

(WHEN IT'S)
DARKNESS ON THE DELTA

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 and AL J. NEIBURG

Music by JERRY LEVINSON
 Arrangement by the
 BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

Chorus ♩ = ♩³♩

oo _____

Tenor Lead

1 2

When it's dark-ness _____ on the del - ta, _____ that's the

oo _____

Bari Bass

bum-buh bum-buh bum-buh buh-buh-buh bum-buh bum-buh bum-buh buh-buh-buh

3 4

time my heart is light. When it's

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

oo _____

5 6

dark - ness _____ on the del - ta, _____ let me

oo _____

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

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Darkness on the Delta

7 8

lin - ger in the shel - ter of the night. Fields of

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum

oo

9 10

cot - ton all a - round me, voic - es

oo

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh buh-buh-buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh buh-buh-buh

11 12

sing - in' sweet and low, Lord, I'm

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

oo

13 14

luck - y that you found me where the

oo

*Darkness on the Delta***Reprise (second time)**

15 *flow.* 16 *flow.* 17

mud - dy Mis - sis - sip - pi wa - ters *flow.* *flow.* Loung-in' on the lev - ee,

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh *flow.*

18 19 20

list - 'nin' to the night - in - gales *a - bove.*

night - in - gales *a - bove.*

21 22 23

Laugh-ter on the lev - ee, no one's heart is heav - y. All God's chil - dren got

24 25

some - one to love. When it's dark - ness *on the*

mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh *buh - buh - buh*

Darkness on the Delta

mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh

26 27

del - ta, on - ly heav - en is in
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh buh - buh - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh

28 29

sight. When it's dark - ness on the
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh

1. mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh night. _____

30 31 32

del - ta, let me lin - ger in the shel - ter of the night.
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh night. _____

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh night.

Darkness on the Delta

2.
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh night. **Tag**

33 34 35

lin - ger in the shel - ter of the night. Oh, let me lin-ger in the
mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh mm - buh night.

bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh bum - buh night.

36 37 38 39 40

shel-ter of the night!

Optional key change

23 24

All God's chil - dren got some-one to love. When it's
mm - buh mm - buh
dark - ness
mm - buh mm - buh
bum - buh bum - buh

Performance Notes

Written in 1932 during the Great Depression, *Darkness on the Delta* provided music listeners with some happiness during a dark era. The song was a hit for singer Mildred Bailey and was covered in 1933 by both Ted Fio Rito & His Orchestra and Chick Bullock & His Orchestra. It was revived in 1953 by the Country All Stars and by Don Lanphere in 1995.

Darkness on the Delta has been a standard for barbershop ensembles for many years. Its classic barbershop chord progressions and exciting tag have made it a staple for shows and afterglows. As you sing this arrangement, call to mind the 1930s, when there was little electricity on the Mississippi Delta. As darkness fell, folks along the Delta enjoyed an easier, less complicated life. Invite your audiences to do the same.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any other song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current guidelines. Ask *before* you sing.