



# 50 NEGRO FOLK SONGS

## FOREWORD

This little book of Negro folk songs was prepared by a group of music educators. Their purpose has been to present usable songs in simple, authentic form at low cost. In variety and number, spirituals undoubtedly constitute America's finest contribution to folk music.

The cover is a reproduction of William Smith's block print portraying the spiritual, "Nobody Knows". Fifty original prints were made, of which one hangs in the Library of Congress. The artist was formerly of Karamu House, a nationally known creative art center in Cleveland, Ohio, unique among settlements of this country.

Realizing how much singing can enrich our lives, I wish you all the joy that using this book can bring.

Walter F. Anderson

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Delaware, Ohio

25¢ each

# Little Wheel

Arr. by Katharine Tyler Wessells

There's a lit-tle wheel a-turn-ing in my

The first system of musical notation for the song 'Little Wheel'. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics 'There's a lit-tle wheel a-turn-ing in my'. The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment.

heart. There's a lit-tle wheel a-turn-ing in my

The second system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the melody with lyrics 'heart. There's a lit-tle wheel a-turn-ing in my'. The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

heart, In my heart, In my heart.

The third system of musical notation. The treble staff features a melodic phrase with lyrics 'heart, In my heart, In my heart.' and includes a fermata over the final note. The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

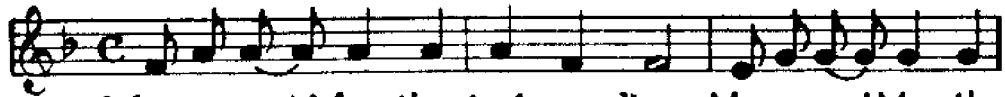
There's a lit-tle wheel a-turn-ing in my heart.

The fourth system of musical notation. The treble staff concludes the melody with lyrics 'There's a lit-tle wheel a-turn-ing in my heart.' and ends with a double bar line. The bass staff concludes the accompaniment.

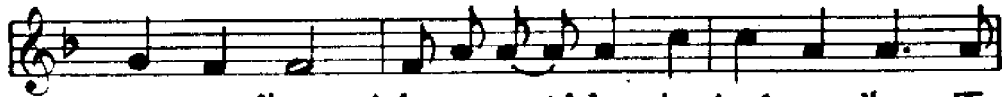
2. Oh, I feel so very happy in my heart...
3. Oh, I don't feel no ways tired in my heart...
4. Oh, I feel like shouting in my heart...

Words and melody from RELIGIOUS FOLK SONGS OF THE NEGRO  
Edited by E. N. Dett.

## Mary and Martha



1. Ma-ry and Mar-tha jes' gone 'long, Ma-ry and Mar-tha
2. Fa-ther and Moth-er . . .
3. Preach-er and the eld-er . . .



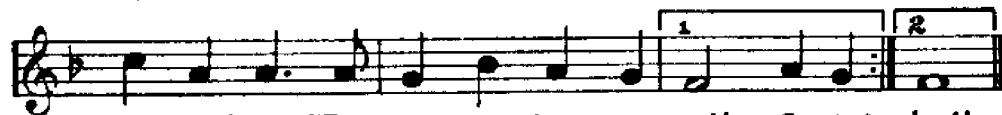
jes' gone 'long, Ma-ry and Mar-tha jes' gone 'long, To



ring dem charm-in' bells. Cry-in', Free grace un-a-

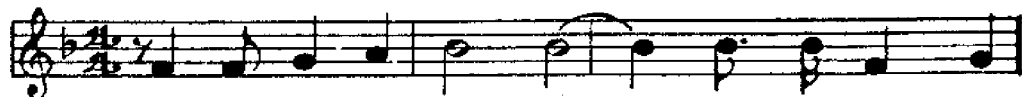


dy - in' love, Free grace un-a-dy-in' love, Free grace un-a-

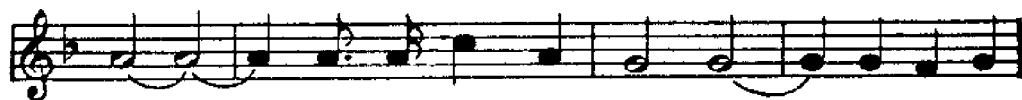


dy-in' love, To ring dem charm-in' bells. Cry-in', bells.

## Oh, My Lovin' Brother



Oh, my lov-in' broth-er — When the world's on



fire — Don't you want God's bos-om — to be your



pil-low? — Hide me o-ver — in the Rock of



A-ges, — Rock of A-ges, cleft for me.

# Deep River

Negro Spiritual

REFRAIN

Deep Riv-er, my home is o-ver

Jor-dan. Deep Riv-er, Lord, I

*Fine*

want to cross o-ver in-to camp ground.

O don't you want to go to that gos-pel feast, That

*D.C.*

prom-ised land, where all is peace?

# Balm in Gilead

Spiritual

Arr. by Francis Ames

*Retrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To make the wound-ed

whole. There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To

heal the sin-sick soul. There is a soul. Some- Don't You

1 2 *Fine: soul.*

*Fine: soul.*

*hm* *hm*

times I feel dis-cour-aged an'think my work in vain, But ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, our Fa-ther is our friend, And may not preach like Pe-ter, you may not pray like Paul, But

*hm* *hm*

*hm* *hm* *D.S.* 3

then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain. if you lack for knowledge He'll not re-fuse to lend. There is a you can tell the sto-ry of one who died for all.

*hm* *hm*

## Burden Down

(AS SUNG AT LINCOLN SCHOOL, MARION, ALABAMA)

*Prayerfully, not too loud*

Arr. by Olive J. Williams

LEADER CHORUS

Bur-den down, Lord, Bur-den down, Lord, Since I

lay my bur-den down... Bur-den down, Lord, Bur-den

bur-den down

down, Lord, Since I lay my bur-den down.

