

# OL' MAN RIVER

OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

from SHOW BOAT

JEROME KERN

Col-ored folks work on de

The first system of the musical score for 'Ol' Man River' consists of three staves. The top staff is a bass clef line with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. It contains a vocal line with the lyrics 'Col-ored folks work on de'. The middle staff is a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with piano accompaniment. The bottom staff is a bass clef line with piano accompaniment. The music is in a simple, rhythmic style characteristic of early 20th-century Broadway.

Mis-sis-sip-pi, col-ored folks work while de white folks play Pull-in' dose boats from de

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal line with the lyrics 'Mis-sis-sip-pi, col-ored folks work while de white folks play Pull-in' dose boats from de'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a steady bass line. The system is numbered '6' at the beginning.

dawn to sun-set, git-tin' no rest till de judg-ment day Don't look up an' don't look down, you

The third system of the musical score continues the vocal line with the lyrics 'dawn to sun-set, git-tin' no rest till de judg-ment day Don't look up an' don't look down, you'. The piano accompaniment features some chromatic movement in the bass line. The system is numbered '10' at the beginning.

don't dast make de white boss frown Bend yo' knees an' bow yo' head, an' pull dat rope un-

The fourth system of the musical score continues the vocal line with the lyrics 'don't dast make de white boss frown Bend yo' knees an' bow yo' head, an' pull dat rope un-'. The piano accompaniment continues with a consistent rhythmic pattern. The system is numbered '15' at the beginning.

till you're dead Let me go 'way from de Mis - sis - sip - pi, let me go 'way from de

white men boss Show me dat stream called de riv - er Jor-dan Dat's de ol' stream dat I

long to cross \_\_\_\_\_ Ol' man riv - er, dat ol' man riv - er, he

must know some-thin' but don't say noth in'. He just keeps roll-in', he keeps on roll-in' a -

long ————— He don't plant 'ta-ters, he don't plant cot-ton, an'

dem dat plants them is soon for - got-ten, But ol' man riv-er, he just keeps roll-in' a

long ————— You an' me, we sweat an' strain

bod - y all ach - in' an' racked wid pain "Tote dat barge!" "Lift dat bale,"

Gift a lit - tle drunk an' you land in jail ah gits wea-ry an' sick of try-in'. Ah'm

tired of liv-in' an skeered of dy-in'. But ol' man riv-er, he jus' keeps roll-in' a

1. long 2. long