When the Storms of Life Are Ragin’

African-American Spiritual

Arranged by
Stephen M. Lee

FROM THE COLLECTION
Stand by Me: A Celebration of African-American Song
Octavo Packet #30113342
CD #30113343
When the Storms of Life Are Ragin’
(Cry of the Stevedore, Choral Response and Reprise)

African-American Spiritual
Arranged by Stephen M. Lee

Rubato (\( \frac{q}{4} = \text{ca. 50} \))

Baritone Solo

1. When the storms of life are rag-in’, stand by me,

2. When the winds of strife are blow-in’, stand by me!

1-2. stand by me, stand by me!

Rhythmic

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Stand by me, Lawd!

Stand by me, Lawd!

Stand by me, Lawd!

Stand by me, Lawd!

Stand by me, Lawd! Please stand by me, Lawd!

Stand by me, Lawd! Please stand by me, Lawd!

Stand by me, Lawd!

Stand by me, Lawd!

Please stand by me, Lawd!

Please stand by me, Lawd!

© 2005, 2011, Stephen M. Lee. Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.
When the Storms of Life Are Ragin'

Stand by me, Lawd!

Defiant
Baritone Solo

When the tide of hate is a ris - in', stand by_

Stand by me, Lawd!

When the Storms of Life Are Ragin'
When the Storms of Life Are Ragin'

Stand by me, Lawd! Please stand by me, Lawd! Stand by me, Lawd!

Stand by me, Lawd! Please stand by me, Lawd! Stand by me, Lawd!

Stand by me, Lawd! Please stand by me, Lawd! Stand by me, Lawd!

When the Storms of Life Are Ragin'
When the Storms of Life Are Ragin'

Lawd, stand by me!

Oh Lawd! Stand by me!

Stand by me, Lawd!

Stand by me, Lawd! Please stand by me, Lawd!

4. When all creation is groanin',

Stand by me, Lawd!

Stand by me, Lawd!

Stand by me, Lawd!

Please stand by me, Lawd!

When the Storms of Life Are Ragin'
When the Storms of Life Are Ragin'

Stand by me, Lawd!

Stand by me, Lawd!

Oh Lawd!

Stand, stand by me!

Oh Lawd!

Stand, stand by me!

When all creation is a groanin',

Stand, stand by me!
Composer Notes

Historically, persons of African descent were often forced to work as stevedores, i.e., longshoremen or dockers, along river systems and upon the coastal waters of the American shores. They loaded and unloaded ships, singing while they worked. The use of song to undergird work, the activities of daily living, community rituals, and rites of passage is a noted African survival.

The title is inspired by the first line of Charles Albert Tindley’s “Stand by Me,” and the tune is inspired by the African-American spiritual “Soon-a Will Be Done.”

—Stephen M. Lee