

Rehearsal 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 path, _____

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

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

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

Reduction

5

And black - en - ing clouds _____ a - bout me cling; _____

And black - en - ing clouds _____ a - bout me cling; _____

path, _____ And black - en - ing clouds _____ a - bout me cling;

path, _____ And black - en - ing clouds _____ a - bout me cling; _____

11

p *f* *ff*

But, oh, I have a mag - ic way___ To turn the gloom to cheer - ful day—

p *f* *ff*

But, oh, I have a mag - ic way___ To turn the gloom to cheer - ful day—

p *f* *ff*

But, oh, I have a mag - ic way___ to turn the gloom to cheer - ful day—

p *f* *ff*

But, oh, I have a mag - ic way___ To turn the gloom to cheer - ful day—

16

mf *p*

— I soft - ly sing. I soft - ly sing.

mf *p*

— I soft - ly sing. I soft - ly sing.

mf *p* *mf*

— I soft - ly sing. I soft - ly sing. And if the

mf *p* *mf*

— I soft - ly sing. I soft - ly sing. And if thew

22 *mf* And if the way___ grows dark - er still, dark - er still,___ Shad - owed by

mf And if the way___ grows dark - er still, dark - er still,___ Shad - owed by

p way___ grows dark - er still,___ Shad - owed by

p way___ grows dark - er still,___ Shad - owed by

26 *mf* Sor - - row's som - ber wing, With glad de - fi - - - - - ance

mf Sor - - row's som - ber wing, With glad de - fi - - - - - ance

mf Sor - - row's som - ber wing, With glad de - fi - - - - - ance

mf Sor - - row's som - ber wing, With glad de - fi - - - - - ance

31 *mf*

in my throat, I pierce the dark - - - ness with a note, And

in my throat, I pierce the dark - - - ness with a note, _____

in my throat, I pierce the dark - - - ness with a note, _____

in my throat, I pierce the dark - - - ness with a note, _____

36 *f*

sing, *mf* and sing. *f*

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

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

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

43 *mf*

I brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, Nor dread what - ev - er time may bring;

mf

I brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, Nor dread what - ev - er time may bring;

mf

I brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, Nor dread what - ev - er time may bring;

mf

I brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, Nor dread what - ev - er time may bring;

49 *cresc.*

No nights are dark, no days are long, While in my heart there swells a

cresc.

No nights are dark, no days are long, While in my heart there swells a

cresc.

No nights are dark, no days are long, While in my heart there swells a

cresc.

No nights are dark, no days are long, While in my heart there swells a

55

f song, *mf* And I can sing, And I can

f song, *mf* And I can sing, And I can

f song, *mf* And I can sing,

f song, *mf* And I can sing,

60

f sing, *mf* *f* and

And I can sing, *f* and

And sing, *f* and

And sing, *f* and

64

rall.....

ff

sing, _____ and sing, _____

ff

sing, _____ and sing, and sing, and sing, _____

ff

sing, _____ and sing, and sing.

ff

sing, _____ and sing, and sing, _____

for peruse