

Written for Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale  
to celebrate their 30th anniversary

# The Gift to Sing

Poem: James Weldon Johnson

Music: Ian David Coleman

**With Energy and Spirit** (♩ = c. 146)

The musical score is arranged in five staves. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 7/8 time signature. The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with the same key signature and time signature. The tempo is marked 'With Energy and Spirit' with a metronome marking of ♩ = c. 146. The piano part begins with a *mf* dynamic, followed by a crescendo leading to a *mp* dynamic. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes in the right hand, and a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand. The vocal parts are currently marked with rests.

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

*mf*

*mp*

6

S

A

T

B

Pno.

11

A

*mf*

S

Some - times the mist o - ver hangs my path, and

A

T

B

Pno.

**B**

15 *mf*

S blacken - ing clouds a - bout me cling; But, oh, I have a ma - gic way to

A *mf*

But, oh, I have a ma - gic way to

T

B

Pno.

**C**

19 *mp cresc.*

S turn the gloom to cheer - ful day

A *mp cresc.*

turn the gloom to cheer - ful day I soft - ly

T *p cresc.* *mp*

I soft - ly sing.

B *p cresc.* *mp*

I soft - ly sing.

Pno.

24

S *f* *mp cresc.* *f* **D** *p*  
I soft - ly sing. I soft - ly sing. I soft - ly

A *mp cresc.* *f* *p*  
sing. I soft - ly sing. I soft - ly

T *p* *mp* *f* *p*  
I soft - ly sing. I soft - ly

B *subito p cresc.* *mp* *f* *p*  
I soft - ly sing. I soft - ly

Pno. *p cresc.* *f* *f*  
I soft - ly sing. I soft - ly

31

S sing.

A sing.

T sing.

B sing.

Pno. *p* *mf*

36 E *mf*

S And — if the way grows dark - er still, shadow -

A *mf*  
I sing, yes, I sing, yes,

T *mf*  
I sing, yes, I sing, yes,

B *mf*  
I sing, yes, I sing, yes,

Pno.

41 F

S ed by Sor - row's som - ber wing, I sing, yes, I sing, yes

A I \_\_\_\_\_ sing! I sing, yes, I sing, yes

T I \_\_\_\_\_ sing! I sing, yes, I sing, yes

B I \_\_\_\_\_ sing! With \_\_\_\_\_ glad de - fi - ance in my throat, I

Pno.

The Gift to Sing

G **Flowing**  
*mf legato*

45

S  
sing \_\_\_\_\_ with a note. Ah, \_\_\_\_\_

A  
sing \_\_\_\_\_ with a note. Ah, \_\_\_\_\_

T  
sing \_\_\_\_\_ with a note.

B  
pierce the dark - ness with a note.

Pno.

*f mf legato*

50

S  
Ah, \_\_\_\_\_

A  
Ah, \_\_\_\_\_

T  
\_\_\_\_\_

B  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

50

**H**

Soprano (S): Ah, Ah,

Alto (A): Ah, Ah,

Tenor (T): *mf* Ah, Ah,

Bass (B): *mf* Ah, Ah,

Piano (Pno.): 54, 59, *f*

I Joyful

63

S

A

T

B

*mf*

*mf*

Some - times the mist ov - ver hangs my path, and

Some - times the mist ov - er hangs my path, and

Pno.

*mp*

*mp*

67

S

A

T

B

J

But, \_\_\_\_\_ oh, I have a \_\_\_\_\_

But, \_\_\_\_\_ oh, I have a \_\_\_\_\_

blacken - ing clouds a - bout me cling;

blacken - ing clouds a - bout me cling;

Pno.

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*



70

S ma - gic way to — turn the gloom to cheer - ful day I —

A mag - ic way to — turn the gloom to cheer - ful day I —

T

B

Pno. *mp* *mp* *mp*

**K**

73

S brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, nor dread what - ev - er time may bring; No —

A brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, nor dread what - ev - er time may bring; No —

T

B

Pno. *mf*

**L**

S  
nights are dark, no — days are long, while in your heart there swells a song.

A  
nights are dark, no — days are long, while in your heart there swells a song.

T  
*mf*  
nights dark days long heart \_\_\_\_\_ swells a song.

B  
*mf*  
nights dark days long heart \_\_\_\_\_ swells a song.

Pno.

**M** **Flowing**

S  
*mf legato*  
Ah, \_\_\_\_\_ Ah, \_\_\_\_\_

A  
*f legato*  
Ah, \_\_\_\_\_ Ah, \_\_\_\_\_

T  
\_\_\_\_\_

B  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

N

86

S Ah,

A Ah,

T *mf* Ah,

B *mf* Ah,

Pno.

86

S Ah,

A Ah,

T *mf* Ah,

B *mf* Ah,

Pno.

91

S Ah,

A Ah,

T *mf* Ah,

B *mf* Ah,

Pno.

91

**O** Slightly Darker

96 *p* *p* *p*

S And I can sing. I can sing.

A And I can sing. I can sing.

T

B

Pno. *p*

101 *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

S I can sing. Sing and sing.

A I can sing. Sing and sing.

T

B Oh, — *p* Oh, —

Pno.

105

S I sing and I can I sing and I can

A I sing and I can I sing and I can

T I can sing. I can sing.

B I can sing. I can sing.

Pno.

105

*f*

109

S I sing and I can *f* I can sing! *p* And

A I sing and I can *f* I can sing! *p* And

T I can sing. I can sing! *p* And

B I can sing. I can sing, *f* And *p*

Pno.

109

*mf*

Q

Open and Energetic

*cresc.* *mp* *mf*

S I can sing, and sing and sing, and I can sing, can

*cresc.* *mp* *mf*

A I can sing, and sing and sing, and I can sing, can

*cresc.* *mp* *mf*

T I can sing, and sing and sing, and I can sing, can

*cresc.* *mp* *mf*

B I can sing, and sing and sing, and I can sing, can

Pno. *p cresc.* *mp* *mf*

115 *subito p* *mf cresc.*

S soft - ly sing, and I can sing and sing and sing and I can sing and

*subito p* *mf cresc.*

A soft - ly sing, and I can sing and sing and sing and I can sing and

*subito p* *mf cresc.*

T soft - ly sing, and I can sing and sing and sing and I can sing and

*subito p* *mf cresc.*

B soft - ly sing, and I can sing and sing and sing and I can sing and

Pno. *subito p* *mf cresc.*

119 *f* *ff*

S sing, and I can sing and sing and sing and I can

A sing, and I can sing and sing and sing and I can

T sing, and I can sing and sing and sing and I can

B sing, and I can sing and sing and sing and I can

Pno. *f* *ff*

122

S sing!

A sing!

T sing!

B sing!

Pno. 122

