

# Sympathy

Paul Laurence Dunbar

I know why the caged bird sings

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Andante ♩ = 80

Soprano *solo*

I know what the caged bird feels, a - las! \_\_\_\_\_ When the

7

sun is bright on the up - land slopes; When the wind stirs soft through the spring - ing grass, And the

11

ri - ver flows like a stream of glass; When the first bird sings \_\_\_\_\_ and the first bud

16

opes, And faint per - fume from its cha - lice steals - I know what the caged bird feels!

22

*p tutti* I know why the caged bird beats his wing Till its blood is red on the cru - el bars; \_\_\_\_\_ For he  
*p* know \_\_\_\_\_ *f* beats his wing Till its blood is \_\_\_\_\_ red on the cru - el bars; \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* For he  
*p* know the \_\_\_\_\_ bird beats Till its blood is \_\_\_\_\_ red on the cru - el bars; \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* For he  
*p* know \_\_\_\_\_ bird beats Till its blood is red on the cru - el bars; \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* For he

Pno.

## Sympathy

30

S *mp*  
must fly back to his porch and cling When he fain would be on the bough a-swing; And a pain still throbs in the *mfp mfp*

A  
must fly back to his porch and cling When he fain would be on the bough a-swing; And a pain throbs *mfp mfp*

T  
must fly back to his porch and cling When fain would on bough a-swing; And a pain throbs *mfp mfp*

B  
must fly back to his porch and When fain be the bough; And a pain throbs

Pno.

35

S *cresc.* *f* *dim.* \* see note  
old, old scars And they pulse a - gain with a keen-er sting- I know why he beats his wing! (ng)

A *mfp* *mfp mfp* *cresc.* *f* *dim.* \* see note  
old, old, scars pulse a - gain with a keen-er sting- know oo ng

T *mfp* *mfp mfp* *cresc.* *f* *dim.* \* see note  
old, old, scars puls a - gain with keen-er sting- know oo ng

B *mfp* *mfp mfp* *cresc.* *f* *dim.* \* see note  
old, old, scars pulse a - gain with keen-er sting- know oo ng

Pno.

\* The choir is to close to the "ng" and sustain the chord, stagger breathing as needed until their pre-recorded note enters. In measure 45 in all choral parts, the indicated pitches should be pre-recorded by each singer and looped seamlessly to create approximately 1:30 of sustained note. Each of these notes should be produced through a smart phone or other small speaker device that can be placed inside of a wide-mouth mason jar. As the file plays back, gradually the singers should place their phones or speakers inside the jar. The conductor may indicate open and closed gestures to the choir to shape the sound produced by the phones in jars. It is suggested that these directions take their cue from the text (i.e. open on free, closed at the end).

# Sympathy

45 *mp solo\* see note*

S I know why the caged bird sings, ah me,

A

T

B

Pno.

50

S — When his wing is bruised and his bo-som sore, When he beats his bars and would be free; It is

Pno.

55

S not a car-ol of joy or glee, But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core, But a plea that up-ward to

Pno.

61

S Heaven he flings I know why the caged bird sings. I know why the caged bird sings.

Pno.

\*The solo line should be pre-recorded and played through a speaker that can be covered with a glass jar as the solo reaches its conclusion