Foreword

From the time I was young I have always been drawn to spirituals. I remember playing the piano for music class in the fourth grade. Many of the songs were folk songs and spirituals. The teacher would leave me alone with the class and I was expected to do the rest. I had only started to learn to play the piano a few months earlier and the book we used only had the melody line. However, I knew the class would be bored if that is all I played so I added basic chords to the songs. As an entertainer emerged in me, I came up with all sorts of other embellishments. The spirituals were my favorite because I liked the melody lines. They were often in a minor key which drew me in and fired my imagination.

Slaves in America were not allowed freedom of expression and were forced to attend church, but their masters found that if they allowed the slaves to sing it would affect their work in a positive way. I doubt many listened to the words the slaves sang: words of despair and injustice born out of experience and words of hope and freedom that they picked up through hymns. I think about the strong emotions that filled these songs and how these songs and other folk songs affected all of our music from that point on, including New Orleans Jazz, which later moved up to Chicago and later on to New York, gospel, jazz, rock and other forms. This is why I love working with this music and it was pure joy to put this book together. Have fun and don’t worry if you change a few things according to your own sense of whimsy! We are creators!

Teresa Wilhelmi

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Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen

Soulful, with much expression  \( \frac{}{\text{j}} = \text{ca. 92} \)

Duration: 2:00

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Faster, happier $d = \text{ca. 120}$
Improvisation in E♭

Happily $j = \text{ca. 120}$

Duration: 1:00

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LL
Deep River

Teresa Wilhelmi
Traditional spiritual

Deliberate, but moving $\text{\scriptsize \semitone}= \text{ca. 84}$

Faster, lightly $\text{\scriptsize \semitone}= \text{ca. 104}$

Duration: 1:50
Flowing jazz waltz feel $\frac{3}{4} = \text{ca. 132}$ $\frac{\text{4/4}}{\text{3/4}}$
Improvisation in D

Gently \( \frac{1}{4} = \text{ca. 104} \)

Duration: 1:25

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Teresa Wilhelmi
Ezekiel Saw the Wheel

Lively \( \frac{d}{\text{tempo}} = \text{ca. 76} \)

Steady, marcato

Smother and "tinkly"

Duration: 1:35
Suddenly calm  \( \frac{d}{=} \) ca. 100

With humor  \( \frac{d}{=} \) ca. 116
Peaceful Interlude

With great expression \( \textit{d} = 120-126 \)

\( \text{Duration: 1:00} \)

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My Lord, What a Morning

Teresa Wilhelmi
Traditional spiritual

Very expressive \( \text{\textsl J} = \text{ca. 88} \)

\[ \text{Duration: 2:30} \]
More relaxed $\dot{=} \text{ca. 84}$
Lament

Very freely throughout \( \frac{j}{q} = \text{ca. 63} \)

Duration: 1:00
Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

Teresa Wilhelmi
Traditional spiritual

Pensive $\frac{1}{8} = \text{ca. 92}$

Rag-like, more energetic $\frac{1}{8} = \text{ca. 100}$

Duration: 2:05
Faster, with a waltz feel \( \frac{\text{j}}{\text{\ }} \text{= ca. 144} \)
With great freedom \( \dot{=} \) ca. 92

Duration: 1:40
All My Trials

Expressive, rubato \( \dot{J} = \text{ca. 60} \)

In tempo, gently \( \dot{J} = \text{ca. 104} \)

Duration: 2:00
Standin’ in the Need of Prayer

*with* He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands

Teresa Wilhelmi
Traditional spirituals

Flowing  \( \frac{4}{4} = \text{ca. 88} \)

Simply, earnestly

Duration: 2:20
Improvisation in G

Teresa Wilhelmi

Gently \( \frac{j}{4} = \text{ca. 120} \)

Duration: 1:00