

1. Wonder

Early blue evening.
Lights ain't come on yet.
Looky yonder!
They come on now!

2. When Sue Wears Red

When Susanna Jones wears red
Her face is like an ancient cameo
Turned brown by the ages.

Come with a blast of trumpets,
Jesus!

When Susanna Jones wears red
A queen from some time-dead Egyptian night
Walks once again.

Blow trumpets, Jesus!

And the beauty of Susanna Jones in red
Burns in my heart a love-fire sharp like pain.

Sweet silver trumpets,
Jesus!

3. Dream Dust

Gather out of star-dust
Earth-dust,
Cloud-dust,
Storm-dust,
And splinters of hail,
One handful of dream-dust
Not for sale.

4. Song for Billie Holiday

What can purge my heart
Of the song
And the sadness?
What can purge my heart
But the song
Of the sadness?
What can purge my heart
Of the sadness
Of the song?

Do not speak of sorrow
With dust in her hair,
Or bits of dust in eyes
A chance wind blows there.
The sorrow that I speak of
Is dusted with despair.

Voice of muted trumpet,
Cold brass in warm air.
Bitter television blurred
By sound that shimmers —
Where?

5. Feet o' Jesus

At the feet o' Jesus,
Sorrow like a sea.
Lordy, let yo' mercy
Come driftin' down on me.

At the feet o' Jesus,
At yo' feet I stand.
O, ma little Jesus,
Please reach out yo' hand.

6. Fire!

Fire,
Fire, Lord!
Fire gonna burn ma soul!

I ain't been good,
I ain't been clean —
I been stinkin', low-down mean.

Fire,
Fire, Lord!
Fire gonna burn ma soul!

Tell me, brother,
Do you believe
If you wanta go to heaben
Got to moan an' grieve?

Fire,
Fire, Lord!
Fire gonna burn ma soul!

I been stealin',
Been tellin' lies,
Had more women
Than Pharaoh had wives.

Fire,
Fire, Lord!
Fire gonna burn ma soul!
I means Fire, Lord!
Fire gonna burn ma soul!

Wonder

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When Sue Wears Red

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Dream Dust

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Song for Billie Holiday

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Feet o' Jesus

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Fire

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Editor's Note

Since this piece has been in circulation since 1992, the page numbering and layout of the composer's original edition have been retained. Thus, choirs that already have copies of this piece can order matching replacement copies from the publisher as needed.

13

S A

T B

I

II

mp *p*

Ear - ly blue — eve - ning. — Lights ain't.

mp *p* *pp*

Leo *

20

S A

T B

I

II

mp *p*

come on — yet.

mp *pp*

2. When Sue Wears Red

Langston Hughes (1902–1967)

William Averitt

♩ = 104

S
A

T
B

(This staff always played 8va above written notes)

♩ = 104

I

♩ = 104

II

ff marc.

ff marc.

3 3 3 3 3 3

Red Red Red Red Red Red

The musical score is for a four-part vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano. The tempo is marked as 104 beats per minute. The vocal parts (S, A, T, B) are in 4/4 time and have rests for the first two measures. The piano accompaniment (I and II) begins in the third measure. The piano part features a driving bass line with triplets and chords, marked ***ff marc.***. The lyrics 'Red' are written below the piano part, corresponding to the notes in the bass line.

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4

S
A

T
B

I

II

Leo. Leo. Leo.

stacc.

sub. ff

sfz f

f

10

S
A

T
B

I

II

unis. p

When Su - san-na Jones wears red Her

unis. p

mp

p

stacc.

*Leo. Leo. Leo. **

15

S A face is like an an - cient cam - e - o Turned

T B

I

II

19

S A *mp* brown by the ag - - - es. *ff* Come with a blast, — come with a

T B *mp* *mf* *ff* *unis.* *unis.*

I

II

mp *mf* *f* *ff*

stacc.

Leo. *Leo.* *

William Averitt

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William Averitt

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9 *mf* *S. div.* *f* *mf*

S A sad - ness? What can purge my heart Of the sad - ness Of the

T B *mf* *f* *mf*

II *mf* *f* *mf*

Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea.

13 *p* *unis. p* *3* *3*

S A song, Do not speak of sor - row

T B *p*

I Piano I *p* *3* *3* *3* *mp*

II *p* *pp* *p*

Lea. Lea. Lea.

17

mp *mf* *p*

S A With dust in her hair, Or bits of

T B

I

II

mp *mf* *p*

Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo.

20

mf *f*

S A dust in eyes A chance wind blows there.

T B

I

II

mp *mf* *f*

Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo.

5. Feet o' Jesus

Langston Hughes (1902–1967)

William Averitt

Slowly and expressively

S *p* At the feet o' Je - sus, Sor - row like a

A *p* At the feet o' Je - sus, Sor - row like a

T *p* At the feet o' Je - sus, Sor - row like a

B *p* At the feet o' Je - sus, Sor - row like a

(Optional chord) **Piano** *pp* (for rehearsal only)

5 *mp* *mf* *p* *pp*

S sea. Lord - y, let yo' mer - cy Come drift - in' down on me.

A *mp* *mf* *p* *pp*

T *mp* *mf* *p* *pp*

B *mp* *mf* *p* *pp*

sea. Lord - y, let yo' mer - cy Come drift - in' down on me.

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6. Fire

Langston Hughes (1902–1967)

William Averitt

$\text{♩} = 66$

S
A

T
B

(This staff always played 8va above written notes)

$\text{♩} = 66$

I

pp

$\text{♩} = 66$

II

pp

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5

S
A

Fire, Fire, Lord! — Fire, Fire, Lord!

T
B

I

II

Measure 5: Soprano and Alto parts have lyrics 'Fire, Fire, Lord!'. Tenor and Bass parts have lyrics 'Fire, Fire, Lord!'. Piano I and II provide accompaniment. Dynamics include *p*, *sfz*, and *p*.

10

S
A

Fire, Fire, Lord! — Fire gon-na burn ma soul!

T
B

I

II

Measure 10: Soprano and Alto parts have lyrics 'Fire, Fire, Lord! — Fire gon-na burn ma soul!'. Tenor and Bass parts have lyrics 'Fire, Fire, Lord! — Fire gon-na burn ma soul!'. Piano I and II provide accompaniment. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, *sfz*, *f*, and *mf*.

15

S A

T B

I ain't _____ been good, _____

I

II

19

S A

T B

I ain't _____ been clean, - _____ I been stink - in', low -

I

II