



# Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

A Piano Magazine subscriber-exclusive digital resource

**Roger McVey presents:**

***From the Southland* by Harry T. Burleigh**

## Preparation and Presentation

**Context:** pieces that are helpful to have experienced or played before approaching this one

- Edward MacDowell: *To a Wild Rose*, Op. 51, No. 1
- Scott Joplin: *The Entertainer* or the *Maple Leaf Rag*
- Claude Debussy: *The Little Shepherd*
- Frédéric Chopin: *Prelude in E Minor*, Op. 28, No. 4

**Get Ready:** creative activities to explore before the first encounter with the score, to prepare a student for deeper engagement and more immediate success

- Listen to examples of spirituals like “Amazing Grace” or “Deep River.”
- Learn and practice the pentatonic scale in different keys.

**Initial Focus:** features to pay attention to first; priority steps in reading and absorbing the music

- Find a good balance between RH melody and LH chords/accompaniment.
- Tap and speak the syncopated rhythms.

**Coordination Essentials:** physical skills and drills for common technical challenges in the piece

- Tap rhythms of both hands together, especially in jump bass sections.
- Add words or text to the syncopated rhythms.

**Expressivity:** ideas to connect and reconnect with the expressive and musical nature of the piece

- Sing the melodies. How does your voice add inflection and shape to the melody?
- The titles of the movements are based on poems by the composer’s wife, Louise Alston Burleigh. Read the poems and consider what they convey.

**Look Forward:** approaches to set up for success with refinements that will need attention a few weeks down the road

- Find the spots that will require isolated practice (for example, m. 7, 9, 11, in movement 1; mm. 23-25 in movement 1; jump bass sections in movement 4; spread out LH chords in movement 4; etc.).