

Commissioned by VOCE of Carmel, Indiana
in celebration of 20 years of choral excellence, 2026

I CAN SING!

for S.A.T.B. voices and piano*

Words from "The Gift to Sing"
by JAMES WELDON JOHNSON (1871–1938)

Music and additional Words by
GREG GILPIN

With quiet energy (♩ = ca. 138)

PIANO *pp*

4 SOPRANO *pp* [5]
I can sing!

ALTO *pp*
I can sing!

TENOR *pp*
I can

BASS
I can

* Also available for 3-part mixed (52810) and S.S.A. (52811).
PianoTrax accompaniment available (A-00016702).
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7

decresc.

decresc.

decresc.

8 sing!

pp

decresc.

I can sing!

p

10

mp

No

mp

No

cresc.

13

SOPRANO & ALTO

cresc.

nights are dark, _ no days are long, _

TENOR & BASS

*mp**cresc.*

while in my heart _ there lives

*mp**cresc.*

16

mf

_ I can sing! _ I can

mf

a song. I can, I can _ sing! _

mf

19

21

sing!

mp

I can _ sing! _ And oh, I have _ a mag -

mp

22 *mp* *cresc.*

to turn the gloom _ to cheer - ful day. I can

cresc.

ic way, _____ I can,

25 *mf*

sing! _____ I can sing!

mf

I can _ sing! _____ I can _ sing! _____

28 *mp*

Mu - sic _ is all a - round me,

mp

Mu - sic _ is all a - round me,

mp

29

31

mf *mp*

a cir - cle of song. Mu - sic — is

a cir - cle of, cir - cle of song. — Mu - sic — is

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

34

cresc.

all a-round me. This is where I be -

all a-round me. This is where I be -

cresc.

cresc.

37

f *mp* [39]

long. Let's dance with feet — and sing

long. —

f *mp*

40 *cresc.*

with voice, _____ We can

mp cresc.

and let our hearts _ all now re-joyce. We can,

cresc.

43 *mf*

sing! _____ We can sing!

mf

we can _ sing! _____ We can _ sing! _____

mf

46 47

mp

_____ All of heav - en all of earth, _____

mp

49 *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

tell the world — of mu - sic's worth. We can sing! —

cresc. *mf*

— We can, we can — sing! —

52

— We can sing! —

— We can — sing! —

55 *mp* *mp*

Mu - sic — is all a - round me, a cir - cle of

Mu - sic — is all a - round me, a cir - cle of,

58 *mf* *mp*

song. Mu - sic — is all a-round me.

mf *mp*

cir - cle of song. — Mu - sic — is all a-round me.

61 *cresc.* *f*

This is where I be - long,

cresc. *f*

This is where I be - long,

64 *decresc.*

I be-long.

decresc.

I be-long.

67

SOPRANO

69

mp

No while nights _ are
while in _ my

ALTO

mp

No while nights _ are
while in _ my

TENOR

BASS

mf *decresc.**mp*

70

dark,
heart,

dark,
heart,

mp

no days are long,
there lives a song.

mp

no days are long, _ no days are long, _
there lives a song, _ there lives a song. _

73

mf

No nights _ are dark, _
while in _ my heart, _

mf

No nights _ are dark, _
while in _ my heart, _

mf

no days are long, _
there lives a song.

mf

no days are long, _ no days
there lives a song, there lives

mf

76

1. 2.

mp

And

mp

And

mp

And

mp

are long, _ a song. And

1. 2.

78 SOPRANO

cresc. poco a poco

ALTO oh, I have a mag - ic way to turn the gloom to

TENOR *cresc. poco a poco*

BASS oh, I have a mag - ic way to turn the gloom to

mp cresc. poco a poco

81

cheer - ful day. Let's

cheer - ful day.

mf

83

dance with feet and sing with voice,

and let our hearts all now

cresc.

mf cresc.

mf cresc.

86

f

We can sing! We can

re-joice. We can, we can sing!

89

sing!

We can sing! All of heav - en, all

91

mf

92

mf *cresc.*

tell the world of mu - sic's worth. We can

cresc.

of earth, We can,

cresc.

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95

f sing! _____ We can sing! _____

f we can _____ sing! _____ We can _____ sing! _____

f

99

mp Mu - sic _____ is all a - round me,

mp Mu - sic _____ is all a - round me,

mp

101

mf a cir - cle of song. *mp* Mu - sic _____ is

mf a cir - cle of, cir - cle of song. *mp* Mu - sic _____ is

mf *mp*

104

105

all a-round me. This is where, _____

all a-round me. This is where, _____

107

mp this is where, _____ *mp* this

mp this is where, _____ *mp* this is where _____

110

is where I be - long. _____ *f* I can *mf*

_____ I be - long. _____ *f*

113

cresc. poco a poco

musical score for measures 113-115, featuring vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

Vocal lines (Soprano and Bass):

Soprano: sing! _____ I can sing! _____

Bass: *mf cresc. poco a poco* I can _____ sing! _____ I can _____ sing! _____

Piano accompaniment: *mf cresc. poco a poco*

116

musical score for measures 116-118, featuring vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

Vocal lines (Soprano and Bass):

Soprano: *f* We can sing! *cresc.*

Bass: *f* We can sing! *cresc.*

Piano accompaniment: *f cresc.* *ff*