

The Composition

The hauntingly beautiful melody of **Poor Wayfaring Stranger** has an oral tradition that can be traced back to the American Revolution but very little information exists on where it came from. This traditional folk song may have originated in the Appalachian Mountains from English, Scottish, and Irish settlers or it may have come from the Negro Spirituals. In either case, their way of life was a difficult journey and the music reflected a deep faith of looking forward to their final home over the river Jordan.

The orchestra arrangement begins with the solo cello, representing a stranger wandering through life's difficult times. As the other instruments in the orchestra join in, they bring added strength to the melodic line. Even though the way is rough, the beauty of the melody keeps sustaining the wandering stranger. Knowing the words to this piece gives added significance to the performance of the music.

Verse

*I am a poor wayfaring stranger,
While traveling through this world of woe.
Yet there's no sickness, toil nor danger,
In that bright world to which I go.
I'm going there to see my Father;
I'm going there no more to roam.*

Refrain

*I'm only going over Jordan,
I'm only going over home.*

Instrumentation List (Set C)

- 8 – 1st Violin
- 8 – 2nd Violin
- 5 – Viola
- 5 – Cello
- 5 – String Bass
- 1 – Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

Peer Wayfaring Stranger

Full Conductor Score
Approx. time – 3:15

Traditional Folk Song
Arranged by Margaret A. Fenske

1 In a slow flowing style (♩ = 80)

The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 1 through 6. The second system contains measures 7 through 12. The instruments are Violins (1 and 2), Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'In a slow flowing style' with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The Cello part features a 'Cello solo' starting in measure 1 with a dynamic of *mf*. In measure 10, the Viola part has a dynamic of *mp*. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score.

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13 14 15 16 17 18

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mp

mf

tutti

mf

mp

19 20 21 22 23

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

mp

mf

mf

sim.

24 25 26 27

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Musical score for measures 24-27. The score is for a string ensemble consisting of Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 24 shows the beginning of a melodic line in the Violins. Measure 25 features a sustained note in the Violins and a melodic line in the Viola. Measure 26 continues the melodic development. Measure 27 concludes the section with a final note in the Violins marked with a 'V' and a square box.

28 29 30 31

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

ff

mf

mf

mf

Musical score for measures 28-31. The score continues from the previous page. Measure 28 shows the Violins playing a melodic line. Measure 29 features a melodic line in the Violins and a melodic line in the Viola. Measure 30 is marked with a dynamic of *ff* (fortissimo) for the Violins and *mf* (mezzo-forte) for the other instruments. Measure 31 concludes the section with a final note in the Violins marked with a 'V' and a square box.

32 33 34 35

Vlns. 1 *f*

Vlns. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Cello *mp*

Str. Bass *mp*

36 37 38 39

Vlns. 1 *mp*

Vlns. 2 *mp*

Vla. *Soli* *f*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mp*

40 41 42 43

Low I pos.

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

44 45 46 47

sim. 4

mf

mf

V

mf Soli V

f

mf

1 x 4 2

2

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

48 49 50 51

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

52 53 54 55

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

ff

f

f

f

56 57 58 59

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

60 61 62 63 64

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

rit. *pp*

rit. *pp*

rit. *pp*

rit. *pp*

rit. *pp*

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

KPS