

In setting *Deep River*, I am revisiting a body of sacred American song that is inextricable from the history of slavery in the United States. Following in the footsteps of H. T. Burleigh, Nathaniel Dett and Florence Price, I have intentionally chosen the descriptor 'Negro Spiritual,' drawing attention to that history and honoring the lineage of these songs: extending from their creation by enslaved Africans and down to the present day through a great tradition of Black singers, composers, and thinkers who have offered up their own interpretations of a music of salvation and liberation.

Shawn Okpebholo, October 2021

for the Wheaton College Women's Choral, Dr Mary Hopper, director

# Deep River

Negro Spiritual  
arr. Shawn E. Okpebholo

With sorrowful hope, sensitive, no vibrato ♩ = 54

Musical score for Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, Alto 2, and Piano. The score is in 4/4 time and begins with a piano introduction. The vocal parts are currently silent, indicated by rests. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

pedal harmonically, sostenuto pedal when needed

Musical score for vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The score begins at measure 6, marked with a boxed 'A'. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics: "...my home is o - ver". The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and "no vibrato".