

Tenor
Baritone

I. 'Cause He Wanted Freedom

Roger Towler**

Roger C. Towler

Bluesy Swing Style eighths

mf J = 88

He shot my dad-dy* in the back, he

Why do they take that child_a way? Why did they bomb that

shot my dad-dy 'cause he want-ed freedom,

church? They were sing-in' and pray - in', they were prais-in' the Lord.

*Because he walked to a Birmingham Civil Rights demonstration, Willie Mae Dixon's father was shot in the back by a police officer. Her niece was killed by the KKK bomb in a Birmingham church. Willie Mae lived and worked for freedom in her North-side Minneapolis Community.

**Lyric based on information from For a Moment We Had THE WAY, Robinson, Rolland, 2006.
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- 2 -

9

'cause he want - ed free-dom! _____ 'Cause he want - ed

Why did they kill __ those girls? _____ ...were sing-in' and pray - in', O

12

free - dom! _____ 'Cause he want - ed free - dom! _____ f

why? _____ Why did they kill __ those girls? _____ f

f

for OpenSax Only

Segue: Terror

Tenor -sing in loco

II. Terror

Roger Towler

Roger C. Towler

Easy walk Swing Style

loco

♩ = 84

Tenor: Terror besieged the Negro in 'sixty-six Minne-

Piano: f

Tenor: a-pol-is lead-ers gave of them-selves for the cause of free-dom,

Piano: f

Tenor: to the cause of freedom.

Piano: mf

Piano: mp

Piano: poco rit

Segue: The River Runs Near
Part 1

Baritone

III. The River runs Near

River Part 1

Roger Towler*

Roger C. Towler

Andante e legato $\text{♩} = 84$

The musical score consists of three systems of music for Baritone. System 1 starts with a treble clef, a key signature of four flats, and a 4/4 time signature. It includes lyrics: "Though the riv - er runs near us, yet we thirst Child - ren of ____". System 2 continues with a treble clef, four flats, and 4/4 time. System 3 begins with a treble clef, four flats, and a 2/4 time signature, followed by a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics for System 3 start with "child ren - verse the crag filled land whose sharp". The score features dynamic markings like *mp* and *mf*, and a 3 overline indicating triplets.

*The River Runs Near, Towler, Roger C., 2018

9

ed - ges tear at our feet our hands, — our feet — our

f

14

Molto rit.

Molto Rit.

clothes — our child-ren our spir - its.

Segue: Plymouth Ave.

Tenor

IV. Plymouth Avenue

Roger Towler*

Roger C. Towler

Andante Swing Style

 $\text{J} = 84$

'Twas - Aug-ust __ in __ the long hot

sum - mer of six-ty - six, as the Northside cel - e bra - tion end - ed

*Lyric based on information from For a Moment We Had THE WAY, Robinson, Rolland, 2006. Used by permission.

Straight eighths

piu mosso

 $\text{♪} = 182$

9

qui-et - ly, Then a spark of troub-le, then qui - et;

l.h. p mp p

13

The pol- ice ar- rived, the youth ____ taunt - ed

l.h. mp

17

them. Soon bot-tles and bricks were thrown at cars, at pol-

poco a poco rit.

21

ice, _____ then _____ a crash _____ re-sound - ed

poco a poco rit.

25

vi - o- lence ex - plod - ed

Segue: River Runs Near
- pt. 2

Tenor
Baritone

V. The River Runs Near

River Runs - part 2

Roger Towler*

Andante e legato

$\text{♩} = 84$

Roger C. Towler

piu mosso $\text{♩} = 96$

Though the riv- er runs near us, yet we thirst.

We see the

We need work!

dry-creek bed shriveled jobs,

We feel the a- rid land -scape.

*The River Runs Near, Towler, Roger C., 2018.

8

For hun-gry child-ren,

— of ex-hau-sted hope,

We feel the

Agitato

12

thorn - bush at ev' - ry turn with its thorns of

- 3 -

16

Equal - i - ty. The child - ren
pre-jud - ice, thorns of pov - er - ty - thorns of

20

We must find a way! _____
human - gen, thorns of fear.

24 piu mosso $\text{♩} = 224$ in 2 $\text{♩} = 112$

Cry out.

3

Our parched throats cry out for heal - ing

piu mosso

in 2

$\text{♩} = 112$

3

28

For

wat - er, Our thorn wounds beg for oint - ment.

For

Segue: Hope for the WAY

Alto
Tenor
Baritone

VI. Hope for the WAY Community

Roger Towler*

Roger C. Towler

Andante $\text{♩} = 80$

Alto

Tenor

Baritone

Born of travail The WAY _____ is a vis - ion.

Born of trav - ail The WAY holds pro - mise for the

Though the riv - erruns near us, no more thirst?

*Lyric based on For a Moment We Had THE WAY, Robinson, Rolland, 2006.
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5

We see a new heav- en, a new earth.

tram - pled peop - le. Shine God's light, bring heal - ing Balm of

We do not do things for our peop - le, but with them.

9

rit.

Bring heal - ing balm for our thorns.

Gil - e - ad. Bring heal - ing Balm of Gil - e - ad

Though the riv - er runs near us, no more thirst for my soul.

rit.