

Black Waters

Jean Ritchie

E A B7 E

5 E B7 E
came from the moun-tains. Ken - tuc-ky's my home, _____ Where the

10 B7 E
wild deer and the black bear so late - ly did roam. _____ By

15 A E
cool, rush-ing wa-ter-falls, the wild flow-ers dream, _____ And through

22 B7
ev - e - ry green val - ley, there runs a clear stream. _____ Now, there's

27 E A
scenes of de - struc - tion on ev - e - ry hand, _____ And

32 E B7 E
on - ly black wa - ters run down through my land. _____ Sad

37 A E
scenes of de - struc - tion on ev - er - y hand; _____

43 B7 E
Black wa - ters, black wa-ters run down through our land. _____ Oh, the

2

51 E B7 E
quail, she's a pret-ty bird; she sings a sweet tongue. In the

56 B7 E
roots of tall tim - bers, she nests with her young. But the

61 A E
hill-side ex - plodes with the dyn - a - mite's roar, And the

68 B7
voi-ces of the small birds will sound there no more. And the

73 E A
hill-sides come a - slid - ing so aw-ful and grand, And the

78 E B7 E
flood - ing black wa - ters rise o - ver my land. Sad

83 A E
scenes of de - struc - tion on ev - er - y hand;

89 B7 E
Black wa - ters, black wa-ters run down through the land. In the

97 E B7 E
 ris - ing of the spring - time, we plant - ed our corn. In the

102 B7 E
 end - ing of the spring - time, we bur - ied a son. In the

107 A E
 sum - mer came a nice man who said, "All was fine. My em -

114 B7
 ploy - er just re - quired a way to his mine." Then, they

119 E A
 threw down my moun - tain and cov - ered my corn. Now, the

124 B7
 grave on the hill - side's a mile deep - er down. And the

129 E A
 man stood and talked with his hat in his hand, As the

134 E B7 E
 poi - son - ous wa - ter spread o - ver my land. Sad

139 A E
 scenes of de - struc - tion on ev - er - y hand;

145 B7 E
 Black wa - ters, black wa - ters run down through the land. Well, I

153 E B7 E

ain't got no mon - ey and not much of a home. I

158 B7 E

own my own land, but my land's not my own. But if

163 A E

I had ten mil - lion, some - where there - a - bouts, I would

170 B7

buy Per-ry Coun - ty, and I'd run 'em all out! I'd set

175 E A

down on the bank with my bait in my can. And just

180 E B7 E

watch the clear wa - ters run down through my land! Well,

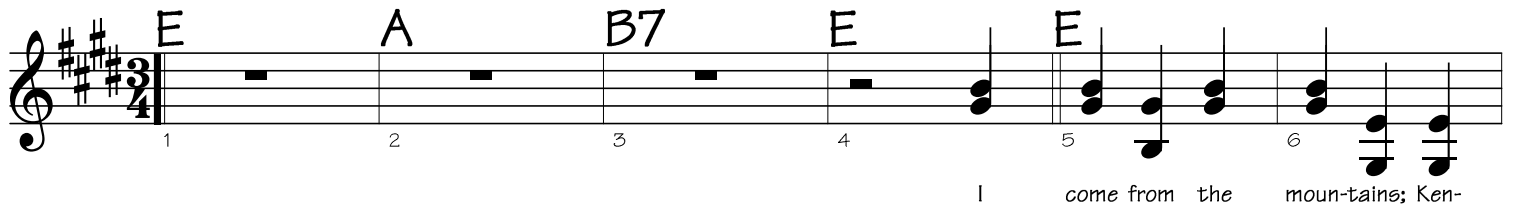
185 A E

would - n't that be like the old Pro - mised Land?

191 B7 E

Black wa - ters, black wa - ters no more in my land!

