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Harlem Songs

for SSAA Chorus and Piano

Langston Hughes (1902–1967)

Gwyneth Walker

1. Spirituals

Tempo: **Slowly, with a sense of grandeur**

Soprano 1
Soprano 2

Alto 1
Alto 2

Piano

p — *f*

8vb

Lea.

l.v.

2

p — *f*

8vb

Lea.

l.v.

3

p — *f*

8vb

Lea.

4/4

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4 **A** Stately ♩ = 66
unis. f

S1
S2
Rocks and the firm roots of trees. The ris - ing shafts of

A1
A2
Rocks and the firm roots of trees. The ris - ing shafts of

A Stately ♩ = 66

p *f* *p*

(8vb)
(Led.)

7

S1
S2
moun - tains. Some-thing strong to put my hands on.

A1
A2
moun - tains. Some-thing strong to put my hands on.

f *p*

(8vb)
(Led.)

21

1
S some - day! — Gon - na ride in my char - iot some - day! —

2
some - day! — Gon - na ride in my char - iot some - day! —

1
A ta — ta ta ta tss ta — ta ta ta

2
ta — ta ta ta tss ta — ta ta ta

24

1
S ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, Gon - na ride, *p* Gon - na

2
ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, Gon - na ride, *p* Gon - na

1
A ta Gon - na ride in my char - iot *mf*

2
ta Gon - na ride in my char - iot *mf*

mf *p*

Leo.

Leo.

40

S1
S2
A1
A2

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*

And. *And.*

43

S1
S2
A1
A2

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

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

f *p*

And. *And.*

45

E

1
S dead weight of sea. Sing, O black moth - er!

2
dead weight of sea. Sing, O black moth - er!

1
A dead weight of sea. Sing, O black moth - er!

2
dead weight of sea. Sing, O black moth - er!

E

f

3

47 *ritard.*

Slowly

1
S Sing, O black moth - er! Song is a strong, is a strong, is a strong -

2
Sing, O black moth - er! Song is a strong, is a strong, is a strong

1
A Sing, O black moth - er! Song is a strong, is a strong, is a strong

2
Sing, O black moth - er! Song is a strong, is a strong, is a strong

ritard.

Slowly

f

54 **Quickly** *ritard.* **ff**

1 S — is a strong, strong thing. **ff**

2 S — is a strong, strong thing. **ff**

1 A — is a strong, strong thing. **ff**

2 A — is a strong, strong thing. **ff**

Quickly *ritard.* **ff**

The musical score consists of vocal and piano parts. The vocal parts are for Soprano (S) and Alto (A), each with two staves. The lyrics are 'is a strong, strong thing.' The piano accompaniment is shown in grand staff notation. Performance markings include 'Quickly', 'ritard.', and 'ff'.

Duration: 3'45"

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