

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

I CAN SING!

for S.S.A. 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 I *pp* 5

I can sing!

SOPRANO II *pp*

I can sing,

ALTO *pp*

I can

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* Also available for S.A.T.B. (52809) and 3-part mixed (52810).
PianoTrax accompaniment available (A-00016702).
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7

decresc.

decresc.

decresc.

— I can sing! —

sing! —

p

10

mp

No

mp

No

cresc.

13 SOPRANO I & II

nights are dark, — no days are long, —

ALTO

while in my heart — there lives

mp *cresc.*

mp *cresc.*

— I can sing! — I can

a song. I can, I can — sing! —

mf *mf* *mf*

sing! —

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

mp *mp*

21

22 *mp* *cresc.*

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

cresc.

ic way, _____ I can,

cresc.

25 *mf*

sing! _____ I can sing!

mf

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

mf

28 *mp*

Mu - sic _ is all a - round me,

mp

Mu - sic _ is all a - round me,

mp

31 a cir - cle of, cir - cle of song. — *mf* *mp*

a cir - cle of song. Mu - sic — is

a cir - cle of song. Mu - sic — is

34 This is where I be -

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

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

37 *f* *mp* [39]

long. — Let's dance with feet — and sing

long. —

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

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

58 cir - cle of song. —

mf *mp*

song. Mu - sic — is all a-round me.

mf *mp*

song. Mu - sic — is all a-round me.

61 This is where — I be - long.

cresc. *f*

This is where I be - long.

cresc. *f*

This is where I be - long.

cresc. *f*

64 — I be-long. —

decresc. *decresc.*

I be-long. —

decresc.

69

mp

No nights — are

*mf**decresc.**mp*

dark, —

mp

no days are long, — no days are long, —

while

in —

my

heart, —

there lives a song, — there lives

76 77 *mf*

No nights — are dark, —

a song. — no

mf

79

while in — my

days are long, — no days are long, —

82 *mp*

heart, — And

there lives a song, — there lives a song. And

mp

3/4

85

cresc. poco a poco

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

cresc. poco a poco

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

mp cresc. poco a poco

88

cheer - ful day. —

mf Let's

cheer - ful day. —

90

dance with feet — and sing with voice, —

*cresc.**mf**cresc.*

and let our hearts — all now

*mf**cresc.*

93

f

We can sing! We can

re-joice. We can, we can sing!

96

sing!

We can sing! All of heav - en, all

mf

99

mf *cresc.*

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

cresc.

of earth, We can,

cresc.

52811

102

f

sing! _____ We can sing! _____

f

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

f

105

mp

Mu - sic _____ is all a - round me,

mp

Mu - sic _____ is all a - round me,

mp

108

mf

a cir - cle of, cir - cle of song. _____

mp

mf

a cir - cle of song. _____ Mu - sic _____ is

mp

a cir - cle of song. _____ Mu - sic _____ is

111 This is where, _____
all a-round me. This is where, _____
all a-round me. This is where, _____

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

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

120

cresc. poco a poco

musical score for three staves (Soprano, Alto, and Piano) in G major (three sharps). The lyrics are "sing! I can sing!". The piano part includes the instruction *mf cresc. poco a poco*.

123

musical score for three staves (Soprano, Alto, and Piano) in G major (three sharps). The lyrics are "We can sing!". The piano part includes the instruction *f cresc.* and the final measure is marked *ff*.