Black Waters



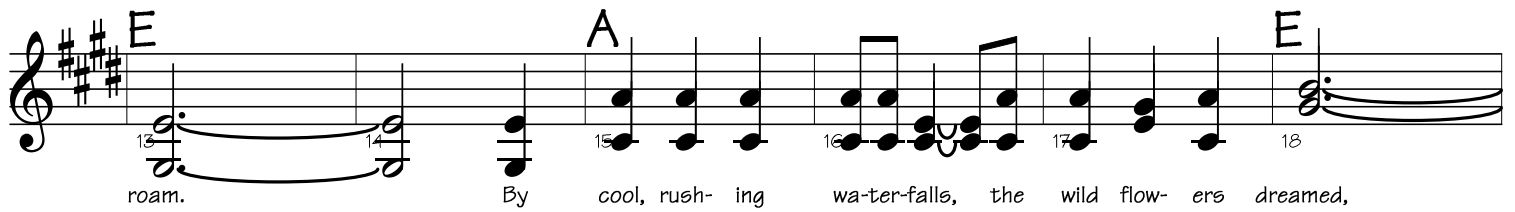
1 2 3 4 5 6

I come from the moun-tains; Ken-



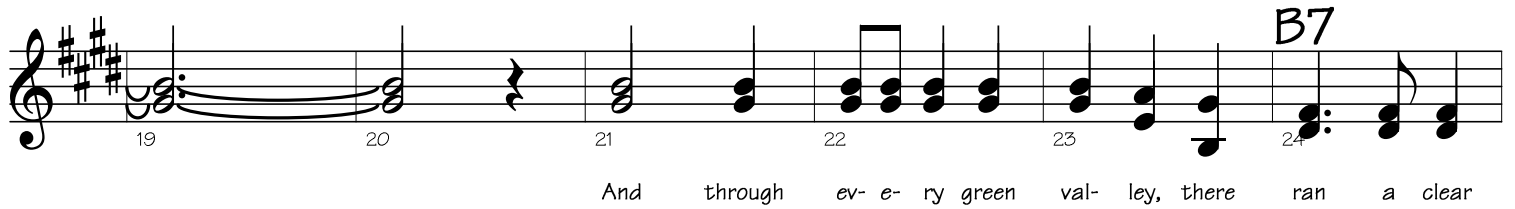
7 8 9 10 11 12

tuc- ky's my home, Where the wild deer and the black bear so late- ly did



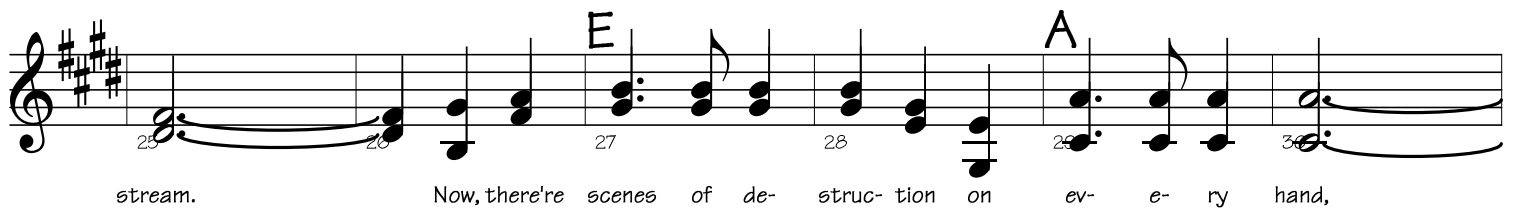
13 14 15 16 17 18

roam. By cool, rush- ing wa-ter-falls, the wild flow- ers dreamed,



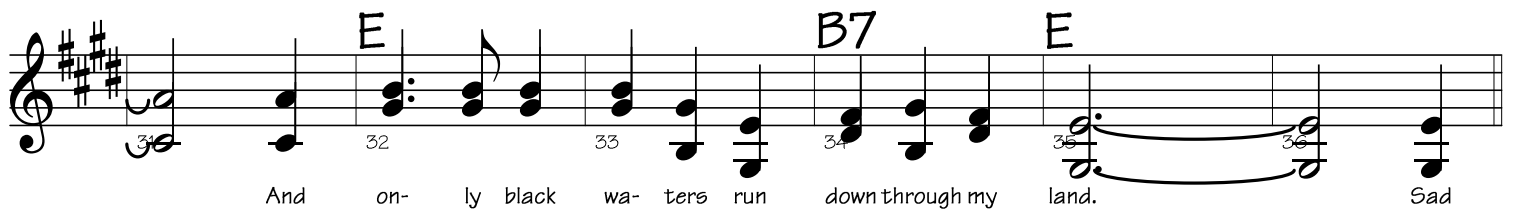
19 20 21 22 23 24

And through ev- e- ry green val- ley, there ran a clear



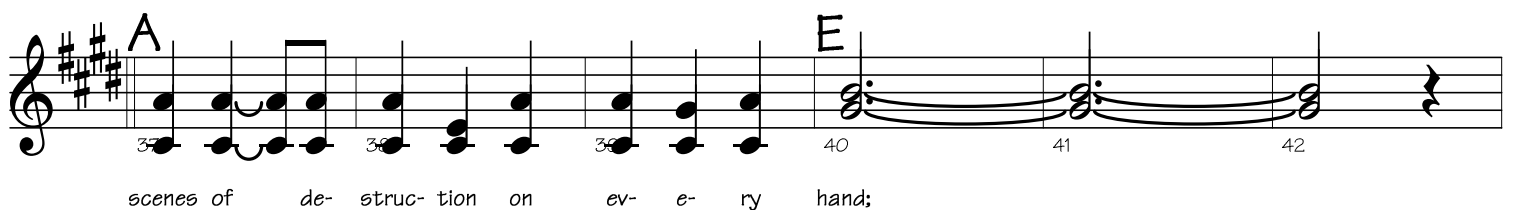
25 26 27 28 29 30

stream. Now, there're scenes of de- struc- tion on ev- e- ry hand,



31 32 33 34 35 36

And on- ly black wa- ters run down through my land. Sad



37 38 39 40 41 42

scenes of de- struc- tion on ev- e- ry hand;

43 44 45 46 47 48

Black wa- ters, black wa- ters run down through our land.

49 50 51 52 53 54

Oh, the quail, she's a pret-ty bird; she sings a sweet tongue.

55 56 57 58 59 60

In the roots of tall tim- bers, she nests with her young. But the

61 62 63 64 65 66

hill- side ex- plodes with the dyn- a- mite's roar,

67 68 69 70 71 72

And the voic- es of the small birds will sound there no more. And the

