

Deep River
An American Spirituals Collage

Arr. by
Matthew John Olson

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Deep River: An American Spirituals Collage weaves together three beloved spirituals: Deep River, Balm in Gilead, and My Lord What a Morning. The arrangement is intentionally flexible for use with a variety of performing forces, and it also invites spatial creativity in the location of choirs and/or soloist throughout a venue. Four suggested possibilities for ensemble variations are as follows:

- 1) SATB Choir Group I, Women's Chorus Group II, Men's Choir Group III
- 2) SATB Choir Group I, Children's Choir Group II, Soloist Group III
- 3) SATB Choir Group I, Solo Duet Group II, Children's Choir Group III
- 4) SATB Choir Group I, Solo Duet Group II, Soloist Group III

COMPOSER/ARRANGER

Matthew J Olson leads a diverse musical career as a conductor, composer, arranger, singer, and arts administrator.

He serves as Founding Artistic Director of Oratory Bach Ensemble, a professional period instrument orchestra and chamber choir specializing in the sacred works of J.S. Bach and composers who influenced him. He is also Assistant Director of The Singers – MN Choral Artists, Director of Choirs at Westwood Lutheran Church in the Twin Cities, and Instructor of Voice at North Hennepin Community College.

As a composer and arranger, Matthew's works are receiving growing performances by nationally acclaimed collegiate and community choirs. He was the winner of the 2013 Houghton College Choir Composition Prize for "In Paradisum" (Santa Barbara Music Publishing) – an honor that included performances by the ensemble throughout the Mid-Atlantic. His settings of poems by American poet Wendell Berry, including "The Peace of Wild Things" (Colla Voce, Jo-Michael Scheibe Series) and "The Want of Peace" (publication forthcoming) have received performances by Magnum Chorum, choirs of St. Olaf College and Michigan State University, among others. His interest in diverse musical styles extends into choral arrangements including "Creep" (Radiohead), Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald (Gordon Lightfoot), "Someone Like You" (Adele/Wilson), and many others.

He studied conducting at St. Olaf College, Michigan State University, Oregon Bach Festival, University of Minnesota, and the Canford Orchestral Conducting School, U.K. You can learn more at www.matthewjolson.com

Written for the choirs of the
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Deep River

An American Spirituals Collage

PERUSAL SCORE

Traditional Spirituals
arr. Matthew J Olson

♩ = 60

Choir I

p hmm...

8 *mp*

Choir II (or small ensemble)

There is a balm in Gi-le-ad to heal the woun-ded, while there is a balm in

Choir I

hmm... (or ooh)

14 *mf*

Choir II (or small ensemble)

Gi-le-ad to heal the sin sick soul. There is a balm in Gi-le-ad to heal the woun-ded

Soprano

Deep ri - ver my home is o - ver

Choir I

Deep ri - ver my home is o - ver

Tenor

Deep ri - ver home is o - ver

20 *f*

Choir II (or small ensemble)
 whole, there is a balm in Gi-le-ad to heal the sin sick soul. There is a

S
 A
 Choir I
 Jor - dan Deep ri - ver, Lord, , can't cross ov-er in-to camp-ground. ,

T
 B
 Jor - dan Deep ri - ver cross - ing camp-ground.

25 *f* *Group III may be performed as written, down an octave, or both*

Choir III (or solo, small group)
 My Lord, what a morn - in', my Lord, what a mor nin', oh, my Lord, what a

Choir II (or small ensemble)
 balm in Gi-le-ad to heal the woun-ded whole there is a balm in

S
 A
 Choir I
mf(f) Deep ri - ver home is o - ver Jor - dan Deep

T
 B
 Deep ri - ver home is o - ver Jor - dan Deep

PERUSAL SCORE

30

Choir III (or solo, small group)
 morn - in', when the stars be-gin to fall. fall. hmm.

Choir II (or small ensemble)
 Gi-le-ad to heal the sin sick soul. There is a soul

S
 A
 Choir I
 ri - ver, Lord, , can't cross ov-er in-to camp-ground. , camp-ground. , hmm.

T
 B
 ri - ver cross - ing camp-ground. camp-ground. hmm.

PERUSAL SCORE