

2020 The King's Singers New Music Prize Honorable Mention (SSAA version)  
SAB voicing commissioned by the Blue Ridge High School Chorus, Jonathan Reid, director

# The Gift to Sing

For SAB\* Choir and Piano

James Weldon Johnson

MARIANNE FORMAN  
(ASCAP)

*Larghetto, gently* ♩ = 62

*p*

SOPRANO *p unis.*

ALTO

BARITONE

Some - times the

mist o - ver - hangs my path, and

1 2 3 4 5 6

\*Also available for SATB (BP121) and SSAA (BP122) choirs.

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BP124-2

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3  
 black-en - ing clouds \_\_\_\_\_ a - bout me cling; \_\_\_\_\_

7 8

*mp* but, oh, \_\_\_\_\_ *cresc.* I have a mag ic way to

*mp* *cresc.*

9 10

(take time) *a tempo*  
 turn the gloom to cheer - ful day, \_\_\_\_\_

(take time) *a tempo*

11 12

SOP. *p*  
I soft - ly sing, I soft - ly sing,

ALTO *p*  
I soft - ly sing, soft - ly

BARITONE *p*  
I soft - ly sing,

13 14 15

*dim e rit.*  
I soft - ly sing, I soft - ly

*dim e rit.*  
sing, I soft - ly

*dim e rit.*  
soft - ly sing, I soft - ly

*rit.*

16 17

*a tempo*  
sing.

*a tempo*  
sing.

*a tempo*  
sing.

*a tempo*  
*p*  
*mf*

18 19

A little slower ♩ = 58

*p*  
Oo

*p*  
Oo

*mp*

And if the way \_ grows dark-er \_ still, \_

A little slower ♩ = 58

*mf.*  
*mp*

20 21 22

som - ber wing, with glad de - fi - ance in my -  
 som - ber wing, with glad de - fi - ance in my -  
 shad - owed by Sor - row's som - ber wing, with glad de - fi - ance in my -

mf

mf

mf

mf

23 24 25

throat, I pierce the dark - ness with a note, and  
 throat, I pierce the dark - ness with a note, and  
 throat, I pierce the dark - ness with a note, and

mf

mf

mf

26 27 28

*f* moving forward

sing, \_\_\_\_\_ and sing, \_\_\_\_\_ and

*f* moving forward

sing, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sing, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*f* moving forward

sing, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sing, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*f* moving forward

29 30

*dim e rit.*

sing, \_\_\_\_\_ and sing, \_\_\_\_\_

*dim e rit.*

sing, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sing, \_\_\_\_\_

*dim e rit.*

sing, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sing, \_\_\_\_\_

2/4 4/4

*rit.*

*8va* ----- 1

31 32 33

Tempo I

Piano introduction in 4/4 time, measures 34-35. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and accents, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Tempo I

Piano accompaniment for measures 34-35. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and accents, and the left hand provides a consistent eighth-note accompaniment. Measure numbers 34 and 35 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

Vocal entry in 4/4 time, measures 36-37. The vocal line is in a key with two flats. The lyrics "I brood not" are written under the notes. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern as in the previous section. Measure numbers 36 and 37 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

Piano accompaniment for measures 36-37. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and accents, and the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure numbers 36 and 37 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

o - ver the bro - ken past, nor

o - ver the bro - ken past, nor

*mp*

I brood not o - ver the bro - ken

38 69

dread what - ev - er time may bring,

dread what - ev - er time may bring,

past, nor dread what - ev - er time may

40 41



*mf* *cresc.*

no nights are dark, no days <sup>3</sup> are long, while

*mf* *cresc.*

no nights are dark, no days <sup>3</sup> are long, while

*mf* *cresc.*

bring, \_\_\_\_\_ no nights are dark, no

*mf*

42 43

*poco rit.* *ff* *a tempo*

in my heart \_ there swells a song, \_\_\_\_\_

*poco rit.* *ff* *a tempo*

days are long, while in my heart there

*poco rit.* *ff* *a tempo*

days are long while in my heart there

*poco rit.* *ff* *a tempo*

44 45 3 3

\*Measures 44-46 piano quotes "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by J.W. Johnson and J.R. Johnson

and I can sing,

swells a song, and I can sing, and

swells a song, and I can sing, and

46 3 47 3

and I can sing,

I can sing, and I can sing,

I can sing, and I can sing,

48 3 49 3

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

*f* *dim. to end* *f* *dim. to end* *f* *dim. to end*

50 51 52

sing, and I can sing.  
I can sing, and I can sing.  
I can sing, and I can sing.

*rit.* *p* *rit.* *p* *rit.* *p*

53 54 55 56

15<sup>ma</sup>  
8<sup>vb</sup>