

Program Note

The folk songs which form the basis of these choral settings represent a small cross-section of the rather large body of folk music that has developed across the United States over the past 200 years. The styles of the original songs range from whimsically humorous to poignant and even quite serious. Composed in the spring and summer of 2019, these settings for unaccompanied women's voices were commissioned by Christopher Watson, conductor of the Trinity College Choir, Melbourne, for the ensemble's U.S. concert tour in 2020.

Duration: 2:50

Total Duration: 11:00

Text

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger,
a-trav'ling through this world of woe;
But there's no sickness, toil, nor danger,
in that bright world to which I go.
I'm going there to meet my father,
I'm going there no more to roam,
I'm just a-going over Jordan,
I'm just a-going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather 'round me,
I know my way is rough and steep,
But beauteous fields lie just beyond me,
where souls redeemed their vigil keep.
I'm going there to meet my mother,
she said she'd meet me when I come;
I'm only going over Jordan,
I'm only going over home.

I want to wear a crown of glory
when I get home to that bright land;
I want to shout salvation's story
in concert with that blood-washed band.
I'm going there to meet my savior,
to sing his praise forever more;
I'm only going over Jordan,
I'm only going over home.

Traditional Text

Four American Folk Songs

Skip to My Lou	8904
All the Pretty Little Horses	8905
→ Poor Wayfaring Stranger	8906
She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain	8907

Frank Ferko (b. 1950)

For biographical information visit: www.frankferko.com

Catalog No. 8906

For Christopher Watson and the Choir of Trinity College, Melbourne

Poor Wayfaring Stranger

for SSAA Chorus unaccompanied

Traditional Text

Traditional Tune
Setting by Frank Ferko (ASCAP)

Slowly ♩ = 56

Soprano I *p* noh _____ O

Soprano II *mf* I'm just a poor way-far-ing strang-er, a-trav'-ling

Alto I *mf* I'm just a poor way-far-ing strang-er, a-trav'-ling

Alto II *p* noh _____

Keyboard (for rehearsal only) **Slowly** ♩ = 56

* *Poor Wayfaring Stranger* may be performed a half-step lower than written, if desired.

4

noh noh

through this world of woe; but there's no sick - ness, toil, nor

through this world of woe; but there's no sick - ness, toil, nor

noh noh

7

O noh I'm go - ing

dan - ger, in that bright world to which I go. I'm go - ing

dan - ger, in that bright world to which I go. I'm go - ing

O noh I'm go - ing

mf

mf

mf

mf

10

there to meet my fa - ther, I'm go - ing there no more to

there _____ to meet my fa - ther, I'm go - ing there no more to

there _____ to meet my fa - ther, I'm go - ing there no more to

there _____ to meet my fa - ther, I'm go - ing there no more to

The musical score for measures 10-12 features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'there to meet my fa - ther, I'm go - ing there no more to'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

13

roam, I'm just a - go - ing o - ver Jor - dan, I'm just a -

roam, I'm just a - go - ing o - ver Jor - dan, I'm

roam, I'm just a - go - ing o - ver Jor - dan, I'm

roam, I'm just a - go - ing o - ver Jor - dan, I'm

The musical score for measures 13-16 continues with four vocal staves and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'roam, I'm just a - go - ing o - ver Jor - dan, I'm just a -'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

16

go - - ing o - ver home.

go - ing home. lo lo

go - ing home. lo lo lo

go - ing home. lo lo lo

18

mf I know dark clouds will gath - er

lo lo lo lo lo lo

lo lo lo lo lo lo

mp Lo lo lo

Lo lo lo

20

'round me, I know my way is rough and

lo lo lo lo lo lo

lo lo lo lo lo lo

lo lo lo lo lo lo



22

steep, but beau - teous fields lie just be -

lo lo lo lo lo lo

lo lo lo lo lo lo

lo lo lo lo lo lo



24

yond me, where souls re - deemed their vig - il

lo lo lo lo lo lo

lo lo lo lo lo

lo lo lo lo lo

26

keep. I'm go - ing there to meet my

lo lo lo lo

lo lo lo lo

lo lo lo lo

lo lo lo lo

28

moth - er, she said she'd meet me when I

lo _ lo _ lo lo _ lo _ lo

lo _ lo _ lo lo _ lo _ lo lo _

lo lo lo lo lo lo

30

come; *mp* I'm on - ly go - - - -

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

lo _ lo _ lo lo _ lo lo _ lo _

lo lo lo lo _ lo _

32

poco rall.
lunga

(o) - - - ing home.

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

lo lo ____ lo lo ____ lo lo ____ lo lo ____ lo

lo lo ____ lo ____ lo lo ____ lo

poco rall.

(34) **Slower** ♩ = 52 *f*

I want to wear a crown of glo - ry when I get

f I want to wear a crown of glo - ry when I get

f I want to wear a crown of glo - ry when I get

f I want to wear a crown of glo - ry when I get

Slower ♩ = 52

37

home to that bright land; I want to shout sal - va - tion's

home to that bright land; I want to shout sal - va - tion's

home to that bright land; I want to shout sal - va - tion's

home to that bright land; I want to shout sal - va - tion's



This block contains the musical notation for measures 37 through 40. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment with a grand staff (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are: 'home to that bright land; I want to shout sal - va - tion's'. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. A large 'Copyrighted material' watermark is diagonally across the page.

40

sto - ry in con - cert with that blood - washed band. I'm go - ing *mf*

sto - ry in con - cert with that blood - washed band. I'm go - ing *mf*

sto - ry in con - cert with that blood - washed band. I'm go - ing *mf*

sto - ry in con - cert with that blood - washed band. I'm go - ing *mf*



This block contains the musical notation for measures 40 through 43. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'sto - ry in con - cert with that blood - washed band. I'm go - ing'. The music continues in G major and 4/4 time. The dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte) is indicated for the vocal parts. A large 'Copyrighted material' watermark is diagonally across the page.

43

there to meet my sav-ior, to sing his praise for-ev-er more; I'm on-ly

there to meet my sav-ior, to sing his praise for - ev-er more; I'm on-ly

there to meet my sav - ior, to sing his praise for - ev-er more; I'm on-ly

there to meet my sav - ior, to sing his praise for - ev-er more; I'm on-ly

47

rall. **Allargando** , *f*

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

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

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

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

, **Allargando**

rall.

2019 | 2:50