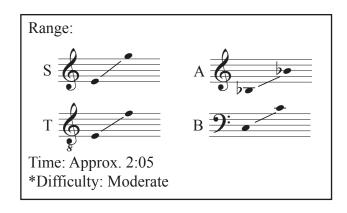
166 MUSIC

WADE IN THE WATER

SATB, accompanied

Arranged by GLENDA E. FRANKLIN

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Between 1810 and 1850, approximately 100,000 slaves were effectively moved to the North and to Canada by a vast network of people known as the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad used terms associated with railroading. "Stations" and "depots" were homes and businesses run by "stationmasters" where fugitives would rest and eat. "Stockholders" were those who contributed money or goods and the "conductor" was responsible for moving fugitives from one station to the next.

Using hand lights and/or moonlight, slaves would walk the ten to twenty miles from one station to the next. When needed, they walked or "waded" in water to throw off the scent of bloodhounds pursuing their trail. Songs such as "Wade in the Water," "The Gospel Train," and "Follow the Drinking Gourd" are said to have explicit instructions on how to avoid capture and/or the route for successfully achieving freedom.

Notable "conductors" were Harriet Tubman who escorted over three hundred slaves to freedom and Levi Coffin; a Quaker to assisted more than three thousand slaves.

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