

## **Go Down, Moses**

SATB with Accompaniment  
Easter Vigil, General

I have based this setting on the powerful harmonies that have moved me since childhood in Paul Robeson's singing of *Go Down, Moses*, accompanied at the piano by Lawrence Brown. Their arrangement was composed by the great H. T. Burleigh (1866-1949).

"Success in singing these Folk Songs," Burleigh writes in his introduction to the 1917 collection that includes this spiritual, "is primarily dependent upon deep spiritual feeling. ...The cadences of sorrow invariably turn to joy, and the message is ever manifest that eventually deliverance from all that hinders and oppresses the soul will come..."

I feel that no one has ever surpassed Burleigh in finding chords to express the deep spiritual feeling of this liberation hymn.

Albert Blackwell  
January 4, 2012

# Go Down, Moses

Traditional Spiritual,  
Arr. Albert Blackwell

1. When Is - rael was in E - gypt land, let my peo-ple go, op -  
2. You need not al - ways weep and mourn, let my peo-ple go, and  
3. They jour - neyed on at God's com - mand, let my peo-ple go, and  
4. Oh, let us all from bond - age flee, let my peo-ple go, and

5  
pressed so hard they could not stand, let my peo-ple go.  
wear those slav - 'ry chains for - lorn, let my peo-ple go.  
came at length to Ca - naan's land, let my peo-ple go.  
let us all in Christ be free, let my peo-ple go.

9  
Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt land; —

13  
tell King — Pha - raoh — to let my peo-ple go.