73 74 75 76 77 78

hill-sides come a- -slid- ing so aw- ful and grand, And the flood- ing black

79 80 81 82 83 84

wa- ters rise o- ver my land. Sad scenes of de- struc- tion on

85 86 87 88 89 90

ev- e- ry hand; Black wa- ters, black

91 wa- ters run 92 down through the 93 land. 94 95 96 In the

97 ris- ing of the 98 spring-time, we 99 plant- ed our 100 corn. 101 102 In the end- ing of the

103 spring-time, we 104 bur- ied a 105 son. 106 107 In the 108 sum- mer came a 109 nice man who

110 said, "All was 111 fine. 112 113 My 114 em- ploy- er just

115 re- quired a 116 way to his 117 mine." 118 119 Then, they 120 threw down my 121 moun- tain and

122 cov- ered my 123 corn. 124 Now, the 125 grave on the 126 hill- side's a 127 mile deep- er

128 down. 129 And the 130 man stood and 131 talked with his 132 hat in his 133 hand,

134 As the 135 poi- son- ous 136 wa- ter spread 137 o- ver my 138 land. 139 Sad

A E
13 14 14 142 143 144
scenes of de- struc- tion on ev- e- ry hand;

B7 E
145 146 147 148 149 150
Black wa- ters, black wa- ters run down through the land.

E B7 E
151 152 153 154 155 156
Well, I ain't got no mon- ey and not much of a home.

