

8va-version for Flute Choir SSAB:

# Deep River

## Negro Spiritual

Arranged for 4-part male choir by William Arms Fisher (Copyright MCMXVI and MCMXVIII)  
partially after the piano transcription by Coleridge-Taylor.

Edited for various instrumental ensemble constellations by Klaus Bjerre (2003)

The source was found at The Library Of Congress: <http://memory.loc.gov/>

You then can go via Collection Finder > Performing Arts > African American Sheet Music > Title Index.

This version of Deep River is one I never met before, but as it has text all the way, it must be rooted in some tradition. It expresses its era and it sounds beautifully, so I want to make it available for very diversely composed groups, which can be quartets or 4-part-ensembles, all in the same key, the original of G major concert. No parts, only two-page playing scores, are provided. All versions can be mixed and/or can be played simultaneously, if the ensemble director distributes the available instruments to the voices in a way, which ensures a good balance. This is necessary, as the 3 upper voices all play the lead at some point.

Several versions in diverse transpositions have been compiled in a previous edition. As this piece has proved itself to work well for an SSAB flute choir, this supplementary edition has been issued.

The choral origin of this piece shows in the *divisi* of the original Bass II part. As bass flutes rarely are available in larger numbers, the upper line of the *divisi* has been cued into the alto flute staff. A few extra *divisi* have been added in the bass flute staff to avoid the lowest range, where the setting allows for this. All full size notes are original, all cue notes are by this editor.

If this piece is performed with only one player on each part, the alto flute shall play the original, full size, notes. The bass flute shall play the lowest note of the *divisi*, except maybe for bar # 32.

This edition can be used together with all of the other ensemble versions by this editor and with the original version for male chorus and optional piano (if the two bars for solo piano are observed).

This edition can be used free of charge, but reports on readings and performances would be nice.

Klaus Bjerre

DK-4220 Korsør

Danmark

[k-bone@mail.dk](mailto:k-bone@mail.dk)

Quartet or 4-part-ensemble of  
SSAB Flutes  
(8va above the original)

# Deep River

Negro Spiritual  
Arranged by W. A. Fisher  
after Coleridge-Taylor  
Edited by Klaus Bjerre 2003

**Lento**

Musical score for measures 1-7. Four staves labeled S1, S2, A, and B. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked 'Lento'. Dynamics range from *p* to *mf*. The piece concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking.

**8** **Lead: a tempo**

Musical score for measures 8-14. Four staves labeled S1, S2, A, and B. The tempo is marked 'a tempo'. Dynamics range from *mp* to *dim.*. A 'Lead:' marking is present in measure 11. The piece concludes with a *dim.* (diminuendo) marking.

**15** **SOLO** **Più mosso**

Musical score for measures 15-22. Four staves labeled S1, S2, A, and B. The tempo is marked 'Più mosso'. Dynamics range from *p* to *mf*. A 'SOLO' marking is present in measure 15. A 'tutti' marking is present in measure 18. The piece concludes with a *p* (piano) marking.

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23

*cresc. ff* *p* *cresc.*

*cresc. ff* *p* *cresc.*

*cresc. ff* *p* *cresc.*

*cresc. ff* *p* *cresc.*

Lead:

30

*stringendo* *rit.* **Tempo I**

*dim.* *p* *mp*

*dim.* *p* *mp*

*dim.* *p* *mp*

*dim.* *p* *mp*

36

*rit.* **Lead: molto rit.**

*p* *pp*

*rit.* *pp* *molto rit.*

*rit.* *p* *pp* *molto rit.*

*rit.* *p* *pp* *molto rit.*

*rit.* *p* *pp* *molto rit.*