

GREAT MEN OF LONG AGO

Three-Part Mixed, optional Baritone, accompanied

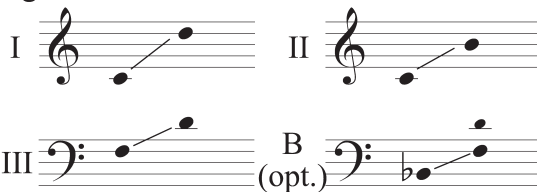
Spirituals

Arranged by
LON BEERY

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Range:



Time: Approx. 1:58

*Difficulty: Moderate

Performance Notes

African-American spirituals are among the most important and treasured American folk songs. They fused elements of Western harmonies and Christian faith with the exuberance and vitality of African rhythms. The result was a new genre of folk song that has influenced American music ever since. One can make a rather direct connection from spirituals to early forms of jazz, rock, pop, gospel and rhythm and blues. Their influence is still felt today!

The texts of spirituals are often taken from Biblical stories. It is little wonder that many of these stories were ones from the Hebrew Scriptures (or “Old Testament”). Certainly the slaves could identify with such stories as Moses delivering the children of Israel from slavery. This story no doubt became a source of hope as they lived their own lives in slavery. The spiritual, “Go Down, Moses,” must have been sung with great enthusiasm as they sang “Tell old Pharaoh, let my people go.” Likewise, “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho” recounts the story of when the walls of Jericho were miraculously brought down. Such a story must have given hope to the African-American slaves who looked forward to the day when the walls of oppression would come tumbling down as well.

These two popular spirituals have been interwoven in “Great Men of Long Ago” along with an original melody that ties them together. I hope you enjoy singing this piece!

L.B.

GREAT MEN OF LONG AGO

Three-Part Mixed, with optional Baritone, accompanied

Spirituals

Arranged by LON BEERY (ASCAP)

With energy! (♩ = 142)

The musical score is written for three parts: I (Soprano), II (Alto), and Piano. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked 'With energy! (♩ = 142)'. The piano introduction starts with a forte (f) dynamic. The vocal parts enter with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The lyrics are: 'Come, now and hear of those who fought the fight, — who walked by faith, — and stood for right, — o - beyed the Lord — with —'. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, and dynamic markings.

Piano Introduction: *f*

Vocal Entry: *mf* unis. 5

Lyrics: Come, now and hear of those who fought the fight, — who walked by faith, — and stood for right, — o - beyed the Lord — with —

Piano Accompaniment: *mf*

Measure 9: 9

all their might, Great men of long a-go.

13
unis.

Mos-es told Pha-roah in E-gypt land, "We've got-ta go, it's the

17

Lord's com-mand." They walked through the sea as if on dry land! Great

I *mf* [21] men of long a - go. When Is - rael was in

II *mf* men of long a - go. When Is - rael was in

III *mf* When Is - rael was in

[21] *mf*

E-gypt's land, "Let my peo-ple go." Op -

E-gypt's land, "Let my peo-ple go." Op -

E-gypt's land, "Let my peo-ple go." Op -

25

pressed so hard they could not stand, "Let my peo-ple go."

pressed so hard they could not stand, "Let my peo-ple go."

pressed so hard they could not stand, "Let my peo-ple go."

25

The musical score for measures 25-29 features three vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The vocal parts enter at measure 25 with the lyrics "pressed so hard they could not stand, 'Let my peo-ple go.'" The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

29

Go down, Mos - es,

Go down, Mos - es,

29

The musical score for measures 29-33 continues with the same three vocal parts and piano accompaniment. At measure 29, the vocal parts enter with the lyrics "Go down, Mos - es,". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note bass line and chords. The score ends at measure 33.

way down in E - gypt's land, — Tell old

Tell old

way down in E - gypt's land, — Tell old

33

Pha - roah, "Let my peo - ple go." —

Pha - roah, "Let my peo - ple go." —

Pha - roah, "Let my peo - ple go." —

38

I Josh-ua, he came_ to old Jer - i - cho._

II Josh-ua, he came_ to old Jer - i - cho._

38

42

Said, "These walls_ have got to go!"_ He walked round by faith_ 'til they

Said, "These walls_ have got to go!"_ He walked round by faith_ 'til they

42

came down low._ Great men of long a - go._

came down low._ Great men of long a - go._

III 46

Josh-ua fit the bat-tle of Jer-i - cho, Jer-i - cho,

50

Jer-i - cho, Oh, Josh-ua fit the bat-tle of Jer-i - cho, and the

I 54 *f*

II *f*

III *f*

Come, now and hear of those who

When Is - rael was in

walls came tum-blin' down! Josh - ua fit the bat-tle of

54 *f*

fought the fight, who walked by faith, and stood for right, o -

E-gypt's land, "Let my peo-ple go."— Op -

Jer - i - cho, Jer - i - cho, Jer - i - cho. Oh,

58

beyed the Lord with all their might, Great men of long a- go.

pressed so hard they could not stand, "Let my peo-ple go."

Josh-ua fit the bat-tle of Jer - i - cho, and the walls came tum-blin' down.

58

62

Go down, Mos - es,

Go down, Mos - es,

66

way down in E - gypt's land, o - beyed the Lord with

Tell old

way down in E - gypt's land, Josh-ua fit the bat - tle of

66

all their might, Great men of long a - go.____

Pha - roah, "Let my peo - ple go."____

Jer - i - cho, and the walls came tum-blin' down.____

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