

# WADE IN THE WATER

TB Voices and Piano with Optional Solos

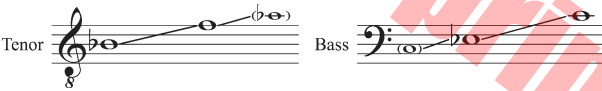
Traditional Spiritual  
Arranged by Dan Davison

*BriLee Music*  
**Part-by-Part**



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Range:



Language: English  
Use: General/Festival  
Time: Approx. 2:58  
\*Difficulty: Moderate

*BriLee Music*  
*the Voice of Choral Music*

## Note from the Composer

*Wade In the Water* was written specifically to bring success to male choirs of all ages. In particular, the vocal ranges have been chosen to fit into the comfortable singing ranges of young tenors and basses. It is also the arranger's hope that the strong, driving beat, along with the heavy articulations, will give the piece a "manly" sound so as to be appealing to young men.

The original song is a spiritual and was used as a "coded" song in the Underground Railroad. The lyrics would seem innocent enough to a slave owner when sung by a slave, but in reality, the song contains instructions for fugitive slaves that would help them avoid capture. For example, "wading in the water" would take escapees off of the land and into the water where detection by dogs would be much less likely.

Directors may notice that there are numerous opportunities for solos in this piece. While the solos are optional, it is the hope of the arranger that directors will choose to hold auditions for the solos. The reason is simple: young men have a tendency to be competitive, and as soon as one or two singers have shown what they can do on a solo, it is likely that many others will try as well. The process of trying out for a solo can be a great experience in a classroom, especially if the class is supportive. If done properly, there is potential for great growth in the area of vocal confidence.

To aid in the process of solo tryouts, care was taken to put each solo in a small vocal range, with plenty of variety to accommodate the diverse ranges of young men.

## About the Arranger

Dan Davison has been the Choir Director at Ballou Junior High in Puyallup, Washington since 1979. In addition to conducting the five ensembles at the school, he has numerous teaching and mentoring responsibilities, and sings professionally with Male Ensemble Northwest.

Dan was born in 1956 in Sacramento, California, but has lived in the greater Seattle area since 1965. Since 1979, he has lived in Puyallup, Washington with his wife, Cathy, who is also a public school teacher. He attended public schools in the Bellevue School District and then attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington where he received his Bachelor's degree, studying under Maurice Skones. He continued his education with a Master's In Music from Western Washington University, studying with Bruce Pullan.

Dan's tenure as Choir Director at Ballou Junior High School has acquainted him well with the complexities of the adolescent voice. Each year Dan directs a 7th Grade Boys Chorus, a 7th-Grade Girls Chorus, an 8th-Grade Mixed Choir, and a 9th-Grade Mixed Choir. In addition, Dan conducts a 16-voice Jazz Choir that is extra curricular. His Jazz Choir performed at the ACDA Northwest Convention in Seattle in 2010. Dan is experienced as a church choir director, and has also directed choirs at Western Washington University and Pacific Lutheran University. Dan also directed the Youth Choir (grades 7-9) for the 2014 ACDA Northwest Convention in Seattle.

Dan has received numerous awards for his role in music education, including the 1996 State Of Washington *Christa McAuliffe Educator of the Year*, *The Educator Citizen of the Year* for 2010 for Communities In Schools In Puyallup, Washington, and also the *Outstanding Choral Director Award* for 2010 from the Washington chapter of The American Choral Director's Association.

## 3

Traditional Spiritual  
*Arranged by Dan Davison*

**Wade, Wade, Wade**

Arranged by Dan Davidson

Tempo: 160

Instrumentation: Piano, Tenor, Bass

Key: B-flat major

Time Signature: 4/4

Lyrics: Wade, wade, wade, — Wade, wade, wade, —

Dynamics: *f*, *mf*, *mp*

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11

*pp* *p*

Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren, Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

*p*

Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

*pp* *p*

13

*mp* *mf*

Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren, Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

*mp* *mf* *f*

Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren, Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren, Wade in the

*mp* *mf* *f*

16

*f*

Wade in the wa - ter. — Wade, wade, wade in the

wa - ter. — Wade, wade, wade in the

20

*mp*

wa - ter. — God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter. —

*mp*

wa - ter. — God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter. —

23

*mf* solo

Riv - er Jor - dan is chil - ly and cold. —

*p*

God's a gon - na trou - ble the

*p* tutti

God's a gon - trou - ble the

26

wa - ter. —

*mf* solo

wa - ter. — Chills the bod - y but not the soul. —

*p* God's a gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter. — *mf* solo If you get there be -

*p* tutti God's a gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter. —

*p*

32 *mp* tutti *mf* solo  
do. I do, — God's a gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter. — Tell  
*mp*  
God's a gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter. —

*mp*

35 *mp* tutti  
all my friends I'm com-in' too! — God's a gon-na troub-le the  
*mp*  
God's a gon-na troub-le the

*p* *mp*

38

wa - ter. —

wa - ter. —

*f*

41

*mf* Wade in the

*mf* Wade in the wa - ter. —

*mf*

44

wa - ter. — Wade, wade, wade in the wa - ter. —

*f*

Wade, wade, wade in the wa - ter. —

*f*

47

*mp*

God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter. \_\_\_\_

*mp* *mf* solo

God's a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter. \_\_\_\_ The

*mp*

49

*mp*

God's a gon-na trou-ble, God's \_

*mp* tutti

dev-il is a li - ar and a cheat-er, too. \_ God's a gon-na trou-ble, God's \_

*p* *mp*

52

*mf* solo

\_\_ a gon - na trou - ble. You bet - ter watch out, 'cause he's

\_\_ a gon - na trou - ble.

