Deep River, My Home Is Over Jordan

for Baritone Solo, SATB Chorus unaccompanied

Traditional Text
Deuteronomy 12:1

An African-American Spiritual
Arranged by James McCullough

Largo sostenuto (j = 55)

mp always flowing, with reverence, reflection, and thanksgiving

*poco rit.

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Keyboard (for rehearsal only)

* This piece may be sung one whole step higher with a tenor soloist.

Printed matter for this edition can be found on pp. 7–8.

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deep, deep riv-er, my home is o-ver Jordan. Oh,

pp stagger breathing, colla voce

Ah! stagger breathing, colla voce

17

deep, deep riv-er, Lord, I want to cross o-ver in-to camp-ground.

Ah! stagger breathing, colla voce

PP colla voce

Ah! colla voce

p colla voce

Ah! colla voce

Ah!
peace? Deep river, please let there be peace!  

peace? Deep river, please let there be lasting peace! Oh,  

peace? Deep river, please let there be peace!  

Oh, deep, deep river, my home is over Jordan, Oh,  

Oh, deep, deep river, my home is over Jordan, Oh,  

Deep, deep river, my home is over Jordan.

* A few baritone voices may be added to strengthen the (low) tenor line to the end of m. 38.
I want to cross over into campground.

With great yearning!

deep, deep, deep river, Lord, Ah!

Deep river,

Deep river, Lord, Ah!

Deep river,

Deep river, Lord, Ah!

Deep river,

Deep river, Lord, Ah!

With great yearning!
Allargando

pp pleasingly

Deep rive r!___

deep, deep rive r, I want to cross over in to camp ground.

deep, deep rive r, I want to cross over in to camp ground.

deep, deep rive r, I want to cross over in to camp ground.

January 1, 2013
Cambridge, MA
3'41"

“When you cross deep rivers, I will be with you, and you won’t drown.
When you walk through fire, you won’t be burned or scorched by the flames.”

—Isaiah 43:2
CEV (Contemporary English Version)

“Soon you will cross the Jordan and the Lord will help you conquer your enemies and let you live in peace, there in the land He has given you.”

—Deuteronomy 12:1
CEV (Contemporary English Version)

The Text

Deep river, my home is over Jordan.
Oh, deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.
Now, Pilgrims, Oh, don’t you want to go to that gospel feast,
That holy promised land, where all is peace?
Deep river, please let there be lasting peace!
Deep river, my home is over Jordan.
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

Performance Notes

Although there are many regional pronunciations of the noun river with an er suffix ending, I would strongly prefer that you sing it as rive r.

An “ah” sound is always warmer, clearer in long lines, carries better in the performance space, energizes the voice more and, to my ears, sounds more invigorating and inviting.

Please sing the word “over” as ove r to be consistent; it will also maintain a warmer vowel sound.

Proper care should always be taken with the text and to musically balance the tonal weight of the chorus to the baritone soloist’s voice when it is his turn to “tell the story.”

James McCullough (b. 1939)

For biographical information about the arranger, please visit this Web site.
<http://www.ecspublishing.com/compbioM.html#mccullough>