

*commissioned by Vox Femina Los Angeles in honor of Pen Desser
premiered by Vox Femina Los Angeles-Dr. Iris S. Levine, Artistic Director-June, 2004*

STILL I RISE

for S.S.A.A. voices and Solo, accompanied

Words and Music by
ROSEPHANYE POWELL

Joyful, gospel style with swing ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 145$)

mf
opt.

Though—

3

I have been wound-ed; ach-ing heart, full of pain.—

SOPRANO

ALTO

Still I rise,— yes,

3

Jus' like — a bud - ding rose, my bloom is

still I rise.—

6

Note: Feel free to add instrumental accompaniment such as bass and lead guitars, organ, tambourine, claves, congas and drum set. The choir should sway throughout. The soloist may improvise or embellish her solo and ad lib throughout the song. Alternate notes have been provided. The pianist may improvise throughout the song in accordance with the gospel style.

JG2346

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8

nourished by rain.—

Have -

Still I rise,— yes, still I rise.—

8

11

- n't time to won-der why, though fear-ful I strive.—

Still I rise,— yes,

11

14

My pray'r — and faith up-hold me 'til my cour-age ar - rives.—

still I rise.—

14

17

Still I rise,

17 Selected Sopranos

Still I rise as an ea -

Still I rise, yes, still I rise.

Still I rise as an ea -

17

20

still I rise.

With each day -

gle, soar - ing a - bove ev - 'ry fear. With each day -

gle, still I rise.

still I rise.

20

23

I suc - ceed, — I grow strong — an' be - lieve — that it's all...
 I suc - ceed, — I grow strong — an' be - lieve —

23

That it's all —

25

— with - in my reach; I'm reach - ing for the skies, — Bol -

25

— stered by cour - age, yes, still — I rise. — Yes, it's all —

27

Still — I rise,

29

yes, — still — I rise. —

— with-in my reach; I'm reach - ing for the skies, — yes, still — I rise. —

29

32

Still I rise. —

Still I rise. —

32

35

mf

Gen - tle as a wom-an; ten-der sweet are my sighs. —

35

v

38

Strength — is in my tears and healing

Still I rise, — yes, still I rise. —

38

41

rains in my cries. — Plung -

Still I rise, — yes, still I rise. —

41

44

ing depths of an-guish, I de - ter-mine to strive. —

Still I rise, — yes,

44

47

End Solo

My pray'r — and faith up-hold me 'til my cour-age ar - rives.—
still I rise.—

47

50

Still I rise,— yes, still I rise.— Though you see me slump with

50

53

heart-ache; Heart — so heav-y that it breaks.

53

56

Be not de-ceived I fly on birds' wings,
ris - ing sun, its heal -

- ing rays. Look at me, you see a wom-an; Gen -

- tle as a but-ter - fly. But don't you think, not for one

mo-ment, that I'm not strong be - cause I cry. Yes,

68 Selected Sopranos

Still I rise as an ea - gle, soar - ing a - bove ev -'ry fear.
Still I rise as an ea - gle, still I rise,

68

With each day I suc - ceed, I grow strong
still I rise.

71

an' be - lieve

That it's all with - in my reach; I'm reach -

73

75

- ing for the skies, — Bol - stered by cour - age, yes, still —

75

— I rise. Yes, it's all — with - in my reach; I'm reach -

77

- ing for the skies, — High - er and high - er, yes, still —

79

— I rise. Yes, it's all — within my reach; I'm reach - ing for the skies. —

84 Sopranos *mf* still I rise, —
Yes, still — I rise, — Still I rise, —

Altos *mf*
Yes, still — I rise, — still I rise, —

84
still I rise, — still I rise, —

87 still I rise, — still I rise, —

87 still I rise, — still I rise, —

90 — still I rise, — still I rise, —

90 — still I rise, —

* Build in volume and emotion, clapping on beats 2 and 4 to the end.

93 * still I rise, —
 Still I rise, —

By pray'r — and faith, still I rise, —

93 * still I rise, —

still I rise, —
 Still I rise, —

By pray'r — and faith, still I rise, —

95 * still I rise, —

still I rise, —
 Still I rise, —

By pray'r — and faith, still I rise, —

97 * still I rise, —

still I rise, —
 Still I rise, —

By pray'r — and faith, still I rise, —

97 ** still I rise, —

still I rise, —

* Measures 93-96 and 101-104 may be repeated as desired.

** In this section, the pianist can choose to play only the notes of the first beat of each measure, providing rhythmic accents. The walking bass notes in the left hand can resume at measure 101 or at the director's discretion.

still I rise, —

Still I rise, —

By pray'r — and faith, still I rise, —

By pray'r — an' faith, still I rise. —

Still I rise, —

By pray'r — and faith, still I rise, —

By pray'r — an' faith, still I rise. —

Still I rise, —

By pray'r — and faith, still I rise, —

By pray'r — an' faith, still I rise. —

Still I rise, —

* In this section (if not done earlier), the pianist can choose to play only the notes of the first beat of each measure, providing rhythmic accents. A second option is that the right hand can play the pattern given while the left hand plays the same pattern, repeating the notes of the first beat (either the tonic or the dominant, respectively). Both hands should play as written in measure 108.

By pray'r — an' faith, still I rise, —
Still I rise. —

By pray'r — and faith, still I rise, —

By pray'r — an' faith, still I rise. —

By pray'r — and faith, still I rise. — Yes, it's all —

— with - in my reach; I'm reach - ing for the skies, — Bol -

109

109

16

111

- stered by cour - age, yes, still ____ I rise. Yes, it's all ____

111

- with - in my reach; I'm reach - ing for the skies, ____ High - ____

113

- er and high - er, yes, still ____ I rise. Yes, it's all ____

115

- with-in my reach; I'm reach - ing for the skies. ____ Yes, still ____ I rise!

117

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