

## SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

‘Spiritual Journey’, is a complete work, written and arranged for Black Voices by Ken Burton. ‘Spiritual Journey’ is as it states – a suite of songs mapping the journey of ‘The Spirituals’.

It begins with a taste of Africa, the elements which survived and permeated the form including improvisation, call & response and cross rhythms.

The Middle Passage - where tribes were separated and communicated in moans, groans & chants; the earliest spirituals sung on arrival in the Americas (including the Caribbean); the ‘Sorrow Songs’ (spirituals which speak about the situation & hope of freedom); the ‘reaction’ songs, spirituals which sometimes contain hidden and coded messages about the means of escape. It is interesting to note that words and phrases such as ‘Lord’, ‘Jesus’, ‘Heaven’, ‘Crossing Over Jordan’ were often used in spirituals synonymously as freedom.

The conclusion of the work contains ‘Freedom and Celebration’ songs.

### Programme

<u>Title</u>	<u>Composer</u>
Spiritual Journey	Ken Burton, composer
The Spirit Speaks	Ken Burton, composer
Nobody But Me One/Have Mercy On Me	Traditional Spiritual, arr Ken Burton: additional lyrics & melodies by Ken Burton
Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child	Traditional Spiritual, arr Ken Burton
The Deliverer	Ken Burton, composer
Who’s Gonna Heal My Broken Spirit?	Ken Burton, composer
Balm In Gilead	Traditional Spiritual, arr Ken Burton
Feel The Spirit Moving/ Every Time I Feel The Spirit	Feel The Spirit... Ken Burton, composer Every Time... Traditional Spiritual, arr Ken Burton
Old Testament Spiritual Medley	Additional words, Ken Burton Go Down Moses/Joshua/Didn’t My Lord/ Ezekiel/Dry Bones Traditional Spirituals, arr Ken Burton
Sweet Jesus	Ken Burton, composer Lily of The Valley/Steal Away/Nobody Knows/ Traditional Spirituals, arr Ken Burton
Coded Spirituals	Wade In The Water/Get On Board/Swing Low Traditional Spirituals, arr Ken Burton
O Freedom	Traditional Spiritual, arr Ken Burton Reprise of Spiritual Journey – Ken Burton

