

Why the Caged Bird Sings

for treble voices, horn and strings

Sympathy

I know what the caged bird feels, alas!
 When the sun is bright on the upland slopes,
 When the wind blows soft through the springing grass
 And the river floats like a sheet of glass,
 When the first bird sings and the first bud opens,
 And the faint perfume from its chalice steals -

I know what the caged bird feels.
 I know why the caged bird beats his wing
 Til its blood is red on the cruel bars;
 For he must fly back to his perch and cling.

...I know why he beats his wing
 When his wings are bruised and his bosom sore, -
 When he beats his bars and would be free;

It's not a carol of joy or glee,
 But a prayer the he sends from his heart's deep core,
 But a plea that upward to Heaven he flings -
 I know why the caged bird sings!

Paul Lawrence Dunbar (1872-1906)

Paul Lawrence Dunbar

Joelle Wallach

Horn
in F

$\text{♩} = 84$ Cantabile

mp cantabile

I
Violin

II

mp dolce cantabile

(divisi)

(unis.)

Viola

mp dolce cantabile

(divisi)

(unis.)

'Cello

mp dolce cantabile

(divisi)

Bass

mp

(*ossia 8va*)

6 **Soprani** *mp*

I know what the caged bird feels, al-as! _____ When the sun is bright up-on the up-land slopes,

Alti *mp*

I know what the caged bird feels, I know what the caged bird feels, The sun is bright up-on the up-land slopes,

mp *dolce ma poco più f*

6 *divisi.* *unis.*

divisi *unis.*

divisi *unis.*

12

Ah, _____ the caged bird feels When _____ the wind blows soft through the spring-ing grass —

I know what the caged bird feels When _____ the wind blows soft through the spring-ing grass —

mp cantabile

12 *mp* *p ben dolce*

mp *p ben dolce*

sfp mp *p*

17

mp *poco* *mp dolce*

When the ri-ver floats like sheets of glass, When the first bird sings

mp *poco* *mp dolce*

When the ri-ver floats like sheets of glass, When the first bird sings

p *poco agitato piangere* *sfp* *mfp* *mfp*

17

mp *poco* *mp* *poco*

mp cantabile *sfp* *mp* *poco*

22

mf *mfp*

and the first bud o - pens, And the faint per - fume from its cha - lice steals, Ah, what the

mf *mfp*

and the first bud o - pens, And the faint per - fume from its cha - lice steals, I. know_ what the

mp cantabile *poco agitato* *sfp* *sfp* *mfp*

22

p *mp* *mp* *poco*

p *mp* *mp* *poco*

p *mp* *mp* *poco*

27 *mf* *mp cantabile*
caged bird feels. — I know
mf *mp cantabile*
caged bird feels. — I know

poco agitato
sfp *sfp* *sfp*

27 *mp* *mfp* *mp*
mp *mfp* *mp*
mp *mfp* *mp*
mp *mfp* *mp*
mp *mfp* *mp*
p cantabile misterioso *mp*
mp cantabile misterioso *mp* (*mp*)

32 *mf*
how the caged bird feels; oh, I know why he beats his wings, when the sun ___ is bright and the wind . blows soft.
mf
how the caged bird feels; oh, I know why he beats his wings; when the sun ___ is bright and the wind _ blows soft.
mp cantabile

32 *mp*

37

I know how the caged bird feels when the sun shines bright and the wind blows soft. I know why the caged bird sings. —

I know how when the sun shines bright and the wind blows soft. — I know why the caged bird sings. —

(mp) *(mp)*

37

42

I know why the caged bird sings and beats his wings on the bars, *f*

I know why the caged bird sings and beats his wings on the bars, *f*

mf *ma cantabile*

42

poco f dolce cantabile *subito p* *mp* *mf*

poco f dolce cantabile *subito p* *mp* *mf*

poco f dolce cantabile *divisi* *(unis.)* *subito p* *mp* *mf*

poco f dolce cantabile *subito mp* *mp* *mf*

mp *fp* *subito p* *mp* *mf*

48 *mp* *ben f e poco ruvido* *p* suddenly very dainty

Why he beats his wings un-til blood is red on the cruel (-el) bars. for he must hop back to his

mp *ben f e poco ruvido* *p* suddenly very dainty

Why he beats his wings un til blood is red on the cruel (-el) bars. for he must hop back to his

mf più ruvido *f* *mf* *p cantabile*

48 *mp* *f* *mf* *p* *pizz.* *mp* *pizz.* *pizz.* *mp* *pizz.* *mp* *pizz.* *mp* *pizz.*

