

STEAL AWAY - ARR. STACEY GIBBS

OVERVIEW

Steal Away is a traditional spiritual that is credited to Wallace Willis, a Choctaw freedman who lived in the mid-1800s. Arrangements of Willis' spirituals were popularized by the Fisk Jubilee Singers in the 1870s and, since, have become staples in the genre. In this arrangement, Gibbs evokes the deep pain of the lyrics while successfully contrasting it with the message of hope it also provides.



**STACEY
GIBBS**



2014



**MUSICAL PERIOD:
21ST CENTURY**

1

CODED MEANING

Steal Away has a coded meaning that is both an expression of hope in a time of immense oppression and a message that encouraged slaves to seek freedom from the bondage and persecution.

2

DICTION

To appropriately perform the text of this song, follow the pronunciations listed in the conductor's notes.

All "I" = [ah].
In m. 2, 4, & 17, "to" = [tə],
but in m. 12 & 40 "to" = [tu].

3

DYNAMICS

Gibbs uses the full spectrum of dynamics in this piece, and the conductor's notes add even more specificity to achieve the proper balance between vocal lines.

Intentionally perform these dynamics to bring their interpretation to life.

4

SUSTAINED TONE

With a slower tempo and many longer note values, it is important to intentionally support the voice and sustain even tone throughout.

Keep a sense of forward motion in the voice and plan breaths (using conductor's notes) to achieve this.

5

INTONATION

This piece provides many intonation traps that a singer can fall into.

Put extra attention into sustaining the pitch when chords change around you, lightly singing descending lines so they do not land flatly, and, choosing a leaner tone rather than a heavier one.