

WHEN IT'S DARKNESS ON THE DELTA - Verse

Words by Marty Symes and Al Neiburg

Music by Jerry Levinson
Verse Arranged by Mo Rector

Intro

The musical score is written for Tenor Lead and Bari Bass. It begins with an 'Intro' section. The Tenor Lead part is in the treble clef, and the Bari Bass part is in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: 'Night-time and shadows are coming my way, South-land is at rest, at rest. Night-time and shadows relieving the day, nature's at its best. Stars come peepin' more and more, I know where I'm head-ed for. Down where I know love will be; Down where some-one waits for me.' The score is divided into measures numbered 1 through 16. Measures 1-3 are the Intro. Measures 4-7 contain the first line of lyrics. Measures 8-12 contain the second line of lyrics. Measures 13-16 contain the third line of lyrics. The Bari Bass part provides a harmonic accompaniment to the Tenor Lead.

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

1 Night-time and sha - dows are com - ing my way, — South - land is at

2

3

4 rest, — at rest. Night-time and sha - dows re - liev-ing the day, — nat-ure's at its

5

6

7

8 best. Stars come peepin' more and more, I know where I'm head-ed for.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

Down where I know love will be; — Down where some - one waits for me. —

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(WHEN IT'S) DARKNESS ON THE DELTA

Words by MARTY SYMES
and AL J. NEIBURG

Music by JERRY LEVINSON
Arrangement by the
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

Chorus ♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\text{J}} \overset{\frown}{\text{J}} \overset{\frown}{\text{J}}$

oo.

Tenor Lead

When it's dark-ness on the del-ta, that's the

Bari Bass

bum-buh bum-buh bum-buh buh-buh-buh bum-buh bum-buh bum-buh buh-buh-buh

3

time my heart is light. When it's

Bari Bass

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

oo.

5

dark - ness on the del - ta, let me

Bari Bass

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

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Darkness on the Delta

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The score includes lyrics and rhythmic markings such as slurs, ties, and triplets.

System 1 (Measures 7-8):
 Vocal: lin - ger in the shel - ter of the night. Fields of
 Piano: bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh . bum - buh bum - buh bum
 oo

System 2 (Measures 9-10):
 Vocal: cot - ton all a - round me, voic - es
 Piano: bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh buh-buh-buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh buh-buh-buh
 oo

System 3 (Measures 11-12):
 Vocal: sing - in' sweet and low, Lord, I'm
 Piano: bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh
 oo

System 4 (Measures 13-14):
 Vocal: luck - y that you found me where the
 Piano: bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh
 oo

Darkness on the Delta

Reprise (second time)

15 mud - dy Mis - sis - sip - pi wa - ters flow. flow.
 bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh flow.

18 list - 'nin' to the night - in - gales. a - bove.
 night - in - gales. 'way up a - bove.
 night - in - gales. a - bove.

21 Laugh-ter on the lev - ee, 22 no one's heart is heav - y. 23 All God's chil-dren got

24 some - one to love. When it's 25 dark - ness. on the
 mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh
 hum - buh hum - buh hum - buh buh - buh - buh

Darkness on the Delta

mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh

26 27

del - ta, on - ly heav - en is in
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh buh - buh - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh

28 29

sight. When it's dark - ness on the
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh night.

30 31 32

del - ta, let me lin - ger in the shel - ter of the night.
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh night.

hum - buh hum - buh hum - buh hum - buh hum - buh hum - buh hum - buh hum - buh night.

Darkness on the Delta

2.
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh night. Tag

33 34 35

lin - ger in the shel - ter of the night. Oh, let me lin-ger in the
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh night.

buh - buh buh - buh buh - buh buh - buh night.

36 37 38 39 40

shel-ter of the night!

Optional key change

24 25

All God's chil-dren got some-one to love. When it's dark - ness
mm - buh mm - buh
mm - buh mm - buh
buh - buh buh - buh

Performance Notes

Written in 1932 during the Great Depression, *Darkness on the Delta* provided music listeners with some happiness during a dark era. The song was a hit for singer Mildred Bailey and was covered in 1933 by both Ted Fio Rito & His Orchestra and Chick Bullock & His Orchestra. It was revived in 1953 by the Country All Stars and by Don Lanphere in 1995.

Darkness on the Delta has been a standard for barbershop ensembles for many years. Its classic barbershop chord progressions and exciting tag have made it a staple for shows and afterglows. As you sing this arrangement, call to mind the 1930s, when there was little electricity on the Mississippi Delta. As darkness fell, folks along the Delta enjoyed an easier, less complicated life. Invite your audiences to do the same.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any other song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current guidelines. Ask *before* you sing.