

SWINGIN' DOWN TO THE RIVER | ARR. TEMPLETON | SSATTB



SWINGIN' DOWN TO THE RIVER

for SSATTB, a cappella

Arranged by

MARK D. TEMPLETON



Down to the River to Pray, popularized by the movie, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000), was originally entitled *The Good Old Way* (see below). It was first published in 1867 as part of a compilation of slave songs edited by George H. Allen. Although the song is attributed to him, it is understood that he is only the editor, not the composer. The original tune is thought to have its roots in the Native American tribes of the northwest. The tune would have undoubtedly been passed from one American culture to the other until it was first notated in the *Slave Songs of the US* (1867). The text is thought to have its roots in the Underground Railroad. Whoever was to be freed (brother, sister, father, mother, etc.) would wear the robe and crown. This arrangement, for six parts – SSATTB, uses a fun swing rhythm throughout. The slower and straight forward section, measures 103-114, incorporates a round and offers a welcome contrast to the syncopated swing rhythms. The song concludes with a bombastic barbershop style ending that your choir is sure to enjoy.

Vocal Ranges

The diagram shows the vocal ranges for six parts: S1, S2, A, T1, T2, and B. The notes are placed on a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. S1 is on a high note in the treble clef, S2 is on a lower note in the treble clef, A is on a note in the treble clef. T1 and T2 are on notes in the bass clef, and B is on a low note in the bass clef.

THE GOOD OLD WAY Attributed to George H. Allen

As I went down in de val-ley to pray, Stud-ying a-bout dat good old way, When
 you shall wear de star-ry crown, Good Lord, show me de way. O mour-ner,* let's go down.
 let's go down, let's go down, O mour-ner, let's go down, Down in de val-ley to pray.

From *Slave Songs Of The US*, p. 104, published in 1867 by Simpson and Company

* Brother, Sister, etc.



Mark Templeton, born 1974, is an American choral composer, conductor, and countertenor. Templeton's music has been performed across the world at various international festivals and ACDA conventions. Some of his music is published by Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and he has recently started to self-publish. He teaches and resides with his wife, Becca, at West Nottingham Academy in Colora, Maryland, the oldest boarding school in the United States. He also enjoys coaching, playing, and watching soccer when he is not working. He is available for commission upon request.

Swingin' Down to the River

for SSATTB, a cappella

Attributed to George H. Allen from *Slave Songs Of The US*, 1867

Arranged by Mark D. Templeton

Swing $\text{♩} = 112$

Tenor 2 *mf*

As I went down to the ri - ver to pray, ___

T 2

Stu - dy-in' a-bout that
goo(d) hd ol' way, ___ oh, When you shall wear the star - ry ___ crown, ___ Good Lord! Show me ___ the

T 2 *f*

way. O, Brothers, let's go down, ___ let's go dow(n) hn, come o(n) ___ hn down. ___

B *f*

O, Brothers, let's go down, ___ let's go dow(n) hn, come o(n) ___ hn down.

T 1 *mf*

As I went

T 2 *f*

O, Brothers, let's go down, ___ down to the ri - ver to pray, ___ As I went

B *f*

O, Brothers, let's go down, ___ down to the ri - ver to pray, ___ As I went

T 1

down to the ri - ver to pray, ___ Stu - dy-in' a-bout that goo(d) hd ol' way, ___ oh, When

T 2

down to the ri - ver to pray, ___ Stu - dy-in' a-bout that goo(d) hd ol' way, ___ oh, When

B

down, ___ Swing-in, down, ___ down, ___

Swingin' Down to the River

23

T 1 you shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord! Show me the way. O, Fa-thers, *f*

T 2 you shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord! Show me the way. O, Fa-thers, *f*

