
Aspen Hill Music

Viking Song

Down to the
River to Pray


TTBB a cappella

Arr. Christopher Aspaas

Down to the River to Pray


Traditional
arr. Christopher Aspaas (ASCAP)

Tenor




As I went down to the ri-ver to pray, stud-y-in' a-bout that good old way and


Bass



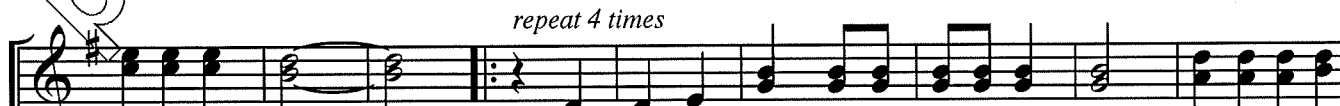
who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord, show me the way — Oh, bro-thers,



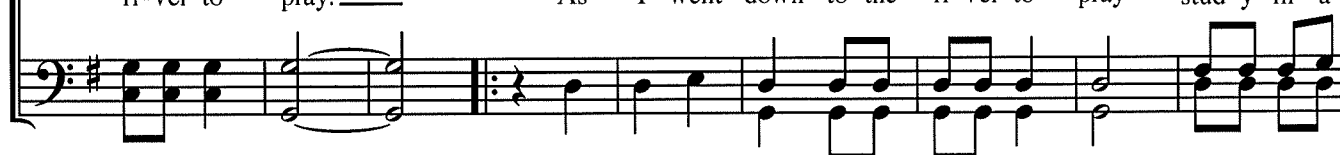
let's go down, let's go down, come on down. Oh, bro-thers, let's go down, down to the



repeat 4 times



ri-ver to pray. — As I went down to the ri-ver to pray stud-y-in' a-



bout that good old way and who shall wear the star-ry robe and crown? Good Lord, show me the

way. — Oh, sis-ters fa-thers mo-thers sin-ners let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

Oh sis-ters fa-thers mo-thers sin-ners let's go down, down to the ri-ver to pray.

Alternating verses:

- 2) starry / sisters
- 3) robe and / fathers
- 4) starry / mothers
- 5) robe and / sinners

This song describes the tradition of baptism by immersion where women would enter the water disrobed and the men would wear a robe—thus the alternation of verses between "starry" and "robe and" depending on the masculine or feminine reference.

Performance suggestion: begin with members of the chorus spread throughout the audience on or near the ends of rows. Starting with one singer standing up and singing, the ensemble should rise from their seats and join in the song, moving towards the front of the space and greeting each other as they gather.

Aspen Hill Music

New Classics Series

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer, SATB handbells or tone chimes 2011
How Can I Keep From Singing SSATB a cappella 2013
Hymn of Light from the Bridegroom Matins SATB and soloist a cappella 2010
I Know I've Been Changed, SATB div piano (also available SAB) 2011
I Want Jesus to Walk With Me, SATB div a cappella and optional congregation 2012
Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring (and other verses), Johann Schop, J. S. Bach SATB and keyboard 2012
Oba Se Je (Here Comes the King!) SSATB a cappella 2012
Poor Wayfarin' Stranger (I Wonder As I Wander) SATB div a cappella 2012
The King of Love and Grace, 2-part piano 2012
The Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis), SSATB and keyboard 2012
Tomorrow, I Will Come (The O Antiphons) SATB div a cappella 2012
Your Little Ones, Dear Lord SATB a cappella 2012

Viking Song

Cantate Domino, Giovanni Croce TTBB a cappella 2007, rev. 2012
Danny Boy, Traditional Irish TTBB div and soloists a cappella 2005
Down to the River to Pray, Traditional American TTBB a cappella 2005
Exsultate Justi, Ludovico Viadana TTBB a cappella 2006
Give Me Jesus TTBB div a cappella 2007
I Know I've Been Changed, TTBB and piano 2012
In the Bleak Midwinter, TTBB and piano 2012
Oba Se Je (Here Comes the King!) TTBB div a cappella 2010
Prepare the Way, Traditional Swedish TTBB div a cappella 2009
Ride On, King Jesus, traditional TTBB and soloists a cappella 2009
The Angel Gabriel, Basque Carol TTBB div a cappella 2010
The King of Love and Grace, TB and piano 2012
Welcome Fanfare TTBB a cappella 2013
When David Heard, William Billings TTBB a cappella 2010

Cecilia Series

Love Divine, Be Present Now, SSAA and piano 2012