

12-50

NEGRO SPIRITUALS

Arranged for Solo Voice by

H. T. BURLEIGH

GO DOWN, MOSES

(Exodus VIII) Low—High

Let my people go!



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THE plantation songs known as "spirituals" are the spontaneous outbursts of intense religious fervor, and had their origin chiefly in camp meetings, revivals and other religious exercises.

They were never "composed," but sprang into life, ready made, from the white heat of religious fervor during some protracted meeting in camp or church, as the simple, ecstatic utterance of wholly untutored minds, and are practically the only music in America which meets the scientific definition of Folk Song.

Success in singing these Folk Songs is primarily dependent upon deep spiritual feeling. The voice is not nearly so important as the spirit; and then rhythm, for the Negro's soul is linked with rhythm, and it is an essential characteristic of most all the Folk Songs.

It is a serious misconception of their meaning and value to treat them as "minstrel" songs, or to try to make them funny by a too literal attempt to imitate the manner of the Negro in singing them, by swaying the body, clapping the hands, or striving to make the peculiar inflections of voice that are natural with the colored people. Their worth is weakened unless they are done impressively, for through all these songs there breathes a hope, a faith in the ultimate justice and brotherhood of man. The cadences of sorrow invariably turn to joy, and the message is ever manifest that eventually deliverance from all that hinders and oppresses the soul will come, and man—every man—will be free.

H. T. B.

New York, 1917

Go down, Moses

(Let my people go!)

Exodus VIII

Negro Spiritual
Arranged by
H.T. BURLEIGH

Lento

Voice

Piano

When

Is - rael was in E - gypt's lan' Let my peo-ple go, Op -

press'd so hard they could not stand, Let my peo-ple go,

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Go down, Mo - ses, 'Way down in E - gypt's lan',

mf

Detailed description: This system contains the first line of music. The vocal line is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are "Go down, Mo - ses, 'Way down in E - gypt's lan'". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: a right-hand staff with a treble clef and a left-hand staff with a bass clef. The right-hand part features a melody with chords, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The left-hand part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and some moving lines.

Tell ole Pha - roh, to let my peo-ple

rit.

rit. *p*

Detailed description: This system contains the second line of music. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "Tell ole Pha - roh, to let my peo-ple". A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is placed above the vocal line. The piano accompaniment continues with two staves. A *rit.* marking is placed below the piano part, and a *p* (piano) dynamic marking is placed below the right-hand staff. The piano part features a complex texture with many chords and some melodic fragments.

go.

a tempo *cres.* *cen* *do*

Detailed description: This system contains the third line of music. The vocal line begins with the word "go." and then has a long rest. The piano accompaniment continues with two staves. A *a tempo* marking is placed below the piano part. The right-hand staff has a *cres.* (crescendo) marking, followed by the words *cen* and *do*. The piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and some melodic lines.

Thus saith the Lord, bold Mo - ses said,

The first system of the musical score consists of a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. It begins with a fermata over a whole rest, followed by the lyrics "Thus saith the Lord, bold Mo - ses said,". The piano accompaniment is written on two staves (treble and bass clefs) and features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. A dynamic marking of *f* is placed above the first measure of the piano part.

Let my peo-ple go, If not I'll smite your

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line has the lyrics "Let my peo-ple go, If not I'll smite your". The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns. A dynamic marking of *sempre f* is placed above the piano part in the third measure of this system.

first born dead, Let my peo-ple go.

The third system concludes the musical score on this page. The vocal line has the lyrics "first born dead, Let my peo-ple go." The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic patterns, ending with a fermata over a whole rest in the final measure. The dynamic marking *sempre f* remains.

Go down, Mo - ses, 'Way down in

ff

E - gypt's lan; Tell ole Pha - rah To

let my peo - ple go!

f molto rit.

ff

*

NEGRO SPIRITUALS

By H. T. BURLEIGH

ARRANGED FOR SOLO VOICE

- | | |
|--|--|
| Sinner Please Doan Let Dis Harves' Pass. <i>One key.</i> | I Stood On De Ribber Ob Jerdon <i>Two keys.</i> |
| Weepin' Mary. <i>Two keys.</i> | Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child. <i>Three keys.</i> |
| By An' By. <i>Two keys.</i> | O Peter Go Ring Dem Bells. <i>Two keys.</i> |
| I Want To Be Ready. <i>One key.</i> | John's Gone Down On De Island. <i>Two keys.</i> |
| I Don't Feel No Ways Tired. <i>One key.</i> | Deep River. <i>Three keys.</i> |
| Go Down Moses. <i>Two keys.</i> | Oh Didn't It Rain. <i>Two keys.</i> |
| Nobody Knows De Trouble I've Seen. <i>Two keys.</i> | Let Us Cheer The Weary Traveler. <i>Two keys.</i> |
| My Way's Cloudy. <i>One key.</i> | Balm in Gilead. <i>Two keys.</i> |
| You May Bury Me In De Eas'. <i>Two keys.</i> | He's Just De Same Today. <i>Two keys.</i> |
| Swing Low, Sweet Chariot. <i>Two keys.</i> | Hard Trials. <i>One key.</i> |
| 'Tis Me O Lord. <i>One key.</i> | Don't You Weep When I'm Gone. <i>One key.</i> |
| My Lord What A Morning. <i>Two keys.</i> | |

ARRANGED FOR MALE VOICES

Deep River. Swing Low, Sweet Chariot. Oh Peter Go Ring Dem Bells.

ARRANGED FOR FEMALE VOICES

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Deep River. | Sinner Please Doan Let Dis Harves' Pass. |
| Nobody Knows De Trouble I've Seen. | Swing Low, Sweet Chariot. |
| Go Down Moses. | My Way's Cloudy. |
| I Want To Be Ready. | Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child |
| Weepin' Mary. | Oh Didn't It Rain. |
| By An' By. | I Don't Feel No Ways Tired. |

ARRANGED FOR MIXED VOICES

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot. Go Down Moses.
Sinner Please Doan Let Dis Harves' Pass