(divisi) *(unis.)* *p sotto voce e ben cantabile*

53 *f* *growing much stronger*

perch and cling when he'd hoped to fly. *(voce tacit al 68)*

f *growing much stronger*

perch and cling when he'd hoped to fly.

53 *arco* *fp lontano cantabile* *mp dolce*

arco *mf* *mp* *fp* *mp cantabile* *poco* *mp*

arco *mf* *mp* *fp* *mp cantabile* *poco* *mp*

arco *mf* *mp* *fp* *mp cantabile* *poco* *mp*

arco *mf* *mp* *fp* *mp cantabile* *poco* *mp*

mf *mp* *fp* *p* *mp* *fp*

59

con sordino

mfpp *mfpp* *mfpp*
piangere e poco lontano

p dolce placido

mf *p* (*p*) lontano

mf *p* (*p*) lontano

mf *p* (*p*) lontano

mfpp cantabile

pizz. *pizz.* *mfpp* cantabile

mp *p* *mfpp* cantabile

66

p dolce

mf

I know why the caged bird sings. I know why he beats his wings, a gainst the bars. .

p dolce

mf

I know why I know why he beats his wings, a gainst the bars. .

mp cantabile

mp cantabile

66

fp *mp* *mp*

fp *mp* *mp*

fp *mp* *mp*

mfpp *mp* (*mp*) *mp*

p *mp* *fp* *mp*

72 *mp* I know how the caged bird feels, *mp dolce* I know how the caged bird feels; oh,

mp I know how the caged bird feels, *mp dolce* I know how the caged bird feels; oh,

sfz p *sfp* *mf*

72 *p* *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp*

77 *(dolce)* I know why he beats his wings, when the sun is bright and the wind blows soft. *mf* It's not a cry of joy or glee, *f*

(dolce) I know why he beats his wings; when the sun is bright and the wind blows soft. *mf* It's not joy or glee, *f*

senza sord. *mp* *mf* *mp* *fp*

77 *f* *f* *f* *f* *sfz* *f* *mf*

82

(¹) subito *p dolce* *mp* (*mp*)

but a pray'r, a plea, a pray'r. from his heart's deep core, Up to heav'n he

(²) subito *p dolce* *mp* (*mp*)

but a pray'r, a plea, a pray'r. from his heart's deep core, Up to heav'n he

subito p dolce *mfpp lontano* *mfpp* *mfpp* *mp cantabile*

82

subito p dolce *mp*

subito p dolce *mp*

subito p *mp*

p *mp*

p *mp*

87

mf *e più placido*

flings his prayer. I. know why the caged bird sings. —

mf *e più placido*

flings. his prayer. I. know why the caged bird sings. —

mf cantabile *subito p* *sfp* *sfp* *mp dolce cantabile*

87

mp dolce *mp dolce cantabile*

mp dolce *mp*

mp *mp*

mp *mp*

p *mp* (*mp*) *dolce cantabile* *sfp*

93

Musical score for measures 93-97. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a rest, then enters with a melodic phrase marked *sfp*. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with a melodic line and a left hand with a bass line. Dynamics include *mf*, *mp dolce*, and *p*. There are also markings for *(unis.)* and *(h)*.

98

ossia con sordino al fine

Musical score for measures 98-102. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a rest, then enters with a melodic phrase marked *mp lontano cantabile*. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with a melodic line and a left hand with a bass line. Dynamics include *mp*, *ppp*, and *pp*. There are also markings for *pp dolce lontano* and *divisi*.

