

# Song of the Open Road

Walt Whitman

from Leaves of Grass (1900)  
for high male voice and piano

Robert Casteels

**A**

$\text{♩} = 132$

*p* clearly articulated A - foot and light-hear-ted, I

*p* without pedal

G Major pitches and rhythm correspond to George David Bishop (= GDB) GDB pitches

pentatone and rhythm refer to Chan Chow Wah (= CCW)

8-bar phrase

5

take to the o-pen road, Heal- thy, free, the world be-fore

idea of "road" is always associated with pitch C

positive is expressed by a dominant seventh chord on pitch A

8-bar phrase

10

me, The long brown path be-fore me, lea- ding wher-e-ver I choose.

GDB rhythm and pitches GDB pitches GDB pitches

2 15

**B** (open road)

Vocal line for measures 15-19. The melody starts with a whole rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. There are accents over the notes A4, B4, and C5. The line ends with a quarter rest.

*mp* Hence-forth I ask not good for- tune, I my-self am

Piano accompaniment for measures 15-19. The right hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The left hand has a 3-measure rest, then plays chords and single notes. A triton interval is marked with an asterisk in measure 17.

8-bar phrase GDB pitches positive GDB

20

Vocal line for measures 20-24. The melody consists of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, F29, G29, A29, B29, C30, D30, E30, F30, G30, A30, B30, C31, D31, E31, F31, G31, A31, B31, C32, D32, E32, F32, G32, A32, B32, C33, D33, E33, F33, G33, A33, B33, C34, D34, E34, F34, G34, A34, B34, C35, D35, E35, F35, G35, A35, B35, C36, D36, E36, F36, G36, A36, B36, C37, D37, E37, F37, G37, A37, B37, C38, D38, E38, F38, G38, A38, B38, C39, D39, E39, F39, G39, A39, B39, C40, D40, E40, F40, G40, A40, B40, C41, D41, E41, F41, G41, A41, B41, C42, D42, E42, F42, G42, A42, B42, C43, D43, E43, F43, G43, A43, B43, C44, D44, E44, F44, G44, A44, B44, C45, D45, E45, F45, G45, A45, B45, C46, D46, E46, F46, G46, A46, B46, C47, D47, E47, F47, G47, A47, B47, C48, D48, E48, F48, G48, A48, B48, C49, D49, E49, F49, G49, A49, B49, C50, D50, E50, F50, G50, A50, B50, C51, D51, E51, F51, G51, A51, B51, C52, D52, E52, F52, G52, A52, B52, C53, D53, E53, F53, G53, A53, B53, C54, D54, E54, F54, G54, A54, B54, C55, D55, E55, F55, G55, A55, B55, C56, D56, E56, F56, G56, A56, B56, C57, D57, E57, F57, G57, A57, B57, C58, D58, E58, F58, G58, A58, B58, C59, D59, E59, F59, G59, A59, B59, C60, D60, E60, F60, G60, A60, B60, C61, D61, E61, F61, G61, 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30

(open road) **C**

3

8-bar phrase



35

seems beau - ti - ful to me;

positive

GDB pitches

GDB rhythm



39

I can re-peat o-ver to men and wo men, You have done such good to

GDB pitches

8-bar phrase

positive

4 43

(open road)

me, I would do the same to you.

GDB pitches    GDB rhythm    positive    pentatone    CCW rhythm

D

46

*f dim.*    *pp*    *p* The

arpeggiando    tremolando

chord series 1  
8-bar phrase

51

(without crescendo)

ef-flux of the Soul is hap-pi-ness Here is hap-pi-ness; I think it per-

concept of Soul is expressed by the open fifth interval    positive    GDB pitches and rhythm    chord series 2 8-bar phrase

58

vades the o-pen air, wai - ting at all times; Now it flows un - to

pitches GDB + CCW

63 *cresc.*

*f*

**E** poco accelerando

us We are right-ly charged.

pitch combination of pitches from GDB + CCW express the plurality of "us" and "we"/ semiquaver appoggiatura refers to the vocal style of Chinese opera

plurality

positive

8-bar phrase

67

**a tempo**

The Soul tra - vels; The  
*mp* without expression

*p legato*  
(1 pedal 12.5-bars)

Soul

6 71

(open road)  
(no crescendo) (no crescendo)

bo-dy does not tra-vel as much as the soul; The bo-dy has just as great a work as the soul, and

negation Soul 8-bar phrase Soul

77

(no crescendo)

parts a-way at last for the jour-neys of the soul.

Soul

**F**

81

*mf* The road is be-fore us! *mp* It is safe I have tried it my

8-bar phrase plurality GDB + CCW pitches and rhythm GDB pitches GDB pitches

86 (open road) **G** 7

own feet have tried it well. I give you my hand!

*sustained*

GDB pitches CCW pitches GDB pitches chord series I

8-bar phrase

91

I give you my love, more pre-cious than

GDB pitches CCW pitches GDB pitches

95

mo-ney, I give you my - self, be - fore prea ching or law;

CCW pitches GDB pitches 8-bar phrase

(open road)

Will you give me your- self? will you come tra- vel with me?

*p* *mp*

*ppp* *pp* *p* *mp*

Soul + chord series 2 CCW pitches GDB pitches CCW pitches GDB pitches

7/8 rhythm refers to GDB + CCW



Shall we stick by each o-ther *f* as long as we live?

*mf* *f*

*mf* *f*

5:4 5:4

5:4 5:4

plurality plurality thrice negation + positivism 8-bar phrase



We shall live by each o-ther as long as we live!

*fff* *pp* effluent *l.v.*

15<sup>ma</sup>

a

Duration: 3'  
Kapellen 31-12-2008

Soul plurality plurality plurality plurality GDB + CCW pitches and rhythm