B wear the crown Good Lord! Show me the way. O, Fa-thers, *f*

28

T 1 let's go down, let's go dow(n) hn, come o(n) hn down. O, Fa-thers, *f*

T 2 let's go down, let's go dow(n) hn, come o(n) hn down. O, Fa-thers, *f*

B let's go down, let's go dow(n) hn, come o(n) hn down. O, Fa-thers, *f*

32

S 1 *mp* As I went down to the ri-ver to pray,

S 2 *mp* As I went down to the ri-ver to pray,

A *mp* As I went down to the ri-ver to pray,

T 1 *mp* let's go down, down to the ri-ver to pray. As I went down to pray,

T 2 *mp* let's go down, down to the ri-ver to pray. As I went down to pray,

B *mp* let's go down, down to the ri-ver to pray. As I went down to pray,

32

for rehearsal

Swingin' Down to the River

37

mf

S 1 Stu-dy-in' a-bout that goo(d) hd ol' way, oh, When you shall wear the

S 2 Stu-dy-in' a-bout that goo(d) hd ol' way, oh, When you shall wear the

A Stu-dy-in' a-bout that goo(d) hd ol' way, oh, When you shall wear the

T 1 don' cha know I'm Stu-dy-in' that good way, oh, When you wear the

T 2 don' cha know I'm Stu-dy-in' that good way, oh, When you wear the

B don' cha know I'm Stu-dy-in' that good way, oh, When you wear the

37

mf

41

S 1 star - ry crown, Good Lord! Show me the way. O, Mo-thers,

S 2 star - ry crown, Good Lord! Show me the way. O, Mo-thers,

A star - ry crown, Good Lord! Show me the way. O, Mo-thers,

T 1 crown, Good Lord! Show me the way. O, Mo-thers,

T 2 crown, Good Lord! Show me the way. O, Mo-thers,

B crown, Good Lord! Show me the way. And we're swing - in' O, Mo-thers,

41

f

Swingin' Down to the River

45

S 1 let's go down, let's go down, hn come o(n) hn down. O, Mothers,

S 2 let's go down, let's go down, hn come o(n) hn down. O, Mothers,

A let's go down, let's go down, hn come o(n) hn down. O, Mothers,

T 1 let's go down, let's go down, hn come o(n) hn down. O, Mothers,

T 2 let's go down, let's go down, why don' cha come o(n) hn down. O, Mothers,

B let's go down, let's go down, why don' cha come o(n) hn down. Swing-in' O, Mothers,

45

S 1 let's go down, down to the ri-ver to pra(y) ee ay! Hey! *ff*

S 2 let's go down, down to the ri-ver to pra(y) ee ay! Hey! *ff* *mp* The ri-ver, the ri-ver, the

A let's go down, down to the ri-ver to pra(y) ee ay! Hey! *ff* *mp* The ri-ver, the ri-ver, the

T 1 let's go down, down to the ri-ver to pra(y) ee ay! Hey! *ff* *mp* The ri-ver, the ri-ver, the

T 2 let's go down, down to the ri-ver to pra(y) ee ay! Hey! *ff* *mp* The ri-ver, to the ri-ver, the

B let's go down, down to the ri-ver to pra(y) ee ay! Down to the ri-ver, to the ri - ver, the

49

49

Swingin' Down to the River

53

mf

S 1 As I went

S 2 *f mp* ri - ver to pray! Hey! The ri - ver, the ri - ver, the ri - ver to pray! Hey! The

A *f mp* ri - ver to pray! Hey! The ri - ver, the ri - ver, the ri - ver to pray! Hey! The

T 1 *f mp* ri - ver to pray! Hey! The ri - ver, the ri - ver, the ri - ver to pray! Hey! The

T 2 *f mp* ri - ver to pray! Hey! The ri - ver, to the ri - ver, the ri - ver to pray! Hey! The

B *f mp* ri - ver to pray! Down to the ri - ver, to the ri - ver, the ri - ver to pray! Down to the

53

S 1 down to the ri - ver to pray, Stu - dy-in' a-bout that

S 2 *f mf* ri - ver, the ri - ver, the ri - ver to pray! Hey! to stu - dy a-bout that, that

A *f mf* ri - ver, the ri - ver, the ri - ver to pray! Hey! to stu - dy a-bout that, that

T 1 *f mf* ri - ver, the ri - ver, the ri - ver to pray! Hey! to stu - dy a-bout that, that

T 2 *f mf* ri - ver, to the ri - ver, the ri - ver to pray! Hey! to stu - dy a-bout that, that

B *f mf* ri - ver, to the ri - ver, the ri - ver to pray! Down to stu - dy all a-bout that

56

Swingin' Down to the River

59

S 1 *f* *ff*
 goo(d) hd ol' way, oh, When you shall wear the robe and crown, Good

S 2 *mp* *mf* *f*
 goo(d) hd ol' wa(y) ee ay! You shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord!

A *mp* *mf* *f*
 goo(d) hd ol' wa(y) ee ay! You shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord!

T 1 *mp* *mf* *f*
 goo(d) hd ol' wa(y) ee ay! You shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord!

T 2 *mp* *mf* *f*
 goo(d) hd ol' wa(y) ee ay! You shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord!

B *mp* *mf* *f*
 goo(d) hd ol' wa(y) ee ay! You shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord!

59

mp *mf* *f*

Freely
Trio or small ensemble

62

S 1 *mf*
 Lord! Show me the wa(y) ee ay! Hey! O, Sis-ters,

S 2 *ff* *mf*
 Good Lord! Show me the wa(y) ee ay! Hey! O, Sis-ters,

A *ff* *mf*
 Good Lord! Show me the wa(y) ee ay! Hey! O, Sis-ters,

T 1 *ff*
 Good Lord! Show me the wa(y) ee ay! Hey!