B7 E
157 158 159 160 161 162
I own my own land, but my land's not my own. But if

A E
163 164 165 166 167 168
I had ten mil- lion, some- where there- a- bouts,

B7
169 170 171 172 173 174
I would buy Per- ry Coun- ty, and I'd run 'em all out! I'd set

E A
175 176 177 178 179 180
down on the bank with my bait in my can And just watch the clear

B7 E A
181 182 183 184 185 186
wa- ters run down through my land! Well, would- n't that be like the

188 189 190 191 192

old Pro-mised Land? Black wa-ters, black

193 194 197 198 199 end

wa-ters no more on my land!

Black Waters -- Acoustic String Bass

Chords: E A B7 E E B7 E B7

Tab

0	5	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Musical notation for the first system, showing a bass line with quarter notes and a guitar tab above it.

Chords: E A E B7

Tab

0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

Musical notation for the second system, showing a bass line with quarter notes and a guitar tab above it.

Chords: E A E B7 E

Tab

7	7	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	2	0	0
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36

Musical notation for the third system, showing a bass line with quarter notes and a guitar tab above it.

Chords: A E B7 E

Tab

5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48

Musical notation for the fourth system, showing a bass line with quarter notes and a guitar tab above it.

E B7 E B7 E

Tab

0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60

Detailed description: This system contains measures 49 through 60. The guitar tab shows fret numbers: 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0. The bass line shows a steady eighth-note pattern in E major, with a slight rhythmic variation at measure 53.

A E B7

Tab

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	7
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72

Detailed description: This system contains measures 61 through 72. The guitar tab shows fret numbers: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 7, 7, 7. The bass line continues the eighth-note pattern, with a change in rhythm at measure 70.

E A B7 E A

Tab

0	0	5	5	5	5	5	2	0	0	5	5
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84

Detailed description: This system contains measures 73 through 84. The guitar tab shows fret numbers: 0, 0, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 2, 0, 0, 5, 5. The bass line continues the eighth-note pattern, with a change in rhythm at measure 83.

E B7 E

Tab

5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96

Detailed description: This system contains measures 85 through 96. The guitar tab shows fret numbers: 5, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0. The bass line continues the eighth-note pattern, with a change in rhythm at measure 92.

E B7 E B7 E A

Tab

0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108

Detailed description: This system contains measures 97 through 108. The guitar tab shows fret numbers: 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0. The bass line continues the eighth-note pattern, with a change in rhythm at measure 107.

E B7 E

Tab

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0
109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120

A B7 E A

Tab

5	5	5	5	5	7	7	7	0	0	0	0
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132

A B7 E A E

Tab

0	0	0	2	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0
133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144

B7 E E B7 E

Tab

0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156

B7 E A E

Tab

0	0	0	2	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0
157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168

B7 E A

Tab

0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	5	5	5	5
169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180

Bass clef staff with notes: 169 (G2), 170 (A2), 171 (B2), 172 (C3), 173 (D3), 174 (E3), 175 (F3), 176 (G3), 177 (A3), 178 (B3), 179 (C4), 180 (D4).

B7 E A E

Tab

5	2	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192

Bass clef staff with notes: 181 (B2), 182 (C3), 183 (D3), 184 (E3), 185 (F3), 186 (G3), 187 (A3), 188 (B3), 189 (C4), 190 (D4), 191 (E4), 192 (F4).

B7 E

Tab

0	2	2	2		
193	194	197	198	198 end	198

Bass clef staff with notes: 193 (G2), 194 (A2), 197 (B2), 198 (C3), 198 end (C3), 198 (C3).

Black Waters -- Acoustic Piano

Measures 1-8 of the piece. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The chord progression is E, A, B7, E, E, B7, E. The notation includes a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps and a 3/4 time signature. The bass line is in the bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. Measure numbers 1 through 8 are indicated below the bass line.

Measures 9-16 of the piece. The chord progression is B7, E, A. The notation includes a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps and a 3/4 time signature. The bass line is in the bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. Measure numbers 9 through 16 are indicated below the bass line.

