

In setting *Deep River*, I am revisiting a body of sacred American song that is inextricable from the history of slavery in the United States. Following in the footsteps of H. T. Burleigh, Nathaniel Dett and Florence Price, I have intentionally chosen the descriptor 'Negro Spiritual,' drawing attention to that history and honoring the lineage of these songs: extending from their creation by enslaved Africans and down to the present day through a great tradition of Black singers, composers, and thinkers who have offered up their own interpretations of a music of salvation and liberation.

Shawn Okpebholo, October 2021

# Deep River

Negro Spiritual  
arr. Shawn E. Okpebholo

With sorrowful hope, sensitive, no vibrato ♩ = 54

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto 1

Alto 2

Piano

*p*

*pedal harmonically, sostenuto pedal when needed*

6

**A**

*p no vibrato*

...my home is o - ver

*p no vibrato*

...my home is o - ver

*p no vibrato*

Deep\_\_\_\_\_ riv - er, my home is o - ver

*p no vibrato*

Deep\_\_\_\_\_ riv - er, my home is o - ver