

EXERCISE 23-1 Crash course in text setting

Study the text below and mark the syllables you would emphasize in normal speech.

Lord, I just can't keep from cry-in' some time

When my heart is full of sor-row

And my eyes are full of tears

Lord, I just can't keep from cry-in' some time.

Compare your analysis of important, emphasized syllables with how the text is set in the lead sheet for the spiritual, "Lord, I just can't keep from cryin'," which appears in Worksheet example 23-1. After listening to the recording of this song performed by Angela Brown, consider the following questions. In the musical setting of the text, which syllables are emphasized, and what are the ways in which emphasis is created musically?

Lord, I just can't keep from cry - in' some time Lord, I just can't keep from

6
cry - in' some time When my heart is full of sor - row And my eyes are full of

12
tears Lord, I just can't keep from cry - in' some time

Worksheet example 23-1. Trad., "Lord, I Just Can't Keep From Cryin'," first verse