

(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 

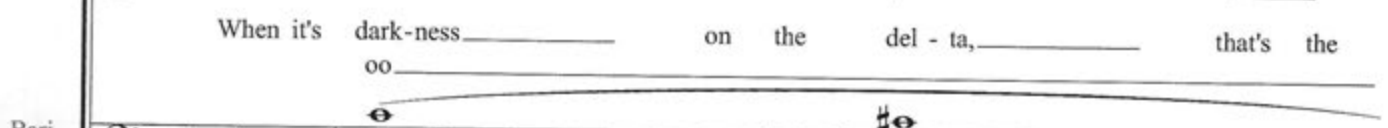
oo

Tenor Lead



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

Bari Bass



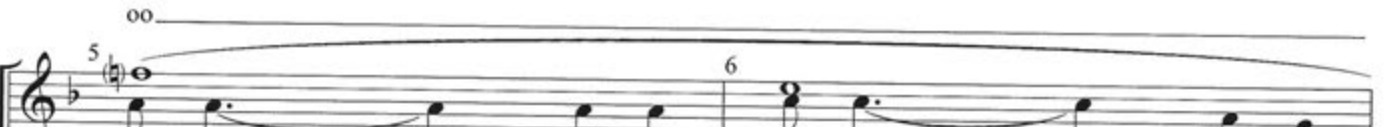
bum-buh bum-buh bum-buh buh-buh-buh bum-buh bum-buh bum-buh buh-buh-buh



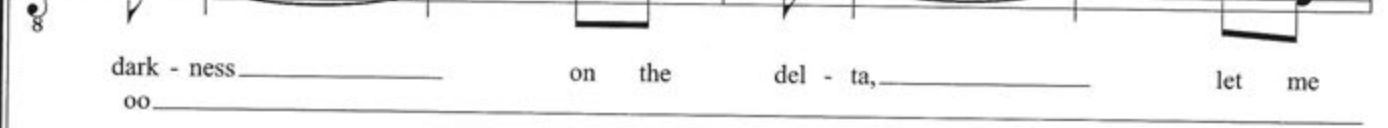
time my heart is light. When it's



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



dark - ness on the del - ta, let me



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, 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 vocalizations such as 'bum - buh' and 'oo'. Measure numbers 7 through 14 are indicated at the beginning of each system.

7
lin - ger in the shel - ter of the night. Fields of
bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum
oo

9
cot - ton all a - round me, voic - es
oo
bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh buh - buh - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh buh - buh - buh

11
sing - in' sweet and low, Lord, I'm
bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh
oo

13
luck - y that you found me where the
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.

16

17 Loung-in' on the lev - ee,

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

19

20

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

22

23

24 some - one to love. When it's dark - ness on the

25 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

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.

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - 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
bum - buh bum - 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.