

Deep River

African-American Spiritual
First printed 1876

♩ = 56
freely

(A) C F C Am G G7

Deep _____ riv - er, my home is o - ver Jor - dan, _____

5 C F C/G G7(-3) C

deep _____ riv - er, Lord I want to cross o - ver in - to camp - ground.

9 (B) Am Em Dm Em

Oh don't you want to go to that gos - pel feast that
Oh when I get to heav - en I'll take my seat, and

13 C F C/G Dm7 G7

prom - ised land where all is peace? O,
cast my crown at Je - sus' feet. O,

17 C(7)* F C/G G7(-3) C

deep _____ riv - er, Lord I want to cross o - ver in - to camp - ground.

* C, E, G, Bb,
(or A# if no Bb)

"Deep River" is an iconic African-American spiritual with many varied arrangements and performances, first mentioned in print in 1876 in *The Story of the Jubilee Singers: With Their Songs*, by J. B. T. Marsh. (It was one of the songs performed by Fisk University's all-African-American choir, the Jubilee Singers, who toured the world to raise funds for educating newly freed slaves.) In the early 1900s, Henry Thacker Burleigh (b. 1866), the grandson of a slave and a classically trained singer and composer, published several influential arrangements of "Deep River". African-American classical singer Marian Anderson (b. 1897) performed one of its most memorable renditions in 1939, when the Daughters of the American Revolution refused permission for her to sing in Constitution Hall because of her race. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt resigned from the DAR in protest and arranged a recital for Ms. Anderson at the Lincoln Memorial. 75,000 people attended and millions more listened on the radio to the recital, which included "Deep River."