*p*





63

*mp*

God's a gon-na troub-le the wa - ter. —

*mp* tutti

God's a gon-na troub-le the wa - ter. —

*mp**f*

66

*mf*

Wade in the wa-ter, wade in the wa-ter, wade —

*mp*

69

*mf*

Wade in the wa-ter, wade —

— in the wa-ter chil - dren, —

Wade in the wa-ter, wade —

*mf*

72

in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter chil - dren. *f* If

in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter chil - dren.

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75

you get there be - fore I do, tell all my friends I'm

*f* Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter

8va-----

*mf*

78

com-in' too. If you get there be - fore I do, you got to

chil - dren, Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, *dim.*

8va-----

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81

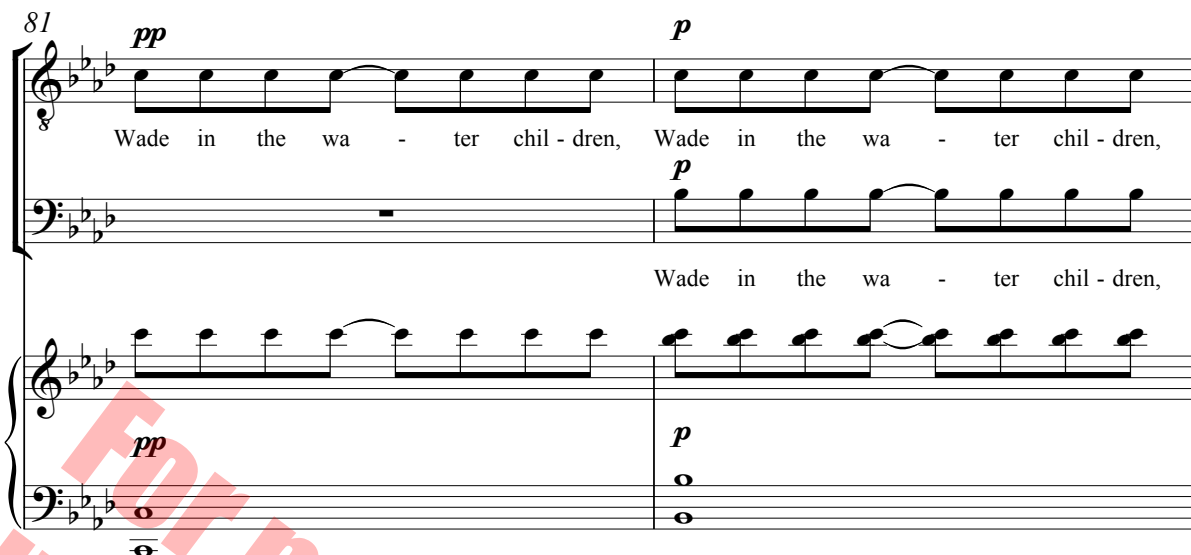
*pp* *p*

Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren, Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

*p*

Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

*pp* *p*



83

*mp* *mf*

Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren, Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

*mp* *mf*

Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren, Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

*mp* *mf*



85

*f*

Wade in the wa - ter. \_ Wade in the wa - ter. \_

*f*

Wade in the wa - ter. \_ Wade in the wa - ter. \_

*f*



89

Wade, wade, wade in the wa - ter. — God's a gon-na trou-ble the

Wade, wade, wade in the wa - ter. — God's a gon-na trou-ble the

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

92

wa - ter, — the wa - - - - -

wa - ter. — the wa - - - - -

*p*

95

- ter. — Wade

- ter. — Wade in the wa - ter, chil-dren,

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

in the wa - ter,

wade in the wa - ter chil - dren, wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

*p*  
Wade

wade in the wa - ter chil - dren, Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

in the wa - - - -

wade in the wa - ter chil - dren, wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

104

ter, *pp* Wade. \_\_\_\_\_

*pp*

wade in the wa - ter chil - dren, wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

*pp*

106

Wade. \_\_\_\_\_ *rit.*

wade in the wa - ter chil - dren, wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

*rit.*

108

Wade. \_\_\_\_\_

wade in the wa - ter chil - dren, Wade.

# BriLee Music

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BriLee Music, founded by the late Brian Busch in 1997, is the leader in publishing choral music written specifically for the developing middle school and junior high singer.

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