

Better Times Will Come

Words and Music by
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Arranged for the piano by
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Andante

As I went down to the riv - er to pray, stud-y'ng a -

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, then a series of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The piano accompaniment features a bass line of whole notes (F#2, G2, A2, B2) and a treble line that mirrors the vocal melody with some chordal accompaniment.

bout that good ol' way and who shall wear a star - ry crown. Good Lord,

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The vocal line continues with quarter notes: F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3. The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support, including a bass line of whole notes (F#2, G2, A2, B2) and a treble line with chords and single notes.

5

Transcription courtesy of Janis Ian

piu mosso

show me the way. Bet-ter times, bet-ter

9

times will come. Bet-ter times, bet-ter times will come.

12

When this_ world learns to live as one,_ oh, bet-ter times will_

15

come. When we greet each dawn with-out fear, know-ing

18

This system contains measures 18, 19, and 20. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass staff. The vocal line is on a single staff with lyrics: "come. When we greet each dawn with-out fear, know-ing". Measure 18 starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. Measure 19 contains the lyrics "When we greet each dawn with-out fear,". Measure 20 contains the lyrics "know-ing" and ends with a quarter rest.

loved ones soon will be near, when the winds of war can-not

21

This system contains measures 21, 22, and 23. The key signature remains one sharp. The piano accompaniment continues with a treble and bass staff. The vocal line has lyrics: "loved ones soon will be near, when the winds of war can-not". Measure 21 starts with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. Measure 22 contains the lyrics "loved ones soon will be near,". Measure 23 contains the lyrics "when the winds of war can-not" and ends with a quarter note G4.

blow an-y - more, oh, bet-ter times will come. Bet-ter

24

This system contains measures 24, 25, and 26. The key signature remains one sharp. The piano accompaniment continues with a treble and bass staff. The vocal line has lyrics: "blow an-y - more, oh, bet-ter times will come. Bet-ter". Measure 24 starts with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. Measure 25 contains the lyrics "blow an-y - more, oh, bet-ter times will come.". Measure 26 contains the lyrics "Bet-ter" and ends with a quarter note G4. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in measure 25.

times, bet-ter times will come. Bet-ter times, bet-ter

27

times will come. When this_ world learns to live as one, _

30

oh, bet-ter times will_ come. Though we live each day as our

33

last, we know some-day soon it will pass. We will

36

Detailed description: This system contains measures 36, 37, and 38. The vocal line starts with a whole rest in measure 36, followed by a half note 'last,' in measure 37, and continues with 'we know some-day soon it will pass.' in measure 38. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a bass line with chords in the left hand.

dance, we will sing in that nev - er-end - ing spring. Oh, bet-ter times will

39

rit.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 39, 40, and 41. The vocal line begins with 'dance, we will sing in that nev - er-end - ing spring.' in measure 39 and ends with 'Oh, bet-ter times will' in measure 41. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is placed above the vocal line in measure 41. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar texture, and a 'rit.' marking is also present in the piano part in measure 41.

come. As I went down to the riv - er to pray, stud-y'ng a -

42

a tempo

Detailed description: This system contains measures 42, 43, and 44. The vocal line starts with 'come.' in measure 42, followed by 'As I went down to the riv - er to pray, stud-y'ng a -' in measure 43. A 'a tempo' marking is placed above the vocal line in measure 42. The piano accompaniment features a more active melody in the right hand, with a 'a tempo' marking below it in measure 42.

Music notation for measures 45-48. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment with treble and bass staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "bout that good ol' way and who shall wear a star - ry crown. Good Lord,"

45

Music notation for measures 49-51. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment with treble and bass staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "show me the way. Bet-ter times, bet-ter

49

Music notation for measures 52-54. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment with treble and bass staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "times will come. Bet-ter times, bet-ter times will come."

52

When this_ world learns to live as one, oh, bet-ter times will_

55

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 55 through 57. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "When this_ world learns to live as one, oh, bet-ter times will_". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand.

meno mosso

come. oh, bet-ter times will_ come.

meno mosso

58

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 58 through 60. The tempo marking *meno mosso* is present above the vocal staff and below the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "come. oh, bet-ter times will_ come.". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand, ending with a fermata over the final note.