

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  $\text{♩} = 62$



Piano introduction in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The right hand features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

SOPRANO

*p unis.*

ALTO

Some times the

BARITONE

3

4

mist o - ver-hangs my path, and

5

6

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

© Copyright 2021, 2022 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

Neither CCLI nor OneLicense.net Licenses grant permission to photocopy this music.

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

*mp*

*cresc.*

but, oh, \_\_\_\_\_ I have a mag<sup>3</sup>-ic way \_\_\_\_\_ to

*mp*

*cresc.*

turn the gloom\_ to cheer - ful day, \_\_\_\_\_

(take time)

*a tempo*

(take time)

*a tempo*

SOP. *p*

I soft - ly sing, I soft - ly sing.

ALTO *p*

I soft - ly sing, I soft - ly

BARITONE

I soft - ly sing.

13 14 15

I soft - ly sing, I soft - ly

sing, I soft - ly

I soft - ly sing, I soft - ly

16 17

*a tempo*

sing.

*a tempo*

sing.

*a tempo*

sing.

*a tempo*

*p* *mf*

18 19

A little slower ♩ = 58

*p* *p* *mp*

Oo \_\_\_\_\_  
Oo \_\_\_\_\_

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

A little slower ♩ = 58

*rit.* *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 -

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

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, \_\_\_\_\_

*rit.*

*8va* ----- 7

31 32 33

Tempo I

Tempo I

o - ver the bro - ken past, nor

o - ver the bro - ken past, nor

*mp*  
I brood not o - ver the bro - ken

38 39

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

*f* and I can sing, *dim. to end* and I can

*f* I can sing, *dim. to end* and I can sing,

*f* I can sing, I can sing, *dim. to end*

*mf dim. to end*

50 51 52

*rit.* sing, *p* and I can sing.

*rit.* I can sing, *p* and I can sing.

*rit.* I can sing, *p* and I can sing.

*rit.* *p* *15<sup>ma</sup>*

53 54 55 56 *8<sup>vb</sup>*