2. Wonder will my sister know me, ...
3. Wonder will my brother know me, ...
4. Burden down, Lord, ... (same as 1st stanza)

## Jacob's Ladder

We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, We are

climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, We are climb-ing

Ja-cob's lad-der, Sol-diers of the cross.

- 2—Every round goes higher, higher,
- 3—Sinner, do you love my Jesus? . . . .
- 4—If you love Him, why not serve Him?
- 5—We are climbing higher, higher . . . .

# Certainly, Lord

*Moderato e marcato*

Arr. by Walter F. Anderson

Have you got good re-lig-ion? Cer-tain-ly, Lord! Have you

got good re-lig-ion? Cer-tain-ly, Lord! Have you

got good re-lig-ion? Cer-tain-ly, Lord! *mf* Cer-tain-ly,

cer-tain-ly, cer-tain-ly, Lord! *p* Cer-tain-ly, cer-tain-ly,

cer-tain-ly, Lord! *pp* Cer-tain-ly, cer-tain-ly, cer-tain-ly, Lord!

2. Have you been baptized? . . .
3. Did you go to the valley?  
Did you get on your knees?  
Did your soul get ease?



# Amen


Arr. by Marion Downs

CHORUS



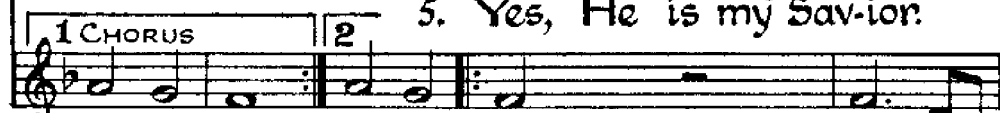
A - men, A - men, A - men, A -

SOLO OBBLIGATO




1. See the ba - by,
2. See Him in the tem - ple,
3. See Him at the sea - side,
4. See Him in the gar - den,
5. Yes, He is my Sav - ior.


1 CHORUS 2




men, A-men. men, A-men. A -



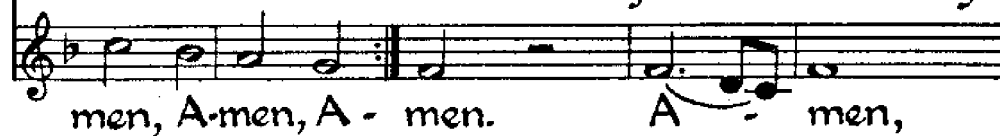
Ly - ing in a man - ger One Christ - mas morn - ing.  
 Talk - ing to the El - ders, How they marvelled at His wis - dom.  
 Preach - ing and heal - ing, To the blind and the fee - ble.  
 Pray - ing to His Fa - ther, In deep - est sor - row.  
 Je - sus died to save us, And He rose on Eas - ter.



men, A - men, A



6. Hal - le - lu - jah In the king -



men, A-men, A - men. A - men,



dom with my Sav - ior. A - men, A - men,



A - men, A - men, A - men, A - men.

Amen—pronounce A as in bay.

NOTES: (1) Sing chorus thru twice before beginning obligato lead, and soften background singing with beginning of lead. (2) Swell the 2nd and 3rd "amen" when going up scale. (3) In last verse be sure to observe break, and all hold last "A-men"

# Come and Go

*With confidence* Negro Spiritual

SOLO CHORUS SOLO CHO.

Come an' go to that lan', Come an' go to that

lan', Come an' go to that lan', Where I'm boun', where I'm

SOLO CHO. SOLO CHO.

boun'. Come an' go to that lan', Come an go to that

lan', Come an' go to that lan' where I'm boun?

2. There is joy in that lan' . . .
3. Peace and happiness in that lan' . . .
4. Come and go to that lan' . . .

Note: Chorus parts always fade away in hum. Last stanza pp. but vital. Mezzo or Baritone voices do solo best.

As sung at Marion, Alabama. Set down by Olive J. Williams.

# Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray

Negro Spiritual

I could-n't hear no-bod-y pray; O I

could-n't hear no-bod-y pray, O way down yon-der

by my-self, O I could-n't hear no-bod-y

*Fine*

pray, 1. (All a-lone) Could-n't hear no-bod-y  
2. (Help me Lord!)

*D.C.*

pray, 1. (Kneel-ing down) Could-n't hear no-bod-y pray.  
2. (In my trou-ble)

## Ezek'el Saw the Wheel

Negro Spiritual

E-ze-k'el saw the wheel 'Way up in the mid-dle o' the air, E-

ze-k'el saw the wheel 'Way in the mid-dle o' the air, The

big wheel moved by Faith, The lit-tle wheel moved by the Grace o'

God, A wheel in a wheel 'Way in the mid-dle o' the air. *Fine*

1. Jes' let me tell you what a hy-po-crite 'll do,—
2. Watch out my sis-ter how you walk— on the cross,
3. You say the Lord— has— set— you— free,—

'Way in the mid-dle o' the air, He'll talk a-bout me an' he'll  
Yo' foot— might slip an' yo'  
Why don't— you let yo'—

## Ezek'el, -continued

talk a-bout you! -  
soul - get lost! - 'Way in the mid-dle o' the air. E-  
neigh - bor be! -

*D.S.*

The musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment of quarter notes.

FROM AMERICAN NEGRO SONGS by John W. Work. Theo. Presser, Philadelphia.

## Rocka My Soul

Spiritual

Oh, a rock-a my soul, in the bo-som of A - bra-  
ham; A rock-a my soul in the bosom of A-bra-ham; A  
rock-a my soul in the bosom of A - bra-han;;  
Oh, rock-a my soul. So high, you can't get o-ver it;  
So low, you can't get un-der it; So wide, you  
can't get a-round it; You must go in at the door.