T 2 *ff*
 Good Lord! Show me the wa(y) ee ay! Hey!

B *ff*
 Good Lord! Show me the wa(y) ee ay!

62

ff *mf*

Swingin' Down to the River

67

mf *rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

S 1 let's go dow(n) how hown, let's go down, let's come on down.

S 2 let's go dow(n) how hown, let's go down, let's come on down.

A let's go dow(n) how - hown, let's go down, let's come on down.

T 1 Solo *f*
a, 2, 3,

T 2

B *f*
Swingin'

67

mp *f*

72 *tutti* *f*

S 1 Come on, Sis - ters, let's go! Come on, let's go. Why

S 2 Come on, Sis - ters, let's go! Come on, let's go. Why

A Come on, Sis - ters, let's go! Come on, let's go. Why

T 1 *f*
O, come, let's go down, down, down, Why

T 2 *f*
O, Sis - ters, let's go down, let's go down, Why

B *f*
O, come, let's go down, down, down, Why

72

Swingin' Down to the River

75

S 1 don' cha come down? Hey! Come on, Sis-ters, let's go!— Come on,

S 2 don' cha come down? Hey! Come on, Sis-ters, let's go!— Come on,

A don' cha come down? Hey! Come on, Sis-ters, let's go!— Come on,

T 1 don' cha come down? Hey! O, come, let's go down,—

T 2 don' cha come down? Hey! O, Sis-ters, let's go down,—

B don' cha come down? Swing-in' O, come, let's go down,—

76

S 1 let's go. Why don' cha come down? Hey!

S 2 let's go. Why don' cha come down? Hey! Swing-in' to the ri-ver, the

A let's go. Why don' cha come down? Hey! Swing-in' to the ri-ver, the

T 1 down, down, Why don' cha come down? Hey! Swing-in' to the ri-ver, the

T 2 let's go— down, Why don' cha come down? Hey! Swing-in' down to the ri-ver, the

B down, down, Why don' cha come down? Let's go swing-in' down to the ri-ver, the

77

81

mf
Let's all go

f *mf*
ri-ver to pray.— Let's go, Hey! to the ri-ver, the ri-ver to pray.— Let's go,

f *mf*
ri-ver to pray.— Let's go, Hey! to the ri-ver, the ri-ver to pray.— Let's go,

f *mf*
ri-ver to pray.— Let's go, Hey! to the ri-ver, the ri-ver to pray.— Let's go,

ri-ver to pray.— Oh, lets go swing-in' down to the ri-ver, the ri-ver to pray.— Oh, lets go

ri-ver to pray.— Oh, lets go swing-in' down to the ri-ver, the ri-ver to pray.— Oh, lets go

81

f *mf*

84

f
down to the ri-ver to pray, Let's go stu-dy_ all a-bout that

f *mf* *f*
Hey! to the ri-ver, the ri-ver to pray.— Let's go stu-dy_ all a-bout that

f *mf* *f*
Hey! to the ri-ver, the ri-ver to pray.— Let's go stu-dy_ all a-bout that

f *mf* *f*
Hey! to the ri-ver, the ri-ver to pray.— Let's go stu-dy_ all a-bout that

swing-in' down to the ri-ver, the ri-ver to pray.— Oh, lets go stu-dy_ all a-bout that

swing-in' down to the ri-ver, the ri-ver to pray.— Oh, lets go stu-dy_ all a-bout that

84

f *mf* *f*

Swingin' Down to the River

87

S 1 *mf* *f* *ff*
 goo(d) hd ol' way, oh, When we shall wear the star - ry crown, Good

S 2 *mp* *mf* *f*
 goo(d) hd ol' wa(y) ee ay! We shall wear the star - ry crown, Good Lord!

A *mp* *mf* *f*
 goo(d) hd ol' wa(y) ee ay! We shall wear the star - ry crown, Good Lord!

T 1 *mp* *mf* *f*
 goo(d) hd ol' wa(y) ee ay! We shall wear the star - ry crown, Good Lord!

T 2 *mp* *mf* *f*
 goo(d) hd ol' wa(y) ee ay! We shall wear the star - ry crown, Good Lord!

B *mp* *mf* *f*
 goo(d) hd ol' wa(y) ee ay! We shall wear the star - ry crown, Good Lord!

