

Choral Score

Duration: ca. 4'

The Gift to Sing

SATB a cappella

by Mark Zuckerman (2025)

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The Gift To Sing

Sometimes the mist overhangs my path,
And blackening clouds about me cling;
But, oh, I have a magic way
To turn the gloom to cheerful day --
 I softly sing.

And if the way grows darker still,
Shadowed by Sorrow's somber wing,
With glad defiance in my throat,
I pierce the darkness with a note,
 And sing, and sing.

I brood not over the broken past,
Nor dread whatever time may bring;
No nights are dark, no days are long,
While in my heart there swells a song,
 And I can sing.

James Weldon Johnson (1917)

Writer and civil rights activist James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), a voice of the Harlem Renaissance and a leader of the NAACP, wrote the lyrics to *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (with music by his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson), which became known as the Black National Anthem.

The Gift to Sing

James Weldon Johnson

Mark Zuckerman

Tempo semplice ♩ = 72
mf

Soprano
Some - times the mist _____ o - ver - hangs my

Alto
Some - times the mist _____ o - ver - hangs my

Tenor
Some - times the mist _____

Bass
Some - times the mist _____

4

S.
path, _____ And black - en - ing clouds _____

A.
path, _____ And black - en - ing clouds _____

T.
o - ver - hangs my path, _____ And black - en - ing clouds _____

B.
o - ver - hangs my path, _____ And black - en - ing clouds _____

8

S. *p* *f*
a - bout me cling; _____ But, oh, I have a

A. *p* *f*
a - bout me cling; _____ But, oh, I have a

T. *p* *f*
a - bout me cling; _____ But, oh, I have a

B. *p* *f*
a - bout me cling; _____ But, oh, I have a

13

S. *ff* *mf*
mag - ic way__ To turn the gloom to cheer - ful day__ I soft - ly

A. *ff* *mf*
mag - ic way__ To turn the gloom to cheer - ful day__ I soft - ly

T. *ff*
mag - ic way__ to turn the gloom to cheer - ful day__

B. *ff*
mag - ic way__ To turn the gloom to cheer - ful day__

17

S. *p*
sing. I soft - ly sing.

A. *p*
sing. I soft - ly sing.

T. *mf* *p* *mf*
I soft - ly sing. I soft - ly sing. And if the

B. *mf* *p* *mf*
I soft - ly sing. I soft - ly sing. And if thew

22

S. *mf*
And if the way_ grows dark - er still, dark - er

A. *mf*
And if the way_ grows dark - er still, dark - er

T. *mf*
way_ grows dark - er still,

B. *mf*
way_ grows dark - er still,

25 *p* *mf*

S. still, Shad - owed by Sor - row's som - ber wing, With

A. still, Shad - owed by Sor - row's som - ber wing, With

T. Shad - owed by Sor - row's som - ber wing, With

B. Shad - owed by Sor - row's som - ber wing, With

29 *f*

S. glad de - fi - - - - - ance in my throat, I pierce the

A. glad de - fi - - - - - ance in my throat, I pierce the

T. glad de - fi - - - - - ance in my throat, I pierce the

B. glad de - fi - - - - - ance in my throat, I pierce the

33 *mf*

S. dark - - ness with a note, And sing, _____

A. *mf*
dark - - ness with a note, _____ And

T. 8 dark - - ness with a note, _____

B. dark - - ness with a note, _____

37 *f*

S. _____ and sing. _____

A. *f*
sing, _____ and sing. _____

T. *mf* *f*
And sing, _____ and sing.

B. *mf* *f*
And sing, _____ and sing.

43 *mf*

S. *mf*

I brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, Nor dread what-

A. *mf*

I brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, Nor dread what-

T. *mf*

I brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, Nor dread what-

B. *mf*

I brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, Nor dread what-

47 *cresc.*

S. *cresc.*

- ev - er time may bring; No nights are dark, _____ no days are

A. *cresc.*

- ev - er time may bring; No nights are dark, _____ no days are

T. *cresc.*

- ev - er time may bring; No nights are dark, _____ no days are

B. *cresc.*

- ev - er time may bring; No nights are dark, _____ no days are

52

S. *f* *mf*
long, While in my heart there swells a song, And I can

A. *f* *mf*
long, While in my heart there swells a song, And I can

T. *f*
long, While in my heart there swells a song,

B. *f*
long, While in my heart there swells a song,

57

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

A. *mf* *f*
sing, And I can And I can sing,

T. *mf*
And I can sing, And

B. *mf*
And I can sing, And

62

S. *f* _____ and sing, _____

A. _____ and sing, _____

T. *f* sing, _____ and sing, _____

B. *f* sing, _____ and sing, _____

rall.

66

S. *ff* and sing, _____

A. *ff* and sing, and sing, and sing, _____

T. *ff* and sing, and sing.

B. *ff* and sing, and sing, _____