Mother to Son

Poem by
Langston Hughes

Music by
Clif Hardin
Dedicated to my mother

Deliberately, starting ♩ = 80

Spoken

Well, son   I'll   tell you:

Use pedal throughout

Life_____ for me ain't been no   crys - tal___ stair,_____   ain't been no

crys - tal___ stair_____   It's had tacks in it,   And splin - ters,___   And

boards torn up, And plac-es with no car-pet on the floor Bare.

Slightly faster ♩ = 85

mf

But all the time I'se been a-climb-in on, And

reach-in' land-in's, and turn-in' cor - ners, And some-times go-in' in the

dark Where there ain't been no light, no light. So

- 2 -

Even more insistent and emphatic

boy   don't you turn   back. Don't you   set down on the steps 'Cause you

finds it's kind - er hard.   Don't you   fall now,   no,_____   Don't you

fall   now,   no,_____   For   I'se still_____ go - in',_____

_____ hon-ey, and   I'se still_____ climb-in,__   hon-ey_____   And

- 3 -

life   for   me   ain't   been   no crys-tal   stair,_____

ain't

been   no___   crys   -   tal   stair._____

rall.