The musical notation is written on a single treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

# Get on Board

Spiritual

*Cheerfully, not too fast*

Arr. by Olive J. Williams



Get on board, lit-tle chil-dren, Get on board, lit-tle



Get on, chil dren, Get on,



chil - dren, Get on board, lit-tle chil-dren, There's



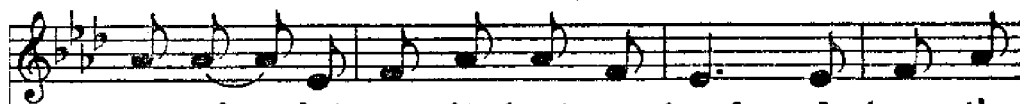
chil - dren, Get on board, There's



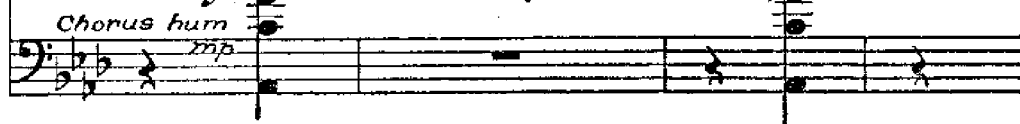
1. The Gos-pel train's a-  
room for man-y a more. 2. I hear the train a-  
3. The fare is cheap and



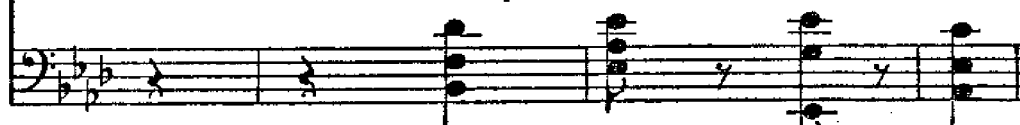
room for man-y a more.



com-in', — I hear it just at han', I hear the  
com-in', — A-com-in' round the curve, She's loos-en'd  
all cango, The rich and poor are there, No sec-ond



car wheels roll-in', — an' rum-blin' thru the lan'  
all her steam an' brakes, she's strain-in' ev-'ry nerve.  
class a-board this train, no dif-f'renee in the fare.



NOTE: Pronunciation is improved by omitting final consonants and all r's.  
When Chorus hums, altos and remaining sopranos take the highest tone.

# Go Down, Moses

*With dramatic intensity*

Arr. by Olive J. Williams

LEADER

CHORUS *Broadly*

When Is-ra-el was in E-gypt's land:  
Thus saith the Lord, bold Mo-ses said: Let my people  
O let us all from bond-age flee,

LEADER

CHORUS

Op-press'd so hard they could not stand,  
go; If not I'll smite your first-born dead, Let my people  
And let us all in Christ be free!

REFRAIN

go. Go down, Mo-ses, 'way down in E-gypt's land,

LEADER

CHORUS

Tell—ol'—Pha-raoh Let my peo-ple go.

# Good News in the Kingdom

West Indies Spiritual

Arr. by Francis Ames

CHORUS

Good news in the king-dom, An' I won't die no more, my lead-er;

Good news in the king-dom, Lord, An' I won't die no more.

*Fine* (y)

SOLO

1. I saw Saint Pe-ter on the sea,  
2. I do be-lieve with-out a doubt, An' I won't die no more;  
3. I feel de spir-it mov-in' me,

CHORUS

SOLO

He left his nets and fol-tered me,  
The Chris-tian has a right to shout, An' I won't die no more.  
I'm gwine to join the ju-bi-lee,

CHORUS

*D.C.*



# Good News

REFRAIN

*Lively and bright*

Walter F. Anderson

*mf*

Good news! The char-i-ot's com-ing. Good news! The

char-i-ot's com-ing. Good news! The char-i-ot's com-ing,

*Fine* There's a

And I don't want it to leave me be-hind. 1. There's a

long white robe in the heav-en I know. *cresc.*

long white robe in the heav-en I know A long white  
A long white

*ff*

robe in the heav-en I know. There's a long white robe in the  
robe in the heav-en I know.

*D.C.*

heav-en I know, And I don't want it to leave me be-hind.

2. pair of wings... 3. shoes... 4. starry crown... 5. golden harp.

# There's a Meeting Here Tonight

REFRAIN *Un poco marziale*

*mf* SOLO CHORUS

Get you read-y, there's a meet-ing here to-night,

SOLO CHORUS

Come a-long, there's a meet-ing here to-night;

Fine

know you by your dai-ly walk, There's a meet-ing here to-night.

*f* SOLO CHORUS *marc.* SOLO

1. Camp-meet-ing down in the wil-der-ness, There's a meet-ing here to-night; |  
2. You say you're aim-ing for the skies, Why

CHORUS D.C.

know it's a-mong the Meth-o-dists, There's a meet-ing here to-night.  
don't you stop your tell-ing lies?

Copyright, 1936, by Hall & McCreary Co., Chicago

# I Got a Robe

Negro Spiritual

I got a robe, you got a robe, All a God's children got a robe.

When I get to heav-en goin' to put on my robe, goin' to

shout all o-ver God's Heav-en. Heav-en. Heav-en.

Ev'-ry-bod-y talk-in' bout-a Heav-en ain'-a go-in' there,

Heav-en. Heav-en. Goin' to shout all o-ver God's Heav-en.

2. I got a shoe, ... put on my shoes, goin' to walk...
3. I got a song, ... sing-a my song, goin' to sing...
4. I got a crown, ... put on my crown, goin' to shout...

# I Know the Lord

Negro Spiritual

O I know the Lord, I know the Lord,

The first system of musical notation for the song, featuring a treble and bass staff in 2/4 time. The melody begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature of 2/4. The lyrics 'O I know the Lord, I know the Lord,' are written below the treble staff.

