

Side Notes: I'd heard this tune sung by many people but had a hard time finding any piano solo that I liked, so I decided to write my own arrangement of this hymn.

This tune is a well-known American folk and gospel song that likely originated in the early 19th century. There are many variations of the lyrics and many versions that have been published over time. The song talks about times of hardship and the end of a person's life in this world. The melody is haunting and I ended up singing this in my head for several weeks. As I worked on this arrangement and sang the traditional lyrics to myself, I felt it needed an additional verse.

I added a 3rd verse of lyrics that I felt would complete the song and story. After singing about going home to be with our mother and father who would be waiting for us once we passed to the next life, I thought these lyrics fitting. "Throughout my life, I've met good people. I've made good friends along the way. Though I'm a poor, wayfaring stranger, I know I've never been alone. I'm goin' home, to see my Savior! I'm goin' home to see my friends. My family's surely waitin' for me, when I feel ready to go home. They'll be there when I go back home."

I hope these words can bring some comfort to someone who has lost a loved one. I know the hole that is left when a loved one passes on and hope this addition to this amazing song would help bring peace and comfort to someone.

Poor Wayfaring Stranger

American Folk Song
Arr. **JASON TONIOLI**

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It is in 4/4 time and the key signature has two flats (B-flat major). The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the beginning of the piece with the lyrics "I'm just a". The second system starts at measure 5 and includes the lyrics "poor way-far-ing stran-ger, while journ-eying through this world of woe, There's no". The third system starts at measure 9 and includes the lyrics "sick - ness toil or dan - ger, in that bright land to which I". The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a moving bass line in the left hand. The vocal line is written in the treble clef.

12

go, — I'm go - in' there to see my Mo - ther, she said she'd meet me when I

16

come, I'm just a go - in' o-ver Jor - dan, I'm just a go - in' o-ver

20

home. I know dark clouds will ga-ther

24

round me, I know my way lies rough and steep, but beau-teous

27

fields, lie out be - fore me, where God's re - deemed their vi - gils