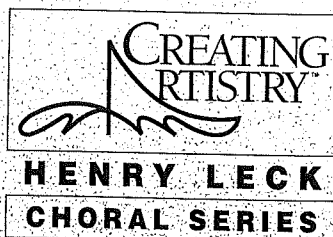


Take Me to the Water

BY ROLLO DILWORTH

The Music of Rollo Dilworth



PERFORMANCE NOTES

“Take Me to the Water” is a contemporary gospel style piece that incorporates quotes from two African-American spirituals: “Down by the Riverside” and “Wade in the Water.” Throughout the period of slavery many of these religious folk melodies were composed and passed on by oral tradition, and the subject of water became a common theme. Not only was water viewed as a means of spiritual cleansing and purification, but it also served as a means of covering the scent of an escaping slave. Hence, slaves would often make references to water images in their songs (especially the Jordan River) in the hope that they would become free.

This piece opens with call and response vocals between the 3 upper voices (SAT) and the basses. By the end of measure 12, basses become the lead vocals, singing “Down by the Riverside,” while the upper voices respond. In measures 19 and 20, all vocal parts become equal as the section comes to a close, singing “Take me, take me, take me to the water.” At measure 21, the basses once again lead the vocal texture, singing the “Wade in the Water” chorus. The upper voices function in the background as respondents, reinforcing the charge to “wade.” By measure 30, the piece modulates up a fourth to D-flat major and climactic layered chorus commences, incorporating original text as well as text from the two African-American spirituals.

Commissioned by the Knox College Choir - Galesburg, IL
Dr. Laura Lane, Director of Choirs

Take Me to the Water

For SATB and Piano*

Performance Time: Approx. 3:45

Words and Music by
ROLLO DILWORTH
Additional Lyrics from
African-American Spirituals

With a rhythmic bounce ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80$)

The musical score is written for SATB choir and piano. It begins with a piano introduction in 4/4 time, marked *f* and *mf*. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and chords. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics: "Take me to the wa - ter. Take me to the sea." The piano accompaniment continues with a steady rhythm. The vocal parts then sing: "Take me. Take me, -" followed by "Take me to the riv - er so that my spir - it can be free. - Gon-na" and "so that my spir - it can be free. -". The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support throughout. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *mf*, and *Unis. S/A*. There are also performance instructions like "With a rhythmic bounce" and a tempo indication " $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80$ ".

† All open octaves can be played 8vb



Unis. S/A

lay my bur - dens down, down by the riv - er - side. Gon-na

The first system shows the vocal line (Soprano/Alto) with lyrics "lay my burdens down, down by the river side. Gon-na". The piano accompaniment features chords in the right hand and a melodic line in the left hand.

Down by, down by

The second system is a piano accompaniment system with two staves (treble and bass). It features a steady rhythmic accompaniment with chords and a melodic line.

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

wade in the wa - ter, the wa - ter that flows both deep and wide. Oh,

the wa - ter that flows both deep and wide.

The third system includes vocal lines for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The lyrics are "wade in the water, the water that flows both deep and wide. Oh, the water that flows both deep and wide." The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a melodic line.

The fourth system is a piano accompaniment system with two staves. It continues the musical accompaniment with chords and a melodic line.

f *A* *A* *A* *A* *A* *A* *A*

Sop. div.

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

take me, take me, take me to the wa - ter. *mp*

The fifth system features vocal lines for Soprano (divisi), Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The lyrics are "take me, take me, take me to the water." The piano accompaniment includes chords marked with accents (*A*) and a dynamic marking of *f* in the bass line, and *mp* in the vocal line.

1. Gon-na
2. Gon-na

f

The sixth system is a piano accompaniment system with two staves. It features a strong accompaniment with chords and a melodic line, marked with a dynamic of *f*.

13

cresc.

Down by the riv - er - side.

lay down my bur - den, down by _____ the riv - er - side. Down
lay down my sword and shield, down by _____ the riv - er - side. Down

mf

mp *cresc.*

13

mf cresc. *f*

Down by the riv - er - side. Down by the riv - er - side.

by _____ the riv - er - side. Down by _____ the riv - er - side. Gon-na
by _____ the riv - er - side. Down by _____ the riv - er - side. Gon-na

cresc. *f* *mp*

mf *cresc.* *f*

15

cresc.

Down by the riv - er - side. Oh,

lay down my bur - den, down by _____ the riv - er - side. Oh,
lay down my sword and shield, down by _____ the riv - er - side. Oh,

cresc.

mp *cresc.*

17

Soprano *f* Δ Δ Δ Δ Δ Δ Δ Sop. div.
 Alto take me, take me, take me to the wa - ter.
 Tenor *f* Δ Δ Δ Δ Δ Δ
 Bass

19

21 Soprano
 Alto *p*
 Tenor
 Bass *mp*

Wade in the, wade in the, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren.
 Wade in the wa - ter.

21

Wade in the, wade in the, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren.
 Wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren.

23

Wade in the, wade in the, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren.

Wade in the wa - ter.

25

mf God's a - gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

mf God's a - gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

cresc.

cresc.

mf

cresc.

27

f Soprano Δ Δ Δ

Alto Oh, oh, oh!

f Tenor

Bass

f

29

30

Take me to the wa - ter! Take me to the sea!

30

Take me to the wa - ter! Set my spir - it free! Oh!

32

Take me to the wa - ter! Take me to the sea!

simile

Wade! Wade in the

simile

34

Take me to the wa - ter! Set my spir - it free! Oh! —

wa - ter, chil - dren and set my spir - it free! Oh! —

36

Take me to the wa - ter!

simile Wade!

Unis. *A*

Down by the riv - er - side. Down by the riv - er - side.

38

Take me to the sea!

Wade in the

Down by the riv - er - side. Down by the riv - er - side.

39

Take me to the wa - ter! Set my spir-it free! Oh! —
 wa - ter, chil - dren and set my spir-it free! Oh! —

Down by the riv-er-side. Down by the ri-ver-side, I'll set my spir-it free! Oh! —

Sop. div. Take me, take me, take me to the wa - ter! Oh! —
 Unis.

Sop. div. Take me, take me, take me to the wa - ter!
 Unis.