

Dedicated to David Necklen and Cantamici, Leicester, England
winners of the Sound Escapes Competition 2020

THE GIFT TO SING

words: JAMES WELDON JOHNSON (1871-1938)

music: DOUGLAS COOMBES

Andante con espressione (♩=75)

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

p Some - times the mist o-ver-

Piano

p *p* *p*

Andante con espressione (♩=75)

5

S.
A.
T.
B.

mf hangs my path, *f* And black-en-ing clouds a-bout me cling:—

mf hangs my path, *f* And black-en-ing clouds a-bout me cling:—

mf hangs my path, *f* And black-en-ing clouds a-bout me cling:—

mf hangs my path, *f* And black-en-ing clouds a-bout me cling:—

Pno.

mf *f*

10

S. *p* But, oh, I have a ma-gic way *mf* To turn the gloom to

A. *p* But, oh, I have a ma-gic way *mf* To turn the gloom to

T. *p* But, oh, I have a ma-gic way *mf* To turn the gloom to

B. *p* But, oh, I have a ma-gic way *mf* To turn the gloom to

Pno. *p* *mf*

14

S. *f* (non dim.) *pp* **Meno mosso** *pp* **rall.** cheer-ful day, I soft - ly, soft - ly sing, soft - ly sing.

A. *f* (non dim.) *pp* **Meno mosso** *pp* **rall.** cheer-ful day, I soft - ly, soft - ly sing, soft - ly sing.

T. *f* (non dim.) *pp* **Meno mosso** *pp* **rall.** cheer-ful day, soft - ly sing, soft - ly sing.

B. *f* (non dim.) *pp* **Meno mosso** *pp* **rall.** cheer-ful day, soft - ly sing, soft - ly sing.

Pno. *f* *sub. pp* **Meno mosso** **rall.**

19 **Andante con espressione** (♩=75)

pp legato e intenso

S. *pp* legato e intenso
And if the way grows dark - er still,

A. *pp* legato e intenso
And if the way grows dark - er still,

T. *pp* legato e intenso
And if the way grows dark - er still,

B. *pp* legato e intenso
And if the way grows dark - er still,

Andante con espressione (♩=75)

And if the way grows dark - er still,

Pno. *pp* *pp* *pp*

23

mf

mf

S. *mf*
Sha-dowed by Sor-row's som-ber wing, With glad de-fi-ance in my throat, I

A. *mf*
Sha-dowed by Sor-row's som-ber wing, With glad de-fi-ance in my throat, I

T. *mf*
Sha-dowed by Sor-row's som-ber wing, With glad de-fi-ance in my throat, I

B. *mf*
Sha-dowed by Sor-row's som-ber wing, With glad de-fi-ance in my throat, I

Pno. *mf*

27 *f* **Meno mosso rall.** *p*

S. pierce the dark-ness with a note, And sing, and sing,

A. pierce the dark-ness with a note, And sing, and sing, *p* div. unis.

T. pierce the dark-ness with a note, And *p*

B. pierce the dark-ness with a note, And *p*

Pno. **Meno mosso rall.**

32 **Andante con espressione** (♩=75) *p*

S. and sing. I brood not

A. and sing. I brood not

T. sing, and sing. I brood not

B. div. unis. *p* sing, and sing. I brood not

Pno. **Andante con espressione** (♩=75) *p*

37

S. *mf*
o - ver the bro - ken past, Nor dread what - e-ver

A. *mf*
o - ver the bro - ken past, Nor dread what - e-ver

T. *mf*
o - ver the bro - ken past, Nor dread what - e-ver

B. *mf*
o - ver the bro - ken past, Nor dread what - e - ver

Pno. *mf*

41

S. *p*
time may bring; No nights are dark, no days are long, While

A. *p*
time may bring; No nights are dark, no days are long, While

T. *p*
time may bring; No nights are dark, no days are long, While

B. *p*
time may bring; No nights are dark, no days are long, While

Pno. *p*

poco rall.

Meno mosso

46 *mf* *f* *mf*

S. in my heart there swells a song, And I can

A. in my heart there swells a song, And I can

T. in in heart there swells a song, And I can

B. in my heart there swells a song, And I can

poco rall. **Meno mosso**

Pno. *mf* *f* *mf*

poco rall.

Lento

49 *f* *ff* *pp* *mf* *niente*

S. *div.* sing, sing, sing. And I can sing.

A. *f* *ff* *pp* *L.P.* *mf* *niente*

A. *div.* sing, sing, sing. And I can sing.

T. *f* *ff* *pp* *L.P.* *mf* *niente*

T. sing, sing, sing. And I can sing.

B. *f* *ff* *pp* *unis.* *L.P.* *mf* *niente*

B. sing, sing, sing. And I can sing.

poco rall. **Lento** *L.P.* *niente*

Pno. *p* *L.P.* *niente*

