharaoh to let me people go!

The Lord told Moses

what to do, Let my people go! To lead the children of
Is - rael through,
Let my peo - ple, let my peo - ple go_

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

Tell old Phar - aoh to let my peo - ple_

Tell old Phar - aoh to let my peo - ple_

Tell old Phar - aoh to let my peo - ple_

Tell old Phar - aoh to let my peo - ple_
With some motion $\dot{=}$ 108

**INTERLUDE**

With some motion $\dot{=}$ 108

With pedal

38

assertively, $f$

VERSE 3

“Thus spoke the Lord,” bold Moses said.
“If not I’ll smite your first-born dead.”

“Your foes shall not before you stand.”

“I’ll lead you to the Promised Land.”

Oh, go down, Moses,

REFRAIN
way down in Egypt Land. Tell old Phar-

Freely

let my people,

a tempo ($q = 108$)

Go Down, Moses

Dur. 3:00
2. Deep River

Gently flowing $\frac{d}{\text{crotchet}} = 100$ (or slower)

smoothly, as a river

Gently flowing

with pedal

REFRAIN

Deep

river, my

Deep

river

home lies over Jordan.

Deep

river, Lord, I want to cross over into camp ground.
VERSE 1

poco accel.

*Slightly faster $q = 108$

Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel

poco accel.

Slightly faster $q = 108$

feast, that promised land where all is

REFRAIN

$q = 108$

peace? Deep river, my

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

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 2. Deep River
home lies over Jordan.

river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

I'll go on up to

heaven, and take my seat, and
cast my crown at Jesus', Jesus',

Je - sus', feet.

home lies over Jordan.

riv - er, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

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

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 2. Deep River
INTERLUDE

52
lightly separate growing into (mild) anxiety of the river travel

p

VERSE 3

p with anxiety

Never been so far from home...

river, river, carry me on...
want to cross o-ver, I want to cross o-ver into camp-ground.

with pedal

delicately, shimmering
rolled chords, as a gesture of blessing

Lord, bless this

Slowly, freely

p impassioned

boat I ride, bless it safely on the wa-ter. Bring it home at

Simile
Eventide to shelter in your harbor, Lord, to

shelter in your harbor.

Deep

river, my home lies over

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 2. Deep River
Jor - dan. Deep

rit. to end

riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o-ver, I want to cross o-ver, I

rit. to end

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

(rit.)

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 $\frac{\text{}}{\text{}} = 100$

With energy $\frac{\text{}}{\text{}} = 120$

gently tap hands

With energy $\frac{\text{}}{\text{}} = 120$
tap gently on piano ledge (to set tempo for next song)

(no break, connect
directly to next song)
3. Down to the River to Pray

With energy $\frac{\text{d}}{\text{s}} = 120$

swing eighths ($\frac{\text{d}}{\text{s}} = \frac{7}{8}$)

(gently tap hands)

As I went down to the river to pray, studying about the

good old way. And who shall wear the stary crown!

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 3. Down to the River to Pray
Lord, show me the way.

VERSE 1
O, my sisters, let's go down, let's go down,
come on down. O, my sisters, let's go down, down to the riv-er,
go-in' down to the riv-er to pray. As I went down to the riv-er to
pray, lightly studying about the good old way. And

who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord, show me,

show me, show me the way.

O, my brothers, let's go down, down, down, come on down,
come on down. O, my brothers, let’s go down, down, down, go-in’

down to the river, go-in’ down to the river to pray. As I went

REFRAIN

down to the river to pray, lightly

good old way. And who shall wear the starry crown? Good
Lord, show me, show me, show me the way.

INTERLUDE

With much energy and joy (and extra swing!)

Down to the river, down to the river, down to the river to pray, go-in'

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 3. Down to the River to Pray
VERSE 3

Slower, straight eighths

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

Slower, straight eighths

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

(as if rushing to depart on a trip!)

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 3. Down to the River to Pray
(accel.)

[Music notation]

With energy \( \frac{d}{=120} \)

has ten on the good old way. As I went down to the river to

(accel.)

[Music notation]

With energy \( \frac{d}{=120} \)

pray, studying about the good old way. And

lightly

[Music notation]

who shall wear the starry crown?

Good Lord, show me,
show me, show me, show me, show me, show me, Lord.

cresc. poco a poco (to m. 102)

show me, show me, show me the way.

cresc. poco a poco (to m. 102)

Lord, show me, show me the way!

(cresc.)

rit.

(cresc.)

rit.

high gliss.

Dur. 3:30
4. Every Night When the Sun Goes Down

VERSE 1

Slowly, freely
Ev’ry night when the sun goes down, Ev’ry night when the sun goes down, I hang my head and mournful

REFRAIN

a tempo \( \dot{\text{j}} = 60 \)

(a tempo \( \dot{\text{j}} = 60 \))

cry. True love don’t weep, true love don’t mourn. True love, don’t

weep, true love don’t mourn. True love, don’t weep or mourn for...
The Lord has come to set me free. And ev’ry night, and ev’ry night, I pray the Lord my train would...

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 4. Every Night When the Sun Goes Down
Come, I pray the Lord my train would come to take me back
where I come from.

True love don't
Slightly faster $j = 80$

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 4. Every Night When the Sun Goes Down
weep, true love don't mourn.

weep, true love don't mourn.

weep or mourn for me.
The Lord has come to set me free.

And ev'ry night, and ev'ry night, and ev'ry night,

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 4. Every Night When the Sun Goes Down
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 night, and ev'ry night, and ev'ry night.

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 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 when I rise up in the sky, 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. If you look up quickly, you will see me passing.

passing, passing, passing, passing by, on wings of

silently, on wings of silver, delicately, as fluttering wings

with pedal
Faster

fly.

Faster

as a bird in flight

rit.

I will fly.

Dur. 3:30 | Total: 14:30
June 12, 2016
New Canaan, Connecticut