87

S 1 *f*
 Lord! Show us the wa(y) ee ay! Hey! Come on, Child - ren,

S 2 *ff* *f*
 Good Lord! Show us the wa(y) ee ay! Hey! Come on, Child - ren,

A *ff* *f*
 Good Lord! Show us the wa(y) ee - ay! Hey! Come on, Child - ren,

T 1 *ff* *f*
 Good Lord! Show us the wa(y) ee ay! Hey! O, come,

T 2 *ff* *f*
 Good Lord! Show us the wa(y) ee ay! Hey! O, Child - ren,

B *ff* *f*
 Good Lord! Show us the wa(y) ee ay! Swing - in' O, come,

89

89

Swingin' Down to the River

93

S 1 let's go!— Come on, let's go. Why don' cha come down? Hey! *ff*

S 2 let's go!— Come on, let's go. Why don' cha come down? Hey! *ff*

A let's go!— Come on, let's go. Why don' cha come down? Hey! *ff*

T 1 let's go down, down, down, Why don' cha come down? Hey! *ff*

T 2 let's go down, let's go down, Why don' cha come down? Hey! *ff*

B let's go down, down, down, Why don' cha come down? Swing-in' *f*

93

S 1 Come on, Child-ren, let's go!— Come on down to the ri-ver to pra(y) ee *f*

S 2 Come on, Child-ren, let's go!— Come on down to the ri-ver to pra(y) ee *f*

A Come on, Child-ren, let's go!— Come on down to the ri-ver to pra(y) ee *f*

T 1 O, come, let's go down, down to the ri-ver to pra(y) ee *f*

T 2 O, Child-ren, let's go down, down to the ri-ver to pra(y) ee *f*

B O, come, let's go down, down to the ri-ver to pra(y) ee *f*

96

Swingin' Down to the River

Smooth and Legato $\text{♩} = 56$

100 *rit.* *mp*

S 1 ay, to pray. As

S 2 ay, to pray. As I went down to the

A ay, to pray. As I went down to the river to pray,

T 1 ay, to pray. As I went down to the river to pray,

T 2 ay, to pray. As I went down to the river to

B ay, to pray. As I went

106

S 1 I went down to the ri-ver to pray, Stu-dy-in' a - bout that good ol'

S 2 ri-ver to pray, Stu-dy-in' a - bout that good ol' way, When you shall

A Stu-dy-in' a - bout that good ol' way, When you shall wear the star - ry

T 1 Stu-dy-in' a-bout that good ol' way, When you shall wear the star - ry crown, Good

T 2 pray, Stu-dy-in' a-bout that good ol' way, When you shall wear the

B down to the ri-ver to pray, Stu-dy-in' a-bout that good ol' way, When

Swingin' Down to the River

110

S 1 way, When you shall wear the star - ry crown, Good Lord! Show me the way.

S 2 wear the star - ry crown, Good Lord! Show me the way.

A crown, Good Lord! Show me the way.

T 1 Lord! Show me the way.

T 2 star - ry crown, Good Lord! Show me the way.

B you shall wear the star - ry crown, Good Lord! Show me the way.

114

S 1 *f* O, Brothers, let's go dow(n) how hown, *ff* let's go down, down, *mp* let's go down, come on down. *rit. mp*

S 2 *f* O, Brothers, let's go dow(n) how hown, *ff* down, let's go down, *mp* come on down.

A *f* O, Brothers, let's go dow(n) how hown, *ff* let's go down, down, *mp* let's go down, come on down.

T 1 *f* O, Brothers, let's go dow(n) how hown, *ff* let's go down, down, *mp* let's go down, come on down.

T 2 *f* O, Brothers, let's go dow(n) how hown, *ff* down, let's go down, *mp* come on down.

B *f* O, Brothers, let's go down, *ff* let's go down, down, *mp* let's go down, come on down.

114

Swingin' Down to the River

119 *a tempo*

S 1 *f* O, Bro-thers, let's go dow(n) how hown, let's go down, down to the ri - ver, *ff*

S 2 *f* O, Bro-thers, let's go dow(n) how hown, down to the ri - ver, *ff*

A *f* O, Bro-thers, let's go dow(n) how hown, let's go down, down to the ri - ver, *ff*

T 1 *f* O, Bro-thers, let's go dow(n) how hown, let's go down, down to the ri - ver, *ff*

T 2 *f* O, Bro-thers, let's go dow(n) how hown, down to the ri - ver, *ff*

B *f* O, Bro-thers, let's go down, let's go down, down to the ri - ver, *ff*

119

S 1 *mp* Let's go down! Come on down! Let's go down to pray! *ff*

S 2 *mp* down to pray. *ff*

A *mp* Let's go down! Come on down! Let's go down to pray! *ff*

T 1 *mp* Let's go down! Come on down! Let's go down to pray! *ff*

T 2 *mp* down to pray. *ff*

B *mp* Let's go down! Come on down! Let's go down to pray! *ff*

123

mp *mf* *f* *ff*