I know the Lord's laid his hands on me. O hands on me.

The second system of musical notation, continuing the melody. It includes first and second endings. The lyrics 'I know the Lord's laid his hands on me. O hands on me.' are written below the treble staff. The first ending is marked with a '1' and the second ending with a '2' and the word 'Fine'.

1. { Did ev-er you see the like be - fore  
King Je - sus preach-ing to the poor  
2. { O was - n't that a hap - py day  
When Je - sus wash'd my sins a - way  
3. { Some seek the Lord and don't seek him right,  
They fool all day and pray at night,  
4. { My Lord's done just what he said,  
He's heal'd the sick and rais'd the dead.

The third system of musical notation, featuring a treble staff with a melody. Below the staff are four numbered verses of lyrics, each enclosed in a large curly brace. The lyrics are: 1. { Did ev-er you see the like be - fore / King Je - sus preach-ing to the poor; 2. { O was - n't that a hap - py day / When Je - sus wash'd my sins a - way; 3. { Some seek the Lord and don't seek him right, / They fool all day and pray at night; 4. { My Lord's done just what he said, / He's heal'd the sick and rais'd the dead.

I know the Lord's laid his hands on me, hands on me. O

The fourth system of musical notation, continuing the melody. It includes first and second endings. The lyrics 'I know the Lord's laid his hands on me, hands on me. O' are written below the treble staff. The first ending is marked with a '1' and the second ending with a '2' and the abbreviation 'D.S.' (Da Capo).

From AMERICAN NEGRO SONGS by John W. Work. Theo. Presser, Philadelphia.

# I'm a-Rolling

I'm a-roll-ing, I'm a-roll-ing, I'm a-roll-ing thro'an un-

friend-ly world; I'm a-roll-ing, I'm a-roll-ing thro'an

*Fine*

1. O broth-ers, won't you help me,  
un-friend-ly world. 2. O sis-ters, won't you help me,  
3. O preach-ers, won't you help me,

O broth-ers, won't you help me to pray? O broth-ers, won't you  
O sis-ters, won't you help me to pray? O sis-ters, won't you  
O preach-ers, won't you help me to fight? O preach-ers, etc.

help me? Wont you help me in the ser-vice of the Lord?—

*d.c.*

## Inching Along

Negro Spiritual

Keep a-inch-ing a-long, Keep a-inch-ing a-long, Je-sus will

come by and by. Keep a-inch-ing a-long like a poor inch-worm,

*Fine*

1. It was inch by inch that I sought the  
Je-sus will come by and by. 2. We'll inch and inch and inch a-  
3. O trials and trou-bles on the

Lord,  
long, Je-sus will come by and by,  
way,

It was inch by inch that he  
And inch by inch till  
But we must watch as

*D.S.*

saved my soul,  
we get home, Je-sus will come by and by. Keep a-  
well as pray,

# I Want to Be Ready

Negro Spiritual

REFRAIN CHORUS

I want to be read-y, I want to be read-y,

*dim.*

I want to be read - y, To walk in Je-ru-sa-lem

*Fine* SOLO

just like John. 1. John said that Je-ru-sa-lem was four-square  
2. When Pe-ter was preaching at Pen-te-cost,

CHORUS SOLO

Walk in Je-ru-sa-lem just like John. I hope, good Lord, I'll  
he was filled with the

CHORUS D.C.

meet you there, Ho - ly Ghost, Walk in Je-ru-sa-lem just like John.

# Every Time I Feel de Spirit

Negro Spiritual

Arr. by Marion Downs

CHORUS

Ev-'ry time I \_\_\_ feel de Spir-it \_\_\_ Mov-in'

in my heart, \_ I will pray; \_ Ev-'ry time I \_\_\_ feel de

Spir - it \_\_\_ Mov-in' in my heart, \_ I will pray. \_

Hum

Hum

1. Up-on the moun-tain, when my Lord spoke, \_ Out of His  
2. Oh, I have sor-rows and I have woe, \_ And I have

Hum

Hum

mouth came \_ fire and smoke; \_ Looked all a-round \_ me,  
heart - ache \_ here be - low; \_ But while God leads \_ me,

Hum

Hum

it looked so fine, \_ Till I asked my Lord if all were mine.  
I'll nev - er fear, \_ For I am shel-tered \_ by His care.

Note: Male voices sing the verse melody. Women's voices hum the obligato. Keep syncopated rhythm.

