

FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD

SSA Voices with Piano

African American Folk Song

Arranged by
David Hill

BriLee Music
Part-by-Part



For Accompaniment and Rehearsal Audio
Go to: BriLeeMusic.com/BL1223

Ranges:

Sop 1  Sop 2 
Alto 

Language: English

Use: General

Time: Approx. 2:40

*Difficulty: Moderate

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Notes

Follow the Drinking Gourd recalls the perilous, night-time journey of slaves seeking their freedom in the north during the civil war. The reference to the “drinking gourd” is the constellation known as “the big dipper”. Those who escaped could use these stars to guide them through the woods and fields at night.

The accompaniment was written to lend a sense of mystery about what may have awaited these travelers in the darkness. The repetitions of the word “follow” portray the haunting call of those who had gone before. When singing this song, strive to express a sense of quiet mystery but never with a weak tone. The courageous passengers of the Underground Railroad possessed an incredible strength of will that should always be part of the performance

About the Arranger

David Hill has been composing and arranging throughout his thirty-six year career as a junior high choir director. He graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas and a Masters Degree in Choral Conducting from the University of New Mexico.

Actively sought as a clinician and adjudicator, David is currently in his 18th year as head choral director at Lake Jackson Intermediate in Lake Jackson, Texas where his choirs have earned numerous awards at festivals and competitions. Choirs under his direction have performed at the Texas Music Educators Association convention and the Southwest American Choral Directors Association convention.

Follow the Drinking Gourd

for SSA Voices* with Piano

African-American Folk Song

Arranged by David Hill

Triplet swing ♩ = 105

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto

Piano

Triplet swing ♩ = 105

mf

p

4

mf

When the sun goes down and the shad-ows fall. —

* Also available for TTB Voices (BL1135).

mf

Fol - low the drink-in' gourd.

mf

Fol - low the drink-in' gourd.

Fol - low the drink-in' gourd. If you lis - ten well_ you can

Fol - low the drink-in' gourd. Fol - low the

Fol - low the drink-in' gourd. Fol - low the

hear the call_ Fol - low the drink-in' gourd. Fol - low the

For promotional use only

mp

pp

3

3

mp

Well the riv - er bank _ am a might - y good road. _

mp

Well the riv - er bank _ am a might - y good road. _

mp

Oh

mf

3

26 *mf*

Dead leaves will show you the way. — Left foot, Peg Foot,

mf

Dead leaves will show you the way. — Left foot, Peg Foot,

mf

Dead leaves will show you the way. —

29

trav - el - in' on. — Fol - low the drink - in' gourd. —

trav - el - in' on. — Fol - low the drink - in' gourd. —

Come on and Fol - low the drink - in' gourd. —

Ped. _____

32 *p*

Fol - low, fol - low, fol - low

Fol - low, fol - low, fol - low,

Fol - low, fol - low, fol - low,

p *mp*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

35 *rit.* **Straight 8ths** ♩ = 88
mf solo (or S1)

fol - low. Thought I heard the an - gel say.

fol - low.

fol - low.

rit. **Straight 8ths** ♩ = 88

38

mp tutti

solo (or S1)

Fol - low the drink - in' gourd.. Stars in the sky gon - na

mp

Fol - low the drink - in' gourd..

mp

Fol - low the drink - in' gourd..

mp

41

mp tutti

show you the way." Fol - low the drink - in' gourd..

mp

Fol - low the drink - in' gourd..

mp

Fol - low the drink - in' gourd..

mp

44 *mf*

Fol - low the drink - in' — gourd. Fol - low the

mf

Fol - low the drink - in' — gourd. Fol - low the

mf

Fol - low the drink - in' gourd. Fol - low the

47 *rit.*

drink - in' — gourd. For the old man is a - wait - in' to car - ry you to free - dom.

drink - in' — gourd.

drink - in' gourd.

rit.

50

Rubato
(Solo or select voices)

Fol - low the drink - in'

Fol - low

Fol - low

Rubato

53

$\text{♩} = 87$
a tempo

Triplet Swing
mp tutti

gourd. _____ Fol - low _____ fol - low, _____

mp
Fol - low, _____ fol - low, _____

mp
the drink - in' gourd.

$\text{♩} = 87$
Triplet Swing
mp

56 *p*

fol - - low, _____ fol - - low, _____

p

fol - - low, _____ fol - - low, _____

p

the drink - in' gourd _____

p

58 **Straight 8ths, a tempo** *mp* *rit.* ----- *fade away*

Fol - low _____

mp *fade away*

Fol - low _____

mp *fade away*

Fol - low _____

Straight 8ths, a tempo *rit.* -----

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