

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

SATB and Piano

Paul Laurence Dunbar, alt.

Bryan Sharpe

Pensively ♩ = ca. 72



Musical score for the piano introduction in 4/4 time, marked *mp*. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff features a series of chords and melodic fragments, while the bass staff provides a harmonic foundation with sustained chords and a few moving lines.



Vocal staves for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The Soprano and Alto parts have lyrics: "I know why the caged bird sings," with a fermata. The Tenor and Bass parts are silent. The Soprano and Alto parts include a triplet of eighth notes. The dynamic marking *mp* is present above the Soprano and Alto staves.



Musical score for the piano accompaniment, continuing from the introduction. It features a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a more active melodic line with some triplets, while the bass staff continues with a steady harmonic accompaniment.

Duration: approx. 2:45

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7 *p* *mp*

when his wing is bruised and

p *mp*

when his wing is bruised and

p *mp* *p*

8 I know why, _____

p *mp* *p*

I know why, _____

10 *p* *mp*

bos - om sore, _____ when he

p *mp*

bos - om sore, _____ when he

p *mp* *p*

8 I know why, _____

p *mp* *p*

I know why, _____

13 *mf*
mf
 beats— his bars and he would be free; —
 beats— his bars and he would be free; —
mp *mf*
 I know why, —
mp *mf*
 I know why, —

16 *p* *mp*
p *mp*
 'tis not a song of joy or glee. —
 'tis not a song of joy or glee. —
mp
mp

19 *poco accel.* *p* *mf*
 I know
poco accel. *p*
poco accel. *mp* *p*
 8 I know why
poco accel. *mp* *p*
 I know why,
poco accel. *mf*

21 **Slightly faster**
 why, I know why, not a
mf
mf I know why, I know why,
mf the caged bird sings, the caged bird sings
mf
 I know why the caged bird sings
Slightly faster

6
23

poco rit.

song _____ of joy or glee, but a

poco rit.

not a song of glee,

poco rit.

not a song of glee,

poco rit.

not a song of glee,

poco rit.

8va-----

25

a tempo *mf*

pray'r that he sends from his

a tempo *mf*

but a pray'r that he sends from his

a tempo *mf*

but a pray'r _____ that he sends,

a tempo *mf*

but a pray'r that he sends,

8va----- *8va*-----

a tempo *mf*