

Commissioned by the Chesapeake Chorale
Paul Rardin, Artistic Director
Premiere Performance May 12, 2001
Bowie, Maryland

Harlem Songs

for SATB Chorus and Piano

Langston Hughes

Gwyneth Walker

1. Spirituals

Slowly, with a sense of grandeur

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

p *f* *l.v.*

8^{vb} Ped.

2

p *f* *l.v.*

8^{vb} Ped.

* This note was changed from G to B-flat by the composer in 2006.

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3

p *f*

(Ped.)

4

Stately ♩ = 66

f

Rocks and the firm roots of trees. The ris - ing shafts of

Stately ♩ = 66

f *p*

(Ped.)

7

moun - tains. Some - thing strong to put my hands on.

moun - tains. Some - thing strong to put my hands on.

moun - tains. Some - thing strong to put my hands on.

moun - tains. Some - thing strong to put my hands on.

f *p*

(8^{vb})

Ped.

10

Sing, O Lord Je - sus! Song is a strong thing.

Sing, O Lord Je - sus! Song is a strong thing.

Sing, O Lord Je - sus! Song is a strong thing.

Sing, O Lord Je - sus! Song is a strong thing.

f

Ped.

12

f

f

f

f

solo mf quasi recitative

I heard my moth - er sing - ing when life hurt her:

p — *f*

l.v.

Ped.

14 In a lilting, relaxed manner ♩ = 100

swung eighths mf

Gon - na

swung eighths mf

Gon - na

p imitating a cymbal swung eighths

tss — ta — ta ta ta

p imitating a cymbal swung eighths

tss — ta — ta ta ta

In a lilting, relaxed manner ♩ = 100

p

Ped.

sim.

18

ride in my char - iot some - day! — Gon - na ride in my char - iot

ride in my char - iot some - day! — Gon - na ride in my char - iot

tss _____ ta ta ta ta tss _____

tss _____ ta ta ta ta tss _____

3 3 3 3 3 3

21

some - day! — Gon - na ride in my char - iot some - day, —

some - day! — Gon - na ride in my char - iot some - day, —

ta ta ta ta tss _____ ta ta ta ta

ta ta ta ta tss _____ ta ta ta ta

3 3 3 3 3 3

30

p Gon - na ride, *mf* ride, ride, ride,

p Gon - na ride, *mf* ride, ride, ride,

ride in my char - iot some - day,

ride in my char - iot some - day,

mf

Ped.

33

p rit. ride, ride, ride, ride...

p ride, ride, ride, ride... *mf* ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride...

mf ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride... *p*

rit. ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride...

p *mf*

(Ped.) Ped.

36 $\text{♩} = 66$ *straight eighths f*

The

straight eighths f

The

straight eighths f

The

straight eighths f

The

$\text{♩} = 66$

p *f* *p* *f*

Ped. *Ped.*

40

branch - es rise From the firm roots of trees. The moun - tains rise From the

branch - es rise From the firm roots of trees. The moun - tains rise From the

branch - es rise From the firm roots of trees. The moun - tains rise From the

branch - es rise From the firm roots of trees. The moun - tains rise From the

p *f* *p*

Ped. *Ped.*

43

sol - id lap of earth. The waves rise From the

sol - id lap of earth. The waves rise From the

sol - id lap of earth. The waves rise From the

sol - id lap of earth. The waves rise From the

f *p* 6 6 6 6

(Ped.) Ped.

45

dead weight of sea. Sing, O black moth - er!

dead weight of sea. Sing, O black moth - er!

dead weight of sea. Sing, O black moth - er!

dead weight of sea. Sing, O black moth - er!

f 6 6 6 6

E

E

3

47 *rit.* ----- *(f)* **Slowly**

Sing, O black moth - er! Song is a strong, is a strong, is a strong.

Sing, O black moth - er! Song is a strong, is a strong, is a strong

Sing, O black moth - er! Song is a strong, is a strong, is a strong

Sing, O black moth - er! Song is a strong, is a strong, is a strong

rit. ----- **Slowly**

49 *accel.* ----- **a tempo** ♩ = 66

thing.

thing.

thing.

thing.

accel. ----- **a tempo** ♩ = 66

p ----- *f*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. 6 6

rit. ----- *start slowly and accel.* -----

p gradual cresc. to end

51

Song
p gradual cresc. to end

Song
p gradual cresc. to end

Song
p gradual cresc. to end

Song
p gradual cresc. to end

rit. ----- *start slowly and accel.* -----

p gradual cresc. to end

p ----- *f*

p gradual cresc. to end

54

Quickly

rit. -----

ff

is a strong, strong thing. *ff*

is a strong, strong thing. *ff*

is a strong, strong thing. *ff*

is a strong, strong thing. *ff*

Quickly

rit. -----

ff

ff

ff

Ped.