OL’ MAN RIVER
from SHOW BOAT

Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
Music by JEROME KERN

Moderately

Colored folks work on de Missisippi, colored folks work while de
white folks play. Pullin’ dose boats from de dawn to sunset,

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don't look down, you don't dast make de white boss frown.

Bend yo' knees an' bow yo' head, an' pull dat rope un-

til yo're dead. Let me go 'way from de Missisippi,

let me go 'way from de white men boss. Show me dat stream called de
River Jordan. Dat's de ol' stream dat I long to cross.

Slower

Ol' man river, dat ol' man river; he must know sump'in', but

don't say nothin'. He jus' keeps rollin', he keeps on rollin' a-

long.

He don't plant 'ta-ters, he
don’t plant cot-ton, an’ dem dat plants ’em is soon for-got-ten. But
ol’ man riv-er, he jus’ keeps roll-in’ a-long.

You an’ me, we sweat an’ strain,
bod-y all ach-in’ an’ racked wid pain. “Tote dat barge!”
“Lift dat bale,” Git a little drunk an’ you land in jail.

Ah gits weary an’ sick of tryin’. Ah’m tired of livin’ an’ skeered of dy-in’. But ol’ man river, he just keeps rollin’ along.

1

long.

2

long.