

Singin Wid A Sword In Ma Han

Scene Summary

Scene 1 - Singin Wid A Sword In Ma Han

Topper introduces herself and Griot Chorus to the congregation and begins recounting her story as a slave on the Carlisle plantation in Maryland.

Scene 2 - Keep A Inchin Along

Evening. Nate tells Topper, his fiancée, of his new job with black slaveowner, Massa Patison. Topper argues for running to freedom now.

Scene 3 - De Blin' Man Stood On De Road An' Cried

Morning. Topper is sold to Patison. Patison forces Cato, the free black barber from town, to spy on Nate.

Scene 4 - L'il David Play On Yo Harp

Night, then following Morning. Nate vows to rescue Topper and run to freedom. Mizz Kessie and Dorey join in the escape plan.

Scene 5 - Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

That Same Afternoon. Cato gives important information to Nate while spying on him. Nate and Topper start on their journey to freedom with Mizz Kessie and Dorey.

Scene 6 - Chilly Water

Morning Then Evening Of Same Night. Patison hires the slave catchers, Gap Gang, to find Topper and the other runaways. The fugitives get help from friendly strangers.

Scene 7 - Dere's No Hiding Place Down Dere

Early Morning. Tired, hungry and hurt, the fugitives argue. Topper gets captured by the Gap Gang.

Scene 8 - Singin Wid A Sword In Ma Han (reprise)

That Evening. Topper is dragged toward Wilmington DE, threatened with rape. Nate having left his mother and sister to go on by themselves, rescues Topper.

Scene 9 - Strawberries I'm Goin To Glory

Late Morning. Nate and Topper meet conductor/fruitseller Davey in Wilmington. They convince her to cross them to the AME church in PA so they can get to Columbia.

Scene 10 - Make De Devil Leave Me Alone

Evening. Nate and Topper re-unite with Mizz Kessie and Dorey in PA church. Mizz Kessie and Dorey tell of their narrow escape from Gap Gang.

Scene 11 - My Way's Cloudy

Family is conducted through various AME churches.

Scene 12 - What You Gonna Do When Yo Lamp Burn Down

Family attends a revival and begin to suspect that they are being followed. They are secretly conducted to abolitionist/conductor Goodrich's house in York.

Scene 13- Gimme Yo Han

Early Evening. Abolition meeting at Goodrich's house. Fugitives get word they have been betrayed to Gap Gang who has just arrived in town.

Scene 14 - Ride On Moses

Evening. Fugitives flee, the Gap Gang is bearing down on them. They are almost captured when Dorey sacrifices herself so the others can get to last hiding place before crossing river to Columbia, PA.

Scene 15 - My Way's Cloudy (reprise)

Night, then Over Time. Reflections on the price of freedom. The fugitives successfully cross to Columbia. Mizz Kessie inherits her recently deceased husband's land and home. Nate and Topper get married and settle in with her.

Scene 16 - I Know De Lord's Laid His Han's On Me

Late Morning Two Weeks Later. Cato and son enter Topper's church, with the news that Patison got saved and freed all his slaves! Cato relates Dorey's dire situation back on Carlisle plantation.

Scene 17 - Singin Wid a Sword In Ma Han (reprise)

Topper and Nate decide to return to rescue Dorey