

Mother to Son

Poem by
Langston Hughes

Music by
Clif Hardin
Dedicated to my mother

Deliberately, starting $\bullet = 80$

Spoken

Well, son I'll tell you:

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a common time signature. It begins with a whole rest for two measures, followed by a spoken phrase: "Well, son I'll tell you:". The notes are marked with asterisks. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef, starting with a piano dynamic marking 'p' and a common time signature. It features a melodic line with a slur over the first two measures. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef with a common time signature, consisting of a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Use pedal throughout

5
Life for me ain't been no crys - tal stair, ain't been no

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a common time signature, starting with a circled number '5'. It contains the lyrics: "Life for me ain't been no crys - tal stair, ain't been no". The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef with a common time signature, featuring a melodic line with a slur. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef with a common time signature, consisting of a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

8
crys - tal stair It's had tacks in it, And splin - ters, And

The third system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a common time signature, starting with a circled number '8'. It contains the lyrics: "crys - tal stair It's had tacks in it, And splin - ters, And". The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef with a common time signature, featuring a melodic line with a slur. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef with a common time signature, consisting of a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

11

boards torn up, And plac-es with no car-pet on__ the floor_____ Bare.

15

Slightly faster ♩ = 85

But all the time_____ I'se been a - climb-in' on,___ And

18

reach-in' land - in's, and turn-in' cor - ners, And some-times go-in' in the

21

dark_____ Where there ain't been no light,_____ no light._____ So

25 Even more insistant and emphatic

boy don't you turn back. Don't you set down on the steps 'Cause you

finds it's kind - er hard. Don't you fall now, no, Don't you

fall now, no, For I'se still go - in',

hon-ey, and I'se still climb-in, hon-ey And

37

life for me ain't been no crys-tal stair,

40

ain't

43

been no crys-tal stair. *va* *rall.*