

Michal Dawson Connor



SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT

FOR SATB A CAPPELLA CHOIR
WITH SOPRANO AND BARITONE SOLOS

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SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT

for SATB a cappella choir with soprano and baritone solos

An indomitable sense of hope, and unvarnished sorrow, permeate each line and melody of these unforgettable songs- forged in the anvil of abject misery and despair, aching for freedom's light.

Humiliated beyond all human reckoning, and given no respite from the daily drudgery of endless toil- these fiercely resilient souls somehow persevered, despite the harshest obstacles- leaving behind a true golden legacy of words and music to cherish. In his famous autobiography, Frederick Douglass wrote:

"Slaves sing most when they are most unhappy. The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart; and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by its tears."

I am deeply honored to present these musical footprints of my proud ancestors- and hope that by singing them, we pause to remember the undaunted courage and grit of the men and women who originally composed them.

— MICHAL DAWSON CONNOR

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for Martin David Connor
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
SATB a cappella with Soprano & Baritone Solos

Con desiderio ♩ = 60

arr. by Michal Dawson Connor

Soprano **Solo** *mp* **Tutti** *mf*

Oh, oh, Swing low, sweet

Alto *mf* Low, sweet

Tenor *mp* *mf* Oh, Swing low, sweet

Bass *mp* *mf* Oh, Swing low, sweet

Piano (for rehearsal only) *mp* *mf*

Con desiderio ♩ = 60

S. cha - ri - ot, co - ming for to car - ry me home;

A. cha - ri - ot, co - ming for to car - ry me home cross Jor - dan;

T. cha - ri - ot, Lord, co - ming for to car - ry me a - home cross Jor - dan;

B. cha - ri - ot, co - ming for to car - ry me home!

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

13 *a tempo*
mf

Bar. Solo

Swing low, sweet cha - ri - ot, — co - ming for to car - ry me

mp

S. Swing low, swing low, swing, sweet cha - riot, come — to car - ry me

mp

A. Swing low, swing low, swing, sweet cha - riot, — come to car - ry me

mp

T. Swing low, — swing low, — swing, sweet cha - ri - ot, come — to — car - ry me —

mp

B. Swing low, swing low, swing, sweet cha - riot, come to car - ry me

a tempo
mp

16

Bar. Solo

home. Swing low, sweet cha - ri - ot,

S. home to Jor - dan. Co - ver me — be - neath Thy wings, Lord,

A. home to Jor - dan. — Co - ver — me — be - neath Thy wings, Lord,

T. home — to Jor - dan. Co - ver me — be - neath Thy wings, Lord,

B. home, car - ry me. Co - ver me be - neath Thy wings, Lord,

19

Bar. Solo

co-ming for to car-ry me home! I looked o-ver Jor-dan and

S. come to car-ry me al-most home to Jor-dan. Looked o'er Jor-dan

A. come to car-ry me al-most home to Jor-dan. Looked o-ver Jor-dan

T. come to car-ry me al-most home to Jor-dan. Looked o-ver Jor-dan

B. come to car-ry me al-most home to Jor-dan. Looked o-ver Jor-dan

22

Bar. Solo

what did I see, co-ming for to car-ry me home? A

S. with eyes o-pened wide. Glo-ry! Glo-ry! Glo-ry, hal-le-lu!

A. with eyes o-pened wide. Glo-ry! Glo-ry! Glo-ry, hal-le-lu!

T. with eyes o-pened wide. Glo-ry! Glo-ry! Glo-ry, hal-le-lu!

B. with eyes o-pened wide. Glo-ry! Glo-ry! Glo-ry, hal-le-lu!

25

Bar. Solo

band of an - gels co - ming af - ter me, co - ming for to car - ry me

S. Rea - dy to meet my Lord, al - most home, I'm

A. Rea - dy now, meet my Lord in glo - ry, al - most home, I'm

T. Rea - dy now, meet my Lord in glo - ry, al - most home, I'm

B. Rea - dy now, meet my Lord, al - most home, I'm

28

Bar. Solo

home, home!

S. al - most home! Cold these feet, warm my soul, wa - ding in the ri - ver,

A. al - most home! Cold feet, warm my soul, wa - ding in the ri - ver,

T. al - most home! Cold these feet, warm my soul, wa - ding in the ri - ver,

B. al - most home! Cold feet, warm soul, wade the ri - ver,

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

31

S. Al-most home to Camp-ground on that shore! Swing low,

A. Al-most home to Camp-ground on that shore! Swing low, Je-sus,

T. Al-most home to Camp-ground on that far-ther shore, my Sa-vior! Swing low,

B. oh, Camp-ground on that shore! Swing low,



34

Sop. Solo Tell my bro-thers where I've gone to,

Bar. Solo Swing low,

S. save me now. Don't look back - wards

A. save me now, right now. Don't look back - wards

T. oh, Je - sus, now, right now. Don't look back - wards

B. save me, now, right now. Don't look back - wards

Sop. Solo
 si - lent foot-steps in the ri - ver. I am go - ing

Bar. Solo
 swing low, I am go - ing

S.
 on your jour - ney. I am go - ing,

A.
 on your jour - ney. I am go - ing,

T.
 on your jour - ney. I am go - ing,

B.
 on your jour - ney. I am go - ing, yes, I'm

Sop. Solo
 home. Swing low, sweet cha - ri - ot,

Bar. Solo
 to the pro-mised land! Hush, my sis-ters, I am al - most home!

S.
mf head-ing for the pro-mised land! Hush, my sis-ters, don't tar-ry, clouds of an - gels

A.
mf head-ing for the pro-mised land! Hush, don't tar - ry, clouds of an - gels

T.
mf head-ing for the pro-mised land! Hush, don't tar - ry, clouds of an - gels

B.
mf head-ing for the pro-mised land! Hush, don't tar - ry, clouds of an - gels

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Sop. Solo

Oh, fie - ry cha - riots

f co - ming for to carry me far from home! Fie - ry cha - riot *sub. p*

f co - ming for to carry me far a - way from home! Fie - ry cha - riot *sub. p*

f co - ming for to carry me far a - way from, far from home! Fie - ry cha - riot *sub. p*

f co - ming for to carry me far from home! Fie - ry cha - riot *sub. p*

45 *molto allargando* *sfz* *ff*

Sop. Solo

in the air, home!

f *ff* *molto allargando* *f* *ff*

S. in the air, co - ming for to car - ry me, go - ing home! *f* *ff*

f *ff* *molto allargando* *f* *ff*

A. in the air, co - ming for to car - ry me, go - ing home! *f* *ff*

f *ff* *molto allargando* *f* *ff*

T. in the air, co - ming for to car - ry me, go - ing home! *f* *ff*

f *ff* *molto allargando* *f* *ff*

B. in the air, co - ming for to car - ry me, go - ing home! *f* *ff*