Measures 17-24 of the piece. The chord progression is E, B7. The notation includes a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps and a 3/4 time signature. The bass line is in the bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. Measure numbers 17 through 24 are indicated below the bass line.

Measures 25-32 of the piece. The chord progression is E, A, E. The notation includes a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps and a 3/4 time signature. The bass line is in the bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. Measure numbers 25 through 32 are indicated below the bass line.

Musical notation system 1 (measures 33-40). Chords: B7, E, A, E.

Musical notation system 2 (measures 41-48). Chords: B7, E.

Musical notation system 3 (measures 49-56). Chords: E, B7, E.

Musical notation system 4 (measures 57-64). Chords: B7, E, A, E.

Musical notation system 5 (measures 65-72). Chord: B7.

Chords: E, A, B7

73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80

Detailed description: This system contains measures 73 through 80. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody in the treble clef consists of eighth-note chords and single notes. The bass line in the bass clef features a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Chord changes are indicated by 'E' at measure 73, 'A' at measure 75, and 'B7' at measure 80.

Chords: E, A, E

81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88

Detailed description: This system contains measures 81 through 88. The key signature remains three sharps. The melody continues with eighth-note chords. The bass line maintains its eighth-note accompaniment. Chord changes are indicated by 'E' at measure 81, 'A' at measure 83, and 'E' at measure 86.

Chords: B7, E

89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96

Detailed description: This system contains measures 89 through 96. The key signature remains three sharps. The melody continues with eighth-note chords. The bass line maintains its eighth-note accompaniment. Chord changes are indicated by 'B7' at measure 92 and 'E' at measure 93.

Chords: E, B7, E, B7

97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104

Detailed description: This system contains measures 97 through 104. The key signature remains three sharps. The melody continues with eighth-note chords. The bass line maintains its eighth-note accompaniment. Chord changes are indicated by 'E' at measure 97, 'B7' at measure 99, 'E' at measure 100, and 'B7' at measure 104.

Chords: E, A, E

105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112

Detailed description: This system contains measures 105 through 112. The key signature remains three sharps. The melody continues with eighth-note chords. The bass line maintains its eighth-note accompaniment. Chord changes are indicated by 'E' at measure 105, 'A' at measure 107, and 'E' at measure 110.

Musical notation system 1 (measures 113-120). Chords: B7, E.

Musical notation system 2 (measures 121-128). Chords: A, B7.

Musical notation system 3 (measures 129-136). Chords: E, A, B7.

Musical notation system 4 (measures 137-144). Chords: E, A.

Musical notation system 5 (measures 145-152). Chords: B7, E.

Chords: E, B7, E, B7

Measures 153-160. Treble clef, bass clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure numbers 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160 are indicated below the notes. Chords E and B7 are written above the staff.

Chords: E, A, E

Measures 161-168. Treble clef, bass clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure numbers 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168 are indicated below the notes. Chords E and A are written above the staff.

Chords: B7, E

Measures 169-176. Treble clef, bass clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure numbers 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176 are indicated below the notes. Chords B7 and E are written above the staff.

Chords: A, B7, E

Measures 177-184. Treble clef, bass clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure numbers 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184 are indicated below the notes. Chords A, B7, and E are written above the staff.

Chords: A, E

Measures 185-192. Treble clef, bass clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measure numbers 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192 are indicated below the notes. Chords A and E are written above the staff.

Musical score for piano, measures 193-198. The score is written in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The piece concludes at measure 198.

Measures 193-198:

- Measure 193: Treble clef has a quarter note G5 and a quarter note A5. Bass clef has a quarter note G2 and a quarter note A2.
- Measure 194: Treble clef has a quarter note B5, a quarter note C6, and a quarter note D6. Bass clef has a quarter note B1 and a quarter note C2.
- Measure 197: Treble clef has a quarter note E6, a quarter note F6, and a quarter note G6. Bass clef has a quarter note E2, a quarter note F2, and a quarter note G2.
- Measure 198: Treble clef has a quarter note A6, a quarter note B6, and a quarter note C7. Bass clef has a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, and a quarter note C3.