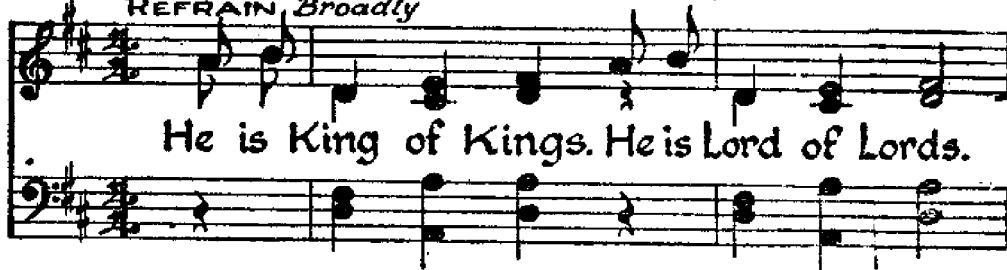


# King of Kings

Arr. by Olive J. Williams

*Joyfully*

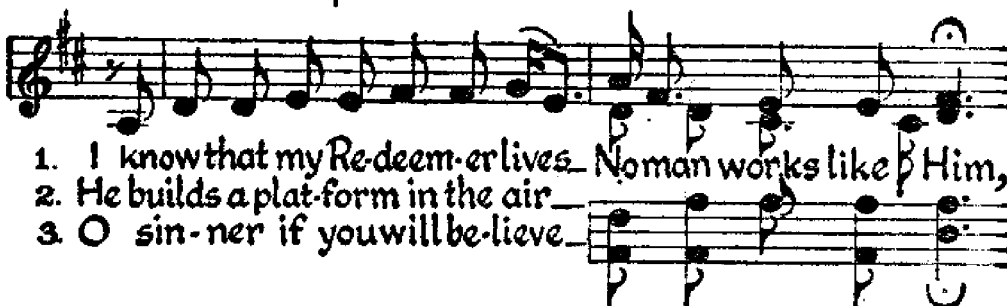
REFRAIN *Broadly*



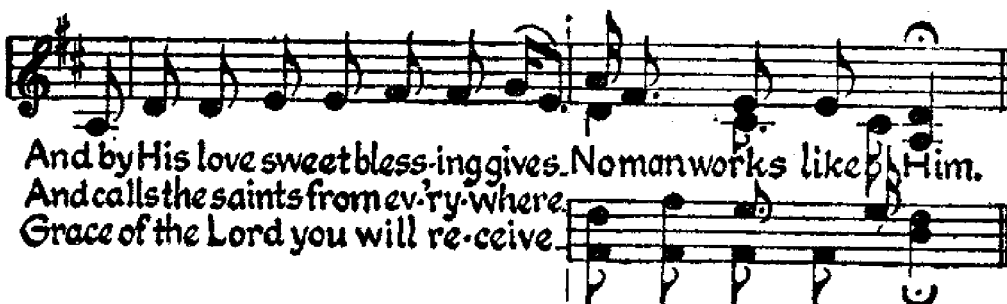
He is King of Kings. He is Lord of Lords.



Je-sus Christ the first and last, No man works like Him.



1. I know that my Re-deem-er lives. No man works like Him,  
2. He builds a plat-form in the air.  
3. O sin-ner if you will be-lieve.



And by His love sweet bless-ing gives. No man works like Him.  
And call the saints from ev-ry-where.  
Grace of the Lord you will re-ceive.

NOTE: Repeat refrain at beginning and end, last time pp.  
Sing refrain once after each stanza.

# Lord, Lord, Lord

REFRAIN

*Joyful and spirited*

Arr. by Walter F. Anderson

Lord, Lord, Lord, you've sure been good to me. (I'm sing-ing)

Lord, Lord, Lord, you've sure been good to me. (Well it's)

Lord, Lord, Lord, you've sure been good to me; For you've

*Fine*  
done what the world could not do. 1. O you

fed me when I'se hun-gry, You've sure been good to me, O Lord you  
m-m m-m

fed me when I'se hun-gry, You've sure been good to me.

fed me when I'se hun-gry, You've  
 (Well you)m-m sure been good to me.

D.C.

For you've done what the world could not do. (I'm sing-ing)

## Lord, Make Me More Holy

Negro Spiritual

Lord, make me more ho-ly, Lord, make me more ho-ly,

Lord, make me more ho-ly, un-til we meet a-gain.

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, un-til we meet a-gain.

2. Faithful...      3. Humble...      4. Righteous..

# Look Away

(AS SUNG AT LINCOLN SCHOOL, MARION, ALABAMA)

LEADER *Hopefully*

Arr. by Olive J. Williams

O, look a-way in-a-heav-en. O, look a-

CHORUS *mf*  
O, look a-way in-a-heav-en.

way in-a-heav-en. O, look a-way

O, look a-way in-a-heav-en. O, look a-

*Fine*  
in-a-heav-en. Good Lord I hope I join the band.

way in-a-heav-en. Hope I join the band.

I'm gon-na see my moth-er some o' these morn-ings,

## Look Away - continued

See my moth-er some o' these morn-ings, See my moth-er  
 See my moth-er some o' these morn-ings, See my moth-er  
 some o' these morn-ings, Lord I hope I join the band. *D.C.*  
 some o' these morn-ings, Hope I join the band. *D.C.*

## Were You There?

Negro Spiritual

Were you there when they cru-ci-fied my Lord? — Were you  
 there when they cru-ci-fied my Lord? — Oh! —  
 Some-times it cau-ses me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble,  
 — Were you there when they cru-ci-fied my Lord? —

- 2...When the sun refused to shine?...  
 3...When they laid Him in the tomb?...

# Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler

*Like a march*

Arr. by Olive J. Williams

LEADER REFRAIN

Let us cheer the wea-ry trav-el-er — cheer the wea-ry

CHORUS HUM SING

trav-el-er, Let us cheer the wea-ry trav-el-er, a-

long the heaven-ly way. 1. I'll take my gos-pel  
2. And if you meet with

trump-et and I'll be-gin—to blow, And  
tri-als and trou-bles on—your way, Just

if my Je-sus lets me, I'll—blow where-ever I go.  
keep your trust in Je-sus, and—don't for-get—to pray.

NOTE: Chorus hums refrain first time; sings on repeat.  
Refrain pp at end of song.

# Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

U. S. A. Negro

*SOLO mp*



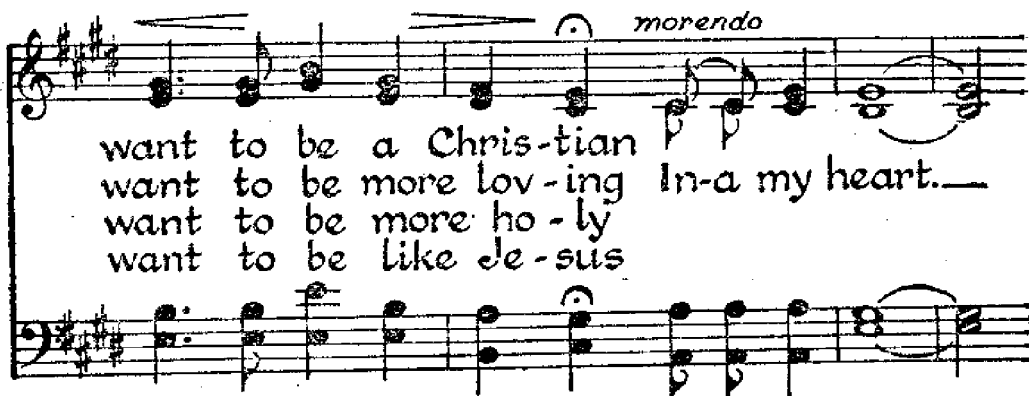
Lord, I want to be a Chris - tian  
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing  
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly  
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus

*ALL mp*



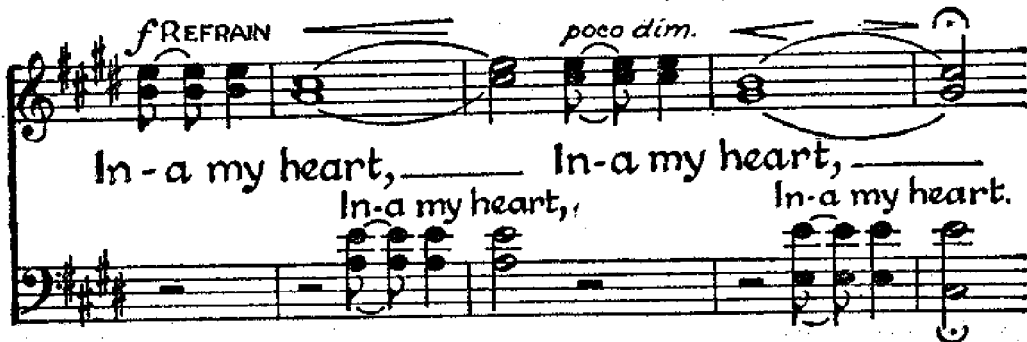
In - a my heart, in - a my heart, Lord, I

*morendo*



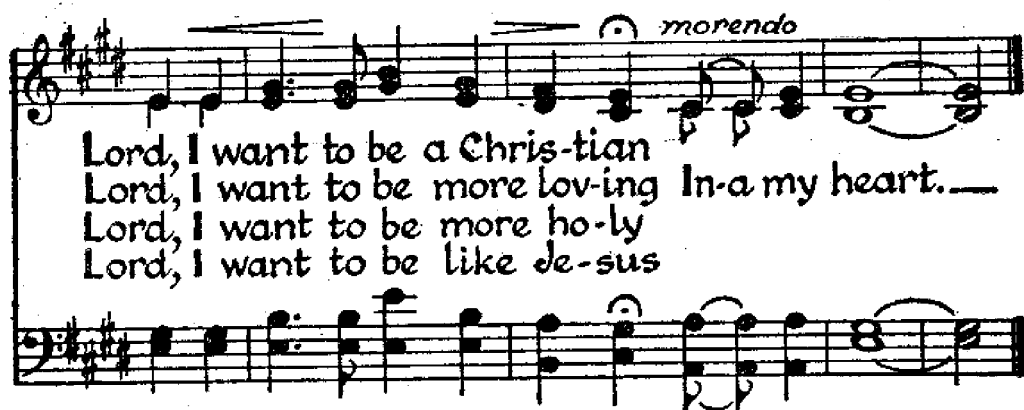
want to be a Chris - tian  
 want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart. —  
 want to be more ho - ly  
 want to be like Je - sus

*f* REFRAIN *poco dim.*



In - a my heart, — In - a my heart, —  
 In - a my heart, In - a my heart.

*morendo*



Lord, I want to be a Chris - tian  
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart. —  
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly  
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus

From Dett's RELIGIOUS FOLK SONGS OF THE NEGRO, by permission

# My Lord, What a Morning

Negro Spiritual

**CHORUS**

My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing,

*Fine*

My Lord, what a morn-ing, When the stars be-gin to fall.

**Solo**

1. You'll hear the trumpet sound,
2. You'll hear the sin-ner mourn, To wake the na-tions un-der-ground,
3. You'll hear the Christian shout,

*D.C.*

Look-ing to my God's right hand, When the stars be-gin to fall.

# I'm Gonna Sing

1. I'm gon-na sing when the Spir-it says "SING," I'm gon-na

2. sing when the Spir-it says "SING,"— I'm gon-na sing when the

- Spir-it says "SING,"— And o-bey the Spir-it of the Lord.—

2. Shout.. 3. Preach... 4. Pray. 5. Sing..



# Nobody Knows

Negro Spiritual

REFRAIN

Oh, no-body knows de trouble I've seen, No-body knows but Je-sus.

Detailed description: This block contains the first musical system. It features a treble and bass staff in G major and common time. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

No-bod-y knows de trouble I've seen, Glo-ry hal-le-lu-jah.

*Fine*

Detailed description: This block contains the second musical system. It continues the melody from the previous system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The system ends with a 'Fine' marking.

DUET

CHORUS

Some-times I'm up, some-times I'm down,  
Al-though you see me goin' 'long, so, Oh, yes, Lord.  
One day when I was walk - in' 'long,  
I nev - er shall for-get that day,

Detailed description: This block contains the third musical system. It is divided into a 'DUET' section (first four notes) and a 'CHORUS' section (last four notes). The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

DUET

CHORUS

*D.C.*

Some-times I'm al-most to de groun',  
I have my tri-als here be-low, Oh, yes, Lord.  
De el-ment open'd an' Love came down,  
When Je-sus wash'd my sins a-way,

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth musical system. It is divided into a 'DUET' section (first four notes) and a 'CHORUS' section (last four notes). The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The system ends with a 'D.C.' (Da Capo) marking.

