

Mary's Aria

from *YORK: The Voice of Freedom* Act Two. Scene Two

Through all the years of the expedition York and Mary both lived for the day when they would be free together. But of course, according to the rule of law and American custom York was still, and had always been, Clark's property.

When the expedition returned to the United States every man received not just the money the government had promised but double the money. Not just the land grant that the government had promised but double the land.

Of all the men of the expedition only York received nothing – because he was a slave.

And William Clark refused absolutely to give York the one payment York knows he has earned – his freedom.

Mary and York will not be free. In this scene, Mary realizes she is not to receive what justice should have given.

Andante con moto ♩ = 90

Piano

Andante espressivo ♩ = 96

Mary

Have I been de -

ceived think - ing I could have you? Have I let my heart

Mary

16 *cresc.* *mp* *mf* bitterly

play me for a damn fool? I know my place. I have al - ways known my

16 *cresc.* *mp*

Mary

21 *p* with sass *mf*

place e - ven when I don't keep it. Show me a fence and

21 *p* *mf*

Mary

26 *mp*

see if I don't leap it. Have I been de - ceived think - ing you'd be for

26 *mp*

Mary

31 *mf* *cresc.*

me? _____ Could I not con - ceive the ston - y walls be - fore me?

31 *mf* *poco cresc.*

Mary

36 *f* *mf* *dim.*

I know my place. We are the race _____ that has no choice. _____

36 *f* *mf* *dim.*

Mary

41 *f* *dim.*

_____ Have I been a fool hop - ing once to choose? _____

41 *mp* *mf* *f*

Mary

46 *mp* *sub. p*

And must I lose? Ev - 'ry - bod - y says that ev - 'ry - bod - y gets just

46 *mp* *sub. p*

Mary

51 *mp* *sub. p* *mp cresc.*

what they de-serve. Ev - 'ry - bod - y's wrong. If the world made sense

51 *sub. p* *mp cresc.*

Mary

56 *f*

I would have you.

56 *f* *ff* *mf dim.*

60 *allarg.* *p*