

I Can Sing

For SATB div. unaccompanied

(2020)

Carlos Cordero

ABOUT THE WORK

I knew that singing was magic! I knew it. I keep learning more ways of how singing heals us and let us express our deepest desires. This poem sparked in me that feeling of joy and courage as never before. It was magic just to read it and to picture so many people laughing and dancing.

This is why I wrote such an upbeat setting where every part can rock and be proud of being part of the choral community. James Weldon Johnson gave me a new understanding of what we do as choral artists: Our voices bring light to others with each note we sing. During such a challenging year as 2020 is, this piece is a reminder that what we do is powerful, and it changes lives.

TEXT AND TRANSLATION

Sometimes the mist overhangs my path,
And blackening clouds about me cling;
But, oh, I have a magic way
To turn the gloom to cheerful day —
I softly sing.

And if the way grows darker still,
Shadowed by Sorrow's somber wing,
With glad defiance in my throat,
I pierce the darkness with a note,
And sing, and sing.

I brood not over the broken past,
Nor dread whatever time may bring;
No nights are dark, no days are long,
While in my heart there swells a song,
And I can sing.

To learn more about me and The Happy Choir, visit:

www.thehappychoir.com/bio



Dedicated to you, choral singer, and your magical voice.
Thank you for being such an important piece in our new choral music community.

James Weldon Johnson (1871 – 1938)

I Can Sing

Carlos Cordero (b. 1992)
New Choral Music Advocate

for SATB div. unaccompanied.

A Powerful, with a big smile ♩ = 126

mf

S
Ooh Ooh Ooh

mf

A
Ooh Ooh

mf

T
Ooh Ooh Ooh Ooh

mf

B
Ooh Ooh Ooh Ooh Ooh

Pno. red.

5

mp *mf* *p*

S
Ooh

mp *mf* *p*

A
Ooh Ooh

mp *mf* *p*

T
Ooh

mp *mf* *p*

B
Ooh Ooh

5

Ooh _____ Ooh _____

mp

Some - times the mist o - ver-hangs my path, and blacken-ing clouds a - bout me cling;

Ooh _____ Ooh _____

Ooh _____ Ooh _____

13 *f* but, oh, I have a mag - ic way _____ to turn the gloom to cheer - ful day _____

f but, oh, I have a mag - ic way _____ to turn the gloom to cheer - ful day _____

f but, oh, I have a mag - ic way _____ to turn the gloom to cheer - ful day _____

f but, oh, I have a mag - ic way _____ to turn the gloom to cheer - ful day _____

13

17

5

p I soft - ly sing,

p I soft - ly sing,

p I soft - ly sing,

p I soft - ly sing,

17

mf sing,

mf I soft - ly sing, I soft - ly sing,

mf sing,

mf sing,

mf sing,

21

25 6

pp
sing.

I soft - ly sing.

pp
sing.

pp
sing.

25

C

mp
Ooh Ooh

mp
And if the way grows dark - er still, shad - owed by sor - row's som - ber wing,

mp
Ooh Ooh

mp
Ooh Ooh

29

33

f

pp (with great energy)

f 7

with glad de - fi - ance in my throat, I pierce the dark - ness with a note,

with glad de - fi - ance in my throat, I pierce the dark - ness with a note,

with glad de - fi - ance in my throat, I pierce the dark - ness with a note,

with glad de - fi - ance in my throat, I pierce the dark - ness with a note,

33

37

mp

and sing, and sing,

and sing,

and sing, and sing,

and sing, and sing,

37

41

simile

mf

8

sing, and sing, sing, and sing,
 sing,
 and sing, and sing, and sing, and
 sing, and sing, sing, and sing,

41

46

p

and sing, I soft-ly sing, and sing.
 sing, I soft-ly sing, and sing.
 sing, I soft-ly sing, and sing.
 and sing, I soft-ly sing, and sing,

46

f
 I brood not o - ver the bro - ken past,

f
 I brood not o - ver the bro - ken, the bro - ken past,

f
 I brood not o - ver the bro - ken the bro - ken past,

f
 I brood not o - ver the bro - ken the bro - ken past,

50

54
 Ooh Ooh

mp
 nor dread what - e - ver time may bring; no

nor dread what - e - ver time may bring;

nor dread what - e - ver time may bring;

54

mp

no nights are dark, — no days are long, — while in my heart

nights are dark, — no days are long, — while in my heart

while in my heart

while in my heart

58

63 *cresc.* there swells a song, and I can

there swells a song, and I can

there swells a song, and I can

there swells a song, and I can

63

* : Fast glissando, bursting with joy!

64

sing, and I can sing, and I can

sing, and I can sing, and I can

sing, sing,

sing, sing,

68

72

sing, sing, and I can

sing, sing, and I can

sing, and sing, and sing,

sing, and sing, and sing,

72

76

sing, _____ and I _____ can sing, _____ and I _____ can
 sing, _____ and I _____ can sing, _____ and I _____ can
 sing, _____ and sing, _____ sing, _____ and sing, _____
 sing, _____ and sing, _____ sing, _____ and sing, _____

80

sing, _____ *mp* I soft-ly sing, I soft-ly sing, I soft-ly sing, I soft-ly sing,
 sing, _____ *mp* I soft-ly sing, I soft-ly sing,
 sing, _____ and _____ sing, _____ and sing, and sing, _____ and sing
 sing, _____ and _____ sing, _____ and sing, and Sh _____

* : Perform alleatoric air sound effects, imitating wings fluttering. This should sound exciting and playful!

and sing, and sing, and I can

and sing, and sing, and I can

and sing, and sing, and I can

and sing, and sing, and I can

84

sing.

88

I can sing, I can sing, I can sing.

sing. I can sing, I can sing, I can sing.

sing. I can sing, I can sing, I can sing.

88