

The Gift to Sing

Poem by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

Music by Michael Tyler Roberts

Soulful, a little somber ♩ = 80

* a small "scoop" ascending to the written pitch, soul-style

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

SOLO *mp*

Some - times the mist _____ o - ver - hangs my path, And black - en - ing clouds _____ a - bout me

Clap
(*tutti*)

Soulful, a little somber ♩ = 80

Piano

p

A

5

cling: _____ But, oh, _____ I have a mag - ic _____ way To turn the gloom _____ to cheer - ful _____

Pno.

5

cresc.

The Gift

9 *molto rit.* **A** *a tempo* *p* *rit.* *a tempo* *mf* *rit.*

S La da da da da da da da La da da da da da

A *f* *p* **SECTION** *p* *mf*
 day— I soft - ly — sing. La da da da da da da La da da da da da

T *p* *mf*
 La da da da da da da La da da da da da

B *p* *mf*
 da da da da da da La da da da da da

Pno. *mf* *pp* *p*

B *A little faster... ♩ = 84* *...and groovier* *mp*

S da And if the way — grows dark - er still, — *mp*

A da Shad-owed by sor - *mp*

T da And if the way — grows dark - er still, — *mp*

B da Shad-owed by sor - *mp*

Pno. *mf* *p* *mp*

The Gift

18 *cresc.*

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

A - row's som - ber wing, With glad de - fi - ance in my throat, I pierce

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

B - row's som - ber wing, With glad de - fi - ance in my throat, I pierce

18 *cresc.*

Pno.

22 *mf* *accel. poco a poco*

S the dark - ness with a note, And sing, and sing,

A the dark - ness with a note, And sing, and sing,

T the dark - ness with a note, And sing, and sing,

B the dark - ness with a note, And sing, and sing,

22 *mf* *accel. poco a poco*

Pno.

The Gift

26 **C** Even faster ♩ = 96

S *f* I brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, *mf* Nor dread

A *f* I brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, *mf* Nor dread

T *f* I brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, *mf* Nor dread

B *f* I brood not o - ver the bro - ken past, *mf* Nor dread

Pno. **C** Even faster ♩ = 96

30 *mp* *cresc.*

S — what - ev - er time may — bring; No nights are dark, no days are long, — While in my heart

A *mp* — what - ev - er time may — bring; No nights are dark, no days are long, — While in my heart

T *mp* — what - ev - er time may — bring; No nights are dark, no days are long, — While in my heart

B *mp* — what - ev - er time may — bring; No nights are dark, no days are long, — While in my heart

Pno. *mp* *cresc.*

The Gift

D Up! ♩ = 100

34 *accel.* *f*

S — there swells a song, — And I can — sing, — and I can — sing

A — there swells a song, — And I can — sing, — no nights are dark, no days are long, And I can — sing,

T — there swells a song, — And I can — sing, — and I can — sing

B — there swells a song, — And I can — sing, — no nights are dark, no days are long, And I can — sing,

Pno. *accel.* *f* **D** Up! ♩ = 100

38 *f* *f*

S — I can sing, — I can sing, —

A — while in my heart there swells a song La da da da — da da da — da da — La da da da

T — I can sing, — I can sing, —

B — while in my heart there swells a song La da da — da da — da da — La da da

Pno.