

Freedom Ride

Commissioned by Chicago Opera Theater

“So Clayton, you think I ain’t got the guts?”

Sylvie, a young African American woman from New Orleans, has just been chastised by her old acquaintance Clayton for her lack of interest in social justice or civil rights. After he leaves, Sylvie vows to prove herself worthy of his admiration and respect.

Music and Libretto
by Dan Shore
(2020)

Very freely (♩ = ca. 84) **f**

Sylvie

So Clay-ton, You think I ain't got the guts? Well, let me tell you where you can

Very freely (♩ = ca. 84) **ff**

Piano

4

Syl.

go. You don't know no-thin' 'bout me. You don't know no-thin' a-bout New Or-leans.

Pno.

7

Molto rit. **ff** **A tempo** **Poco rit.** **Meno mosso** **p**

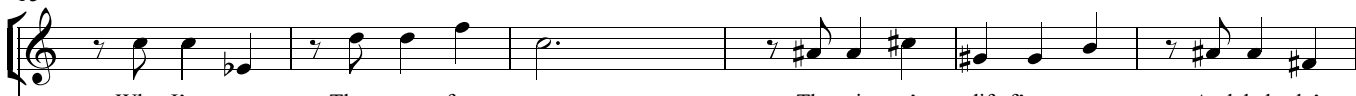
Syl.


You don't know shit. You don't know

Molto rit. **A tempo** **Poco rit.** **Meno mosso**

Pno.

13

Syl.  What I've seen These past few years. The ci - ty's dif - f'rent now, And dad - dy's

Pno. 

19 **20** *mp*

Syl.  gone. **20** You don't know, You can't know. Don't e - ven try. _____

Pno. 

24 *mf* *mp* **Accel.**

Syl.  I fin-illy have a de-cent chance. _____ Of do-ing some-thing with my life. _____

Pno. 

28 **31** Più mosso ♩=126
mf

Syl. Why _____ should I take it and throw it a -

Pno. **31** Più mosso ♩=126
mf

35

Syl. way _____ Like it's trash? _____ Why? _____ Tell me why? _____

Pno.

42 **43** Broadly; poco meno mosso
f *mf* *mp*

Syl. — And for who? _____ Just for you? _____ Well it's true, _____ I feel some-thing... I

Pno. **43** Broadly; poco meno mosso
f *mf*

50 *liberamente* **Accel.** *mf* **55** **Più mosso** ♩=126

Syl. know you do too. Tell me why?

Accel. **55** **Più mosso** ♩=126

Pno. *mp* *mf*

56 *mp*

Syl. Tell me why? And it's not that I'm scared Of the cops or the

Pno. *mp*

62 *mf* *f* **67**

Syl. pri-sons, But why? Tell me why? Why should I let them

Pno. *mf* *f* **67**

68

Syl. burn me and chase me and beat me For no - thing? We don't mat-ter at

Pno.

73

Syl. all. We don't mat-ter at all.

Pno.

Rit. **Maestoso** ♩=84 *mf*

Rit. **Maestoso** ♩=84 *ff*

78

Syl. So Clay - ton, You think I ain't got the guts?

Pno.

79 Very freely *f*

79 Very freely *fp* *ff*

81

Syl. Well, let me show you what I can do. I'll go. I'll go._____

Pno.

85

Syl. I'll go!

Pno.

Faster
ff

Faster
fp **fff**