

2. I'm a poor wayfaring stranger

American Folksong

Charlie D. Tillman (1891)

Wytze Oostenbrug (*1943)

mf **Animato** ♩=115

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

I am a poor way-fa-ring stran-ger
I am a poor way-fa-ring stran-ger
I am a poor way-
I am a poor way-

5
while trav-ling through this world of
this world of
fa-ring stran-ger through
fa-ring stran-ger while trav-ling through

9
mp woe. Yet there's no sick-ness, toil, nor dan-ger
woe. Yet there's no sick-ness, toil, nor dan-ger
this world of woe. Yet there's no sick-ness, toil,
this world of woe. Yet there's no sick-ness, toil,

mp **p** **p**

musicalion
click for more

13

mf

In that bright world to which I

mf

In that bright world to which I

mf

nor dan ger In that bright world to which I

mf

nor dan-ger In that bright world to which I

18

f **A** *mf*

go. I'm go-ing there to see my fa-ther, I'm go - ing there

go. ing there

mf

go. I'm

f *mf*

go. I'm go-ing there to see my fa-ther, I'm

24

p

no more to roam I'm on-ly go-ing

p

no more to roam I'm on-ly go - ing

p

go-ing there no more to roam on-ly

p

go-ing there no more to roam on-ly

29 rit.

o - ver Jor - dan I'm on - ly go - ing o -

o - ver Jor - dan I'm on - ly go - ing o -

go - ing o - ver Jor - dan on - ly go - ing o -

go - ing o - ver Jor - dan on - ly go - ing o -

35 B Andante $\text{♩} = 100$ *pp*

-ver home I know dark clouds

-ver clouds

-ver will ga - ther

- ver home. I know dark clouds will ga - ther

40

will ga - ther round me I know my way is rough and

will ga - ther round me I know my way is rough and

round me, I know my way is rough and

round me, I know my way is rough and

45

mf

is rough and steep; Yet beau-tous fields lie just be-fore me

mf

is rough and steep; Yet beau-tous fields lie just be-fore me

mf

steep; Yet beau-tous fields lie just be-fore me, —

mf

steep; Yet beau-tous fields lie just be-fore me, —

50

Where God's re - deemed — their vi-gils keep.

f

gils keep. I'm

f

Where God's re - deemed — their vi-gils keep. I'm

Where God's re - deemed — their vi-gils keep.

55

C

f

go-ing there to see my mo - ther, —

p

She

p

go-ing there — to see my mo - ther, —

p

She

p

go-ing there — to see my mo - ther, — She said she'd meet —

f

p

go-ing there to see my mo - ther, — She said she'd meet —

60

said she'd meet me when I come on - ly

said she'd meet me when I come on - ly

me when I come I'm on-ly go-ing

me when I come I'm on-ly go - ing

65

go-ing over Jor-dan I'm on-ly go-ing o -

go-ing over Jor-dan I'm on-ly go-ing o -

o ver Jor-dan I'm on-ly go-ing o -

o ver Jor-dan I'm on-ly go-ing o -

71

-ver home. I'll soon be freed from ev' ry tri-al.

-ver home. I'll soon be freed from ev' ry tri-al.

-ver home. I'll soon be freed from

-ver home. I'll soon be freed from

77

My bo - dy sleep in the old church

My bo - dy sleep in the old church

ev' - ry tri - al. My bo - dy sleep

ev' - ry tri - al. My bo - dy sleep

81

yard, I'll drop the cross of self-de-ni-al,

yard, - al,

in the old of self-de-ni al,

in the old church - yard, I'll drop the cross of self-de-ni al,

86

And en - ter on my great re-ward. I'm go-ing there.

And en - ter on my great re-ward. go-ing

And en-ter on my great re-ward. go-ing

And en-ter on my great re-ward. I'm go-ing there.

92

p

to see my class-mates, Who've gone be-fore me one by

p

there to see my class-mates, Who've gone be - fore me one by

p

there to see my class-mates, Who've gone be-fore me

p

to see my class-mates. Who've gone be- fore

97

pp

one, I'm on-ly go-ing o - ver Jor-dan

pp

one, ver Jor-dan

one b ing o-ver

me one by one, on - ly go-ing o-ver

103

rit.

I'm on - ly go - ing o - - - ver

I'm on - ly go - ing o - ver

Jor - dan on - ly go-ing o - ver

Jor - dan on - ly go-ing o - - - ver

musicalion
click for more

108

home. o - - - ver home.

home. o - - - ver home.

home. o - - - ver home.

home. o - - - ver home.

Delft, april 2024

I am a poor wayfaring stranger
American Folk Song
 as published by
Charlie D. Tjebk

1. I am a poor
 While traveling
 Yet there's no sign
 In that bright world

I'm going there to see my mother,
 I'm going there no more to roam.
 I'm only going over Jordan,
 I'm only going over home.

2. I know dark clouds will gather round me,
 I know my way is rough and steep;
 Yet beautiful fields lie just before me,
 Where God's redeemed their vigils keep.

I'm going there to see my mother,
 She said she'd meet me when I come,
 I'm only going over Jordan,
 I'm only going over home.

3. I'll soon be freed from every trial,
 My body sleep in the old church yard,
 I'll drop the cross of self-denial,
 And enter on my great reward,

I'm going there to see my class mates,
 Who've gone before me one by one,
 I'm only going over Jordan,
 I'm only going over home.

musicalion

click for more

Type: Sheet music

Title: [I am a poor wayfaring stranger \(No. 2 from 5 Folk Songs\)](#)

Composer: [Wytze Oostenbrug](#)

Period: 21th century

Theme: Nature & Homeland

Series: Folk Songs

Difficulty: Leicht bis mittel

Arrangement group: Mixed choir a cappella

Arrangement: Choir>SATB

Orchestration: Voice choir>alto voices = A(1),Voice choir>bass voices = B (1),Voice choir>soprano voices = S(1),Voice choir>tenor voices = T(1)

Wayfaring Stranger, also known as "Poor Wayfaring Stranger", "I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger" or "Wayfaring Pilgrim", is an American folk and gospel song that probably originated in the early 19th century about a lamenting soul. As with most folk songs, there are many variations of the lyrics and many versions of this song have been published over time.

According to the book "The Makers of the Sacred Harp" by David Warren Steel and Richard H. Hulan, the lyrics were published in 1858 in Joseph Bever's "Christian Songster", a collection of popular hymns and spiritual songs of the time.

The melody was composed by Johann Georg Ebeling and the lyrics were written in Germany in 1666 by Paul Gerhardt as "Ich bin ein Gast auf Erden, Und hab' hier keinen Stand". The song is based on Psalm 39:12 and Psalm 119:19 and both the text and the melody are similar to the modern English version. Jane Borthwick translated it in 1858 as "A pilgrim and a stranger, I travel here below" and Miss Winkworth in 1863 as "A pilgrim hither I wander, on earth I have no abode".

During and for several years after the American Civil War, the lyrics were known as the "Libby Prison Hymn". This was because the words were written by a dying Union soldier who was incarcerated in Libby Prison, a notorious prison-turned-warehouse in Richmond, Virginia, known for its

unfavorable conditions and high mortality rate. It was believed that the dying soldier had written the song to comfort a disabled soldier. Folk singer Burt Ives called his own 1940 radio program of traditional folk songs "The Wayfaring Stranger" and later used it as the title of his autobiography.