Chords: B7 (measures 193-194), E (measures 197-198).

Measure numbers: 193, 194, 197, 198, 198 end, 198.

Black Waters -- Nylon String Guitar

Chords: E A B7 E E B7 E

Tab

5	5	2	2	7	7	5	5	7	7	5	5	5	5	5	5
7	6	2	2	7	7	4	4	7	7	4	4	6	6	6	6

Chords: B7 E A E

Tab

5	5	7	7	5	5	5	5	5	5	2	2	5	5	5	5
7	6	7	7	4	4	6	6	7	7	2	2	4	4	6	6

Chords: B7 E A

Tab

5	5	5	5	7	7	7	7	7	7	5	5	2	2	2	2
7	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	4	4	2	2	2	2

Chords: E B7 E A E

Tab

2	2	5	5	5	5	7	7	5	5	2	2	2	2	2	2
2	2	4	4	4	4	7	7	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2

Musical notation for measures 41-50. Chords: B7, E.

41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Musical notation for measures 51-60. Chords: E, B7.

51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Musical notation for measures 61-70. Chords: A, E, B7.

61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
5	5	5	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Musical notation for measures 71-80. Chords: E, A, B7.

71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
7	7	7	7	5	5	5	5	5	7

Musical notation for measures 81-90. Chords: E, A.

81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
7	7	5	5	5	7	7	7	7	7

Musical notation for measures 91-100. Chords: B7, E, E, B7, E.

91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
5-5 4-4 6-6	7-7 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	7-7 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6

Musical notation for measures 101-110. Chords: B7, E, A, E.

101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	7-7 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 6-6 7-7	5-5 6-6 7-7	5-5 6-6 7-7	5-5 4-4 6-6

Musical notation for measures 111-120. Chords: B7, E.

111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	7-7 6-6	7-7 6-6	7-7 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6

Musical notation for measures 121-130. Chords: A, B7, E.

121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130
2-2 2-2	2-2 2-2	5-5 6-6 7-7	5-5 6-6 7-7	5-5 6-6 7-7	7-7 6-6	7-7 6-6	7-7 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6

Musical notation for measures 131-140. Chords: A, B7, E, A.

131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
5-5 6-6 7-7	5-5 6-6 7-7	5-5 6-6 7-7	2-2 2-2	5-5 6-6 7-7	7-7 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 4-4 6-6	5-5 6-6 7-7	5-5 6-6 7-7

Chords: E, B7, E

141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
5 5 7 7	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	7 7 7 7	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6

Chords: E, B7, E, B7

151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	7 7 7 7	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	7 7 7 7

Chords: E, A, E

161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170
5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 7 7	5 5 7 7	5 5 7 7	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6

Chords: B7, E, A

171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180
5 5 6 6	7 7 7 7	7 7 7 7	7 7 7 7	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 7 7	5 5 7 7	5 5 2 2	5 5 2 2

Chords: B7, E, A, E

181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190
5 5 7 7	7 7 7 7	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6	5 5 6 6

191 192 193 194 197 198 198 end 198

B7 E

3

Tab

5 5 5 5 5 5 4 5
4 4 4 4 4 4 6 4
6 6 6 6 6 6 7 7

7 7 7 7 7 7 4 5
6 6 6 6 6 6 6 7

Black Waters -- Slow Strings

E A B7 E E B7 E B7

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

E A E B7

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

E A E B7 E

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

A E B7 E

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

E B7 E B7 E

49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60

A E B7

61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

E A B7 E A

73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84

E B7 E

85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96

E B7 E B7 E A

97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108

E B7 E

109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120

A B7 E A

121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132

A B7 E A E

133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144

B7 E B7 E

145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156

B7 E A E

157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168

B7 E A

169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180

B7 E A E

181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192

B7 E

193 194 197 198 198 end 198