

(WHEN IT'S)
DARKNESS ON THE DELTA

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 and AL J. NEIBURG

Music by JERRY LEVINSON
 Arrangement by the
 BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

Chorus ♩ = ♩³ ♩

oo _____

Tenor Lead

When it's dark-ness _____ on the del - ta, _____ that's the

oo _____

Bari Bass

bum-buh bum-buh bum-buh buh-buh-buh bum-buh bum-buh bum-buh buh-buh-buh

time my heart is light. When it's

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

oo _____

dark - ness _____ on the del - ta, _____ let me

oo _____

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

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Darkness on the Delta

lin - ger in the shel - ter of the night. Fields of

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum

oo

cot - ton all a - round me, voic - es

oo

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh buh-buh-buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh buh-buh-buh

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

oo

sing - in' sweet and low, Lord, I'm

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

oo

luck - y that you found me where the

oo

Detailed description: The musical score is written for a vocal melody and a bass accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system (measures 7-8) has a vocal line with a slur over measures 7 and 8, and a bass line with a slur over measures 7 and 8. The second system (measures 9-10) has a vocal line with a slur over measures 9 and 10, and a bass line with a slur over measures 9 and 10. The third system (measures 11-12) has a vocal line with a slur over measures 11 and 12, and a bass line with a slur over measures 11 and 12. The fourth system (measures 13-14) has a vocal line with a slur over measures 13 and 14, and a bass line with a slur over measures 13 and 14. The lyrics are: 'lin - ger in the shel - ter of the night. Fields of', 'bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum', 'oo', 'cot - ton all a - round me, voic - es', 'oo', 'bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh buh-buh-buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh buh-buh-buh', 'bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh', 'oo', 'sing - in' sweet and low, Lord, I'm', 'bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh', 'oo', 'luck - y that you found me where the', 'oo'.

*Darkness on the Delta***Reprise (second time)**

15 mud - dy Mis - sis - sip - pi wa - ters flow. flow.
 16 flow. flow.
 17 Loung-in' on the lev - ee,
 bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh flow.

18 list - 'nin' to the night - in - gales a - bove.
 19 night - in - gales 'way up a - bove.
 20 night - in - gales a - bove.
 a - bove.

21 Laugh-ter on the lev - ee, 22 no one's heart is heav - y. 23 All God's chil - dren got

24 some - one to love. When it's dark - ness on the
 25 mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh
 mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh
 bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh - buh

Darkness on the Delta

mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh

26 del - ta, on - ly heav - en is in
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh buh - buh - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh

28 sight. When it's dark - ness on the
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh night.

30 del - ta, let me lin - ger in the shel - ter of the night.
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh night.

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh night.

Darkness on the Delta

2.
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh night. **Tag**

33 lin - ger in the shel - ter of the night. Oh, let me lin-ger in the
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh night.

34 bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh night.

36 shel-ter of the night!

37 38 39 40

Optional key change

23 All God's chil-dren got some-one to love. When it's
24 dark - ness
mm - buh mm - buh
bum - buh bum - buh

Performance Notes

Written in 1932 during the Great Depression, *Darkness on the Delta* provided music listeners with some happiness during a dark era. The song was a hit for singer Mildred Bailey and was covered in 1933 by both Ted Fio Rito & His Orchestra and Chick Bullock & His Orchestra. It was revived in 1953 by the Country All Stars and by Don Lanphere in 1995.

Darkness on the Delta has been a standard for barbershop ensembles for many years. Its classic barbershop chord progressions and exciting tag have made it a staple for shows and afterglows. As you sing this arrangement, call to mind the 1930s, when there was little electricity on the Mississippi Delta. As darkness fell, folks along the Delta enjoyed an easier, less complicated life. Invite your audiences to do the same.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any other song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current guidelines. Ask *before* you sing.