When the sun is bright up - on the up - land slopes,
 what the caged bird feels, The sun is bright up on the up land slopes,

dolce ma poco più f

Ah, _____ the caged bird feels When _____ the wind blows soft through the spring-ing grass _____
 I know what the caged bird feels When _____ the wind blows soft through _____ the spring-ing grass _____

mp cantabile

When the ri-ver floats like sheets of glass,
 When the ri-ver floats like sheets of glass,

p ben dolce

mp *poco*

p *sfp*
poco agitato piangere

20

mp dolce
When the first bird sings and the first bud o -

mp dolce
When the first bird sings and the first bud o -

mp cantabile

mf *mf*

23

mf
pens, And the faint per - fume from its cha - lice steals, Ah, what the

mf
pens, And the faint per - fume from its cha - lice steals, I know what the

mf

sfp (poco agitato) *sfp* *mf*

27

mf
caged bird feels. —

mf
caged bird feels. —

sfp (poco agitato) *sfp* *sfp*

mp *mf*

31

mp cantabile *mf*

I know how the caged bird feels; oh, I know why he beats his wings, when the

mp cantabile *mf*

I know how the caged bird feels; oh, I know why he beats his wings; when the

35

sun _____ is bright and the wind _____ blows soft. I know how the caged bird

sun _____ is bright and the wind _____ blows soft. _____ I know

(mp)

38

feels when the sun _____ shines bright and the wind _____ blows soft. I know why the caged bird sings. —

how when _____ the sun shines bright and the wind blows soft. _____ I know why the caged bird sings. —

(mp)

42

poco f dolce cantabile *subito p*

46

mp I know why the caged bird sings and beats his wings on the bars, *f* Why he beats his *mp*
mp I know why the caged bird sings and beats his wings on the bars, *f* Why he beats his *mp*

mf ma cantabile *mf più ruvido*

49

ben f e poco ruvido wings un-til blood is red on the cruel (-el) bars. *ben f e poco ruvido*
 wings un-til blood is red on the cruel (-el) bars.

f *mf* *p cantabile*

p sotto voce

52 *p* suddenly very dainty *growing much stronger* *f*

for he must hop back to his perch and cling — when he'd hoped to fly.

p suddenly very dainty *growing much stronger* *f*

for he must hop back to his perch and cling — when he'd hoped to fly.

fp *lontano cantabile*

mp *fp*

55 *mp dolce*

p *cantabile* *poco* *mp*

59 *mf p* *mf p* *mf p*

piangere e poco lontano

mf *p* *lontano*

63 *con sordino*

p *dolce placido*

mf p *cantabile* *fp*

67

p dolce *mf*

I know why the caged bird sings. I know why he beats his

p dolce *mf*

I know why I know why he beats his

mp cantabile *mp cantabile*

71

mp *mp*

wings, a gainst the bars. I know how the caged bird feels,

wings, a gainst the bars. I know how the caged bird feels,

sfz p

74

mp dolce *mp dolce*

I know how the caged bird feels; oh, I know why he beats his

mp dolce

I know how the caged bird feels; oh, I know why he beats his

sfz p *mf*

78

(dolce)

wings, when the sun is bright and the wind blows soft.

(dolce)

wings; when the sun is bright and the wind blows soft

senza sord.

mp *mf*

81

mf *f* *subito p dolce* (¹)

It's not a cry of joy or glee, but a pray'r, a plea,

mf *f* *subito p dolce* (¹)

It's not joy or glee, but a pray'r, a plea,

mp *fp* *subito p dolce* *mfpp lontano* *mfpp*

84

mp (*mp*)

a pray'r from his heart's deep core, Up to heav'n he flings his prayer.

mp (*mp*)

a pray'r from his heart's deep core, Up to heav'n he flings his prayer.

mfpp *mp cantabile* *mf cantabile*

88 *mf* *e più placido*

I. know why the caged bird sings. *mf* *e più placido*

I. know why the caged bird sings. *mp* *dolce cantabile*

subito p *sfp* *sfp* *mp dolce* *mp*

91

95 *sfp* *sfp* *sfp*

mp dolce *mp*

99 *mp lontano cantabile* *p dolce lontano*

mf *p* *(p)*