# Old Ark's a-Movering

Negro Spiritual

O the old ark's a-mov-er-ing, a-mov-er-ing a-

mov-er-ing, The old ark's a-mov-er-ing, And I'm going

home, O the I'm going home. *Fine*

See that sis-ter  
See that broth-er  
See that sis-ter  
Thain't but the one thing

dressed so fine? She ain't got Je - sus  
dressed so gay? Death's goin' a come for to  
com - in' so slow? She wants to go to Heav'n fore the  
grieves my mind; Sis-ter's gone to Heav'n and

*d.c.* Sing before 1st and after 4th stanzas

in a her mind. Th'old ark she reeled, The old ark  
car-ry him a-way.  
Heav-en doors close.  
left a me be-hind.

*D.S.*

she rocked, the old ark she landed on the moun-tain top. O the

# Sinner, You Know

REFRAIN

*Moderately slow*

Arr. by Walter F. Anderson

Sin-ner, you know you're bound to die. Sin-ner, you

sin - ner, you're sin -

know you're bound to die. bound to die.

ner, you're

1. Just as a tree falls, so shall it lie;  
2. My Lord, He sees you all night and day

Just as a sin-ner lives, so shall he die.  
Sees all you're do-ing, and He hears all you say.

D.C.

NOTE: Below each line of the refrain there is an indication of the rhythm used to accompany this by clapping.

# Somebody's Knockin'

REFRAIN

Some-bod - y's knock-in' at your door; Some-bod - y's

knock-in at your door; Oh, — sin - ner, why don't you

an - swer? Some-bod - y's knock-in' at your door. *Fine*

SOLO CHORUS

Knocks like Je - sus,  
Can't you hear him? Some-bod - y's knock-in' at your door;  
An - swer Je - sus,

SOLO CHORUS *d.s.*

Knocks like Je - sus,  
Can't you hear him? Some-bod - y's knock-in' at your door.  
An - swer Je - sus,

# Standing in the Need of Prayer

Arr. by Olive J. Williams

**CHORUS** *Humbly*

It's-a me, it's-a me, O, Lord, stand-ing in the need of

It's me

prayer. It's-a me, it's-a me, O, Lord, stand-ing in the need of

It's me

**LEADER**

prayer. 1. Not my broth-er, not my sis-ter, but-a me, O, Lord,

**CHORUS** **LEADER**

standing in the need of prayer. Not my broth-er, not my

**CHORUS**

sis-ter, but-a me, O, Lord, stand-ing in the need of prayer.

2. Not my father, not my mother,...
3. Not my preacher, not my teacher,...
4. Not my deacon, not my elder,...

**Note:** The CHORUS may hum last chord of chorus while leader sings.

## Steal Away

REFRAIN ALL *pp* *p* Negro Spiritual

Steal a-way, steal a-way, Steal a-way to Je-sus,

*f* *ff* *tempo rubato* *poco rit.* Fine

Steal a-way, steal a-way home, I ain't got long to stay here.

SOLO *ff* con molto espressione

1. My Lord calls me, He calls me by the thun-der; The
2. Greentrees are bend-ing, Poor sin-ner stands a-trem-bling; The
3. Tomb-stones are burst-ing, Poor sin-ner stands a-trem-bling; The
4. My Lord calls me, He calls me by the light-ning; The

*molto morendo* ALL *mf* D.C.

trump-et sounds with-in-a my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

# Study War No More

Negro Spiritual

LEADER

CHORUS

Gwine to lay down my bur-den, Down by the riv-er-side,

LEADER

Down by the riv-er-side, Down by the riv-er-side, Gwine to lay down my

CHORUS

bur-den, Down by the riv-er-side to stud-y war no more.

REFRAIN

I ain't gwine stud-y war no more, ain't gwine stud-y war no

more, ain't gwine stud-y war no more. Ain't gwine stud-y war no  
stud-y war no more

more, ain't gwine stud-y war no more, ain't gwine stud-y war no more.

# Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Negro Spiritual

*mp* SOLO *mf* CHORUS

Swing low, sweet char-i-ot, Com-in'for to car-ry me home!

SOLO CHORUS Fine

Swing low, sweet char-i-ot, Com-in'for to car-ry me home.

*f* SOLO

I looked o-ver Jor-dan, an' what did I see, -  
If you get there be - fore - I do, -  
I'm some - times up an' some - times down, -

*ff* CHORUS *mf* SOLO

Com-in'for to car-ry me home! A band of an-gels  
Jes' tell my fren's that  
But still my soul feels

*mp* CHORUS D.C.

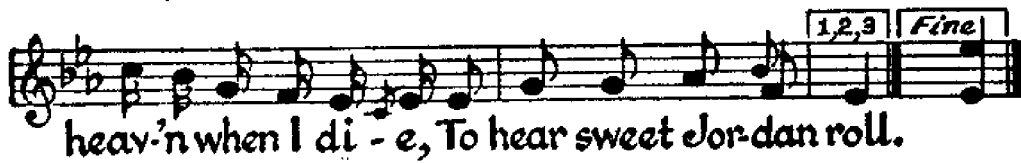
com-in' af - ter me, -  
I'm a - com-in' too, - Com-in for to car-ry me home.  
heav - en - ly boun', -



## Roll, Jordan

CHORUS, *with animation*

Negro Spiritual



GIRLS: Oh, broth-er, you ought to be there,  
BOYS: Oh, sis-ter, you ought to be there, Yes, my Lord, A-  
ALL: Oh, Prea-cher, you'd BET-TER be there,

