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

1. Go Down, Moses

VERE 1

Slowly, with the weight of sorrow and oppression

When Israel was in Egypt Land, Let my people go!

REFRAIN

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt Land.

Slower

Tell old Pharaoh to let me people go!

With some motion $\frac{4}{4}$ = 108

* A separate Violoncello part is available.
** Cue-sized notes are an ossia for higher voices.
VERE 2

(mf)  

The Lord told Moses what to do, 
Let my rolled pizz.

people go! To lead the children of Israel through, 
Let my rolled pizz.

REFRAIN

people, let my people go down, Moses, way down in

Egypt Land. Tell old Pharaoh to let my people

INTERLUDE

With some motion \( \frac{3}{4} = 108 \)
Thus assertively, with anger "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, way down in Egypt Land.____

Tell old Pharaoh to let my people, let my people,

(with voice)

accel.  a tempo (\( \frac{4}{4} = 108 \))

let my people go, go!

\( \textbf{f} \) with anger and determination

Dur. 3:00
2. Deep River

Gently flowing $\frac{1}{4} = 100$ (or slower)

REFRAIN

$mf$ cantabile

Verse 1

$poco accel.$

Slightly faster $\frac{1}{4} = 108$

feast, that promised 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.

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 2. Deep River
21

REFRAIN

\( \text{\( \updownarrow \)} \)

\( (q = 108) \)

peace? ______

Deep ________ riv - er, my home lies o - ver

Jordan. ________

Deep ________ riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o - ver in - to

25

rolled pizz.

29

camp - ground. ________

33

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

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.

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

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

INTERLUDE

Never been so lightly separate.

growing into (mild) anxiety of the river travel

VERSE 3

p with anxiety

far from home...

riv, riv, riv,
61

*REFRAIN*

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carry me_ on... __________
carry me, carry me_ on.
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65

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Deep_________ my home lies over Jordan.
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69

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Deep_________ I want to cross over, I want to cross over, I want to cross over into
rolled pizz.
```

73

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camp ground._
arco
```

77

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slowly, freely
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Lord, bless this
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Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 2. Deep River
boat I ride, bless it safely on the water. Bring it home at gentle tremolo

Even-tide to shelter in your harbor, Lord, to shelter in your

REFRAIN

(a tempo $\dot{\text{j}} = 108$)

Jor-dan.__ Deep______ riv-er, Lord, I want to cross o-ver, I

want to cross o-ver, I want to cross o-ver into 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 $\frac{\text{♩}}{\text{♩}} = 100$

(con sord.) gently, reflectively

$\text{p legato}$

6

mp
cresc. poco a poco (to m. 16)

11

rit.

(cresc.)

$\text{f}$

$\text{mf}$

$\text{mp}$

=> $\text{p}$

15

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

gently tap hands

(p)

(gently tap instrument (to set tempo for next song))

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | A Time for Reflection
With energy $\downarrow = 120$

swing eighths ($\downarrow = \frac{1}{2}$)

(gently tap hands)

As I went

down to the river to pray, studying about the good old way. And

who shall wear the starry crown! Good Lord, show me the way.

O, my sisters, let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down.
O, my sisters, let's go down, down to the river, go-in'.

REFRAIN

down to the river to pray. As I went down to the river to pray,

studying about the good old way. And who shall wear the starry crown?

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

VERSE 2

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

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

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

good old way. And who shall wear the star-ry-crown?____ Good

Lord, show me, show me, show me the way._____

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 3. Down to the River to Pray
With much energy and joy (and extra swing!)

**VERSE 3**

**Slowly**

Start slowly and accel.
REFRAIN
With energy $\mathbf{j} = 120$

(accel.)

$\text{has-ten on the good old way. As I went down to the riv-er to}$

(mf)

($\text{pray,}$

($\text{study-ing a-bout the good old way. And who shall wear the}$

($p$)

($\text{starry crown?}$

($p$)

($\text{show me, show me, show me,}$

($p$)

($\text{Lord, show me, show me,}$

($p$)

($\text{Lord,}$

($p$)

($\text{Lord, show me, show me,}$

($p$)

($\text{show me,}$

($p$)

($\text{show me,}$

($p$)

($\text{show me,$}

($p$)

($\text{the}$

($p$)

($\text{way,$}

($p$)

($\text{Lord, show me,$}

($p$)

($\text{show me the}$

($p$)

($\text{way!}$

($p$)

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

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

VERSE 1

Slowly, freely

Ev'ry night when the sun goes down,

REFRAIN

a tempo \( \frac{J}{\text{=} 60} \)

cry. True love don't weep,

True love, don't weep or mourn for

Slightly faster \( \frac{J}{\text{=} 66} \)

me. The Lord has come to set me free. 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.

(interlude)

(rit.)

Slightly faster $\frac{\dot{\cdot}}{} = 72$

night, and ev’ry night, I pray the Lord____ my train would come.____ I pray the

(rit.)

Slightly faster $\frac{\dot{\cdot}}{} = 80$

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

(REFRAIN)

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

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 4. Every Night When the Sun Goes Down
mourn. True love don't weep, or mourn for me. The Lord has

INTERLUDE

come to set me free. 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

And when I rise up in the

sky, and when I rise up in the sky, if you look up

Walker | From the Depths of the Soul | 4. Every Night When the Sun Goes Down
quick - ly you will see me pass - ing by, on wings of sil - ver I will fly.

If you look up quick - ly, you will see me pass - ing.

pass - ing, pass - ing, pass - ing, pass - ing by, on wings of sil - ver, I will fly, as a bird in flight

fly, I will fly.