Side Notes: This hymn is often included as part of Holy Week and the Easter season. "Were You There" emerged from the African-American slave experience as one of the most beloved spirituals. First published in 1899, its haunting questions aren't meant to be answered literally. For those who first sang it, the song connected their own pain to a Savior who understood suffering intimately. Even Gandhi was moved by how it speaks to "the entire human race under the spread of the healing wings of suffering."

My arrangement aims to honor both its profound spiritual roots and its timeless ability to offer comfort to anyone walking through difficult seasons of life.

Were You There?

EASIER

African American Spiritual
Arr. **JASON TONIOLI**



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