

For A. Rebecca West and Kenneth Overton
I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray
 SATB and Soloist, *a cappella*

Marilyn Biery

African-American Spiritual

Based on an African-American Spiritual

Gently (♩ = 66)
p Oo. _____ *pp*

Soprano Alto
 Tenor Bass

Could-n't hear no-bod-y

pp

5

Solo

Oo. _____ Oo. _____ I

pray. _____ Oo. _____

9

mp

could-n't hear no-bod-y pray. In the val - ley, —

(Oo.)

mp

(Oo.) _____ Lord, I could-n't hear no-bod-y pray.

mp

The musical score is written for SATB and soloist. It begins with a tempo marking of 'Gently' and a metronome marking of 66 quarter notes per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into systems. The first system shows the Soprano Alto and Tenor Bass parts with lyrics 'Oo.' and 'Could-n't hear no-bod-y'. The second system shows a Soloist part with lyrics 'I' and 'Oo.', and the SATB parts with lyrics 'pray.' and 'Oo.'. The third system shows the SATB parts with lyrics 'could-n't hear no-bod-y pray.' and 'In the val - ley, —'. The fourth system shows the SATB parts with lyrics '(Oo.)' and 'Lord, I could-n't hear no-bod-y pray.'. Dynamics include piano (p), pianissimo (pp), and mezzo-piano (mp).

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13

On my knees, _____

p Could-n't hear no-bod - y pray. Could-n't hear no-bod - y

p

16

With my bur - den, _____ And my Sav - ior. ____

pray. Could-n't hear no-bod - y pray.

p

19

p *N.B.

Could-n't hear no-bod - y pray. Oh, Lord, you know I could-n't hear no-bod - y

*N.B. = No Breath.

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22

Oh, Lord. Oo. pray. Could-n't hear no-bod - y pray. Oo.

26

I could-n't hear no-bod - y pray. Oo. Lord, I

30

Chill - y wa - ters, could-n't hear no-bod - y pray. Could-n't hear no-bod - y

33

In the Jor - dan, _____ Cross - ing o - ver, _____
pray. Could - n't hear no - bod - y pray.

36

_____ In - to Ca - naan. _____
Could - n't hear no - bod - y pray. Could - n't hear no - bod - y

39

N.B.

pray. Oh, Lord, you know I could - n't hear no - bod - y pray. Oh, Lord, you know I
cresc. e accel.

cresc. e accel.

42

Oh, Lord! _____

could-n't hear no-bod - y pray. Could-n't hear no-bod - y pray. Oh, —

ff *ff*

46

allargando *mf*

Hal - le - lu - jah! —

allargando *mf*

way down yon - der by — my - self, An' I could-n't hear no-bod - y pray. _____

allargando *mf*

50

Trou - ble's o - ver, _____ In the king - dom, —

— Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu, trou - ble's o - ver, hal - le -

54

With my Je - sus. _____

- lu, in the king-dom, hal - le - lu - jah. Oh, Lord, you know I

N.B.

57

Oh, Lord. _____ Oh, _ Lord. _____

could-n't hear no-bod-y pray. Could-n't hear no-bod-y pray.

61

p Oh, _ Lord. _____

Could-n't hear no-bod-y pray. *pp* Could-n't hear no-bod-y pray.

p *pp*