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”)
From the Depths of the Soul

VERSE 1

Slowly, with the weight of sorrow and oppression

Op - pressed so hard they could not stand, Let my peo - ple -

REFRAIN

go!

Slower

With some motion \( \frac{1}{2} = 108 \)

VERE 2

Same tempo

interlude

Slower

INTERLUDE

With some motion \( \frac{1}{2} = 108 \)
agitated

Mo\-ses said.  

first-born dead."

Prom\-ised Land."

REFRAIN

Slower

Freely

let _ my _ peo-*ple-_ 

accel.

a tempo \( \text{\(q\)} = 108 \)

rit.

f with anger 

and determination

REFRAIN

Slow
2. Deep River

Gently flowing \( \frac{d}{\text{min}} = 100 \) (or slower)  
\( \text{con sord.} \)  
smoothly, as a river

From the Depths of the Soul – Violoncello

* The Violoncello should play whichever notes the Baritone does \textbf{NOT} sing, to harmonize with the voice.
growing into (mild) anxiety of the river travel

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From the Depths of the Soul – Violoncello

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rolled pizz. arco

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INTERLUDE
lightly separate

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REFRAIN

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arco
delicately, shimmering

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VERE 3

rolled pizz.

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VERE 4

Slowly, freely

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V.S.
From the Depths of the Soul – Violoncello

REFRAIN

accel.  arco  a tempo (\( \text{d} = 108 \))

(rit.)  (connect directly to “A Time for Reflection” without break)
Slowly \( \frac{d}{\text{m}} = 100 \) (con sord.)
gently, reflectively

p legato

With energy \( \frac{d}{\text{m}} = 120 \)
gently tap instrument (to set tempo for next song)

[The singer continues tapping (hands) in the same tempo, directly into the next movement]
With energy $\frac{q}{\text{beat}} = 120$

swing eighths ($\frac{q}{\text{beat}} = \frac{7}{8}$)

sanza sord.

REFRAIN

From the Depths of the Soul – Violoncello

3. Down to the River to Pray
From the Depths of the Soul – Violoncello

VERSE 3

[Voice enters]

Slower, straight eighths

From the Depths of the Soul – Violoncello

VERS. S.
From the Depths of the Soul – Violoncello

Start slowly and accel.

82

(accel.)

(long pause)

answered voice)

REFRAIN

With energy $\dot{=} 120$

lightly

86

(from random high pitch)

89

92

96

100

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

(cresc.)
Left blank for page turn
4. Every Night When the Sun Goes Down

VERSE 1

Slowly, freely

Ev'ry night when the sun goes down, True love don't cry.

REFRAIN

rolled pizz.

p very gently

INTERLUDE

Slightly faster \( \frac{3}{8} = 66 \)

REFRAIN

Slightly faster \( \frac{3}{8} = 80 \)

VERE 2

P

From the Depths of the Soul – Violoncello
From the Depths of the Soul – Violoncello

INTERLUDE

42

accel.

\[ a \text{ tempo } \frac{\text{d}}{\text{e}} = 80 \]

45

\[ \text{mf} \]

48

51

\[ \text{rit.} \]

55

\[ \text{Faster} \]

\[ \text{as a bird in flight} \]

59

\[ \text{rit.} \]
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.