

Ol' Man River

Lyrics: Oscar Hammerstein II - Music: Jerome Kern

dal musical *Show Boat* (1927)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DztXXJO8-ao> (Bruce Hubbard)

Dere's an ol' man called de Mississippi
Dat's de ol' man dat I'd like to be
What does he care if de world's got troubles
What does he care if de land ain't free

VERSE

Ol' man river, dat ol' man river
He mus' know sumpin', but don't say nuthin'
He jes' keeps rollin'
He keeps on rollin' along

CHORUS

A1

He don' plant taters, he don't plant cotton
An' dem dat plants' em is soon forgotten
But ol' man river
He jes' keeps rollin' along

A2

You an' me, we sweat an' strain
Body all achin' an' wracked wid pain,
Tote dat barge! Lif' dat bale!
Git a little drunk an' you lands in jail

B

Ah gits weary an' sick of tryin'
Ah'm tired of livin' an' skeered of dyin'
But ol' man river
He jes' keeps rolling' along

A3

Forma AABA "alla Tin Pan Alley",
ma con una manipolazione di A2 e
A3 che determina un crescendo
espressivo

Niggers all work on de Mississippi
Niggers all work while de white folks play
Pullin' dose boats from de dawn to sunset
Gittin' no rest till de judgement day

Ripresa del VERSE (con coro)

(Don't look up an' don't look down)
(You don' dar'st make de white boss frown)
(Bend your knees an' bow your head)
(An' pull dat rope until you're dead)

(Ripresa della
sezione B del
Chorus entro la
ripresa del Verse)

Let me go 'way from the Mississippi
Let me go 'way from de white man boss
Show me dat stream called de river Jordan
Dat's de ol' stream dat I long to cross _____

(Ol' man river, dat ol' man river)
(He mus' know sumpin', but don't say nothin')
(He just keeps rollin')
(He keeps on rollin' along)

A1

Ripresa dell'intero CHORUS AABA,
con coro

Long, low river

Forever keeps rollin'

(Don' plant taters, he don' plant cotton)
(And dem dat plants' em is soon forgotten)
(But ol' man river
(He jes' keeps rollin' along)

A2

etc.

Long low river
Keeps singin' dis song

You an' me, we sweat an' strain

Body all achin' and wracked wid pain

Tote dat barge! Lift dat bale!

Git a little drunk and ya lands in jail

Ah gits weary an' sick o' tryin' A3
Ah'm tired o livin' an' skeered o' dyin'
But ol' man river
He jes' keeps rollin' along!