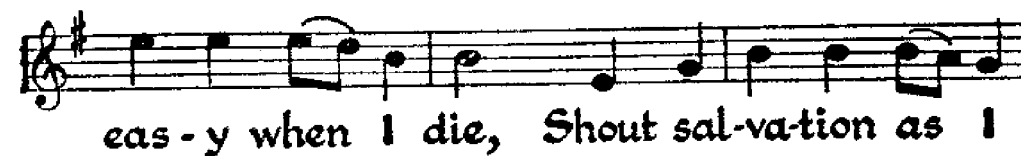
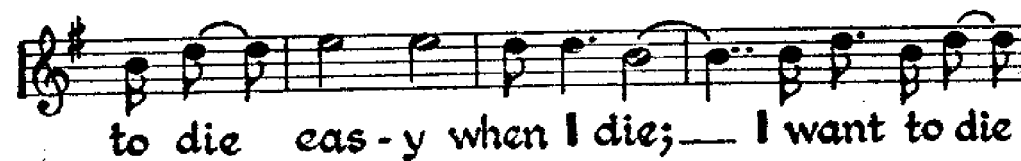
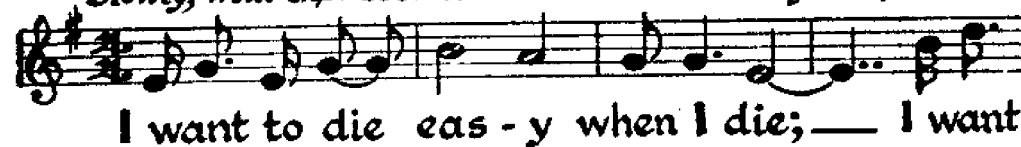


NOTE: Be sure to sing "Roll Jordan" with great emphasis as indicated. Watch syncopation of "I want to go," etc. This makes for a true spiritual. Sing last chorus soft yet firm, slowing up on word "die" including grace note, and girls can go up on the high E only for final ending.

## I Want to Die Easy

*Slowly, with expression*

Negro Spiritual



2. I want to see my mother...
3. I want to see my Jesus...

# Go Tell It on the Mountain

Christmas Spiritual

Go tell it on the moun - tain,  
Tell on the moun - tain,  
Tell on it, the tell it on the moun - tain,  
Tell on the moun - tain,

O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where, Go tell it on the  
Tell on it, the  
Tell on the

moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is - a - born. *Fine*  
Tell it on the moun - tain  
moun - tain

1. When I was a sin - ner, I prayed both night and day; I  
2. When I was a seek - er, I sought both night and day; I  
3. He made me a watchman up - on the cit - y wall; And

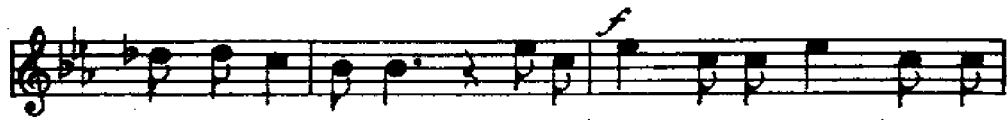
asked the Lord to help me, and He showed me the way. -  
asked my Lord to help me, and He taught me to pray. -  
if I am a Christian, I am the least of all. - *D.C.*

# Rise Up, Shepherds

Negro Spiritual



Dere's a star in de Eas' on Christ-mas morn, Rise up,



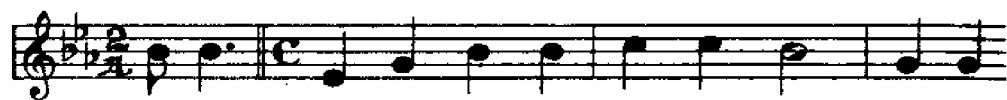
shep-herds, an' fol-ler; It 'll lead to de place where de



Sav-ior's born, — Rise up, shep-herds, an' fol-ler.



Leave yo' ewes an' leave yo' lambs, Rise up, shepherds, an'



fol-ler. Leave yo' sheep an' leave yo' rams, Rise up,



shep-herds, an' fol-ler. Fol-ler, fol-ler,



Rise up, shep-herds, an' fol-ler. Fol-ler de star o'

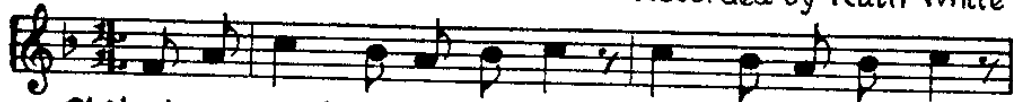


Beth-le-hem, — Rise up, shep-herds, an' fol-ler.

# Children, Go Where I Send Thee

Negro Folk Carol

Recorded by Ruth White



Chil-dren, go where I send thee, How shall I send thee?



I shall send them one by one 'cause one was the



lit-tle bit-ty ba - by, wrapped in swad-dling cloth-ing,



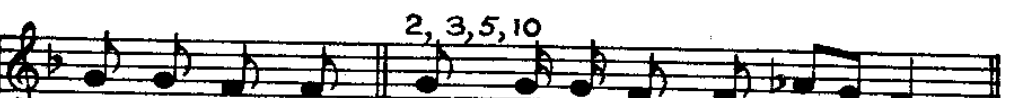
ly - ing in a man - ger Born, born, Lord,



Born in Beth - le - hem. Chil-dren, go where I



send thee, How shall I send thee? I shall send them



two by two 'cause two was-a Paul and Si - las, <sup>to 2</sup>  
 (three to ten) three was the He-brew children, <sup>to 3</sup>  
 five was the gos-pel preachers, <sup>to 4</sup>  
 ten was the ten commandments, <sup>to 9</sup>



One was the lit-tle bit-ty ba - by  
 Four was the four\_ come a-knock-ing at the door, <sup>to 3</sup>  
 Six was the six\_ that\_ could-n't get\_ fixed, <sup>to 5</sup>  
 Seven was the seven went\_ up\_ to\_ heaven, <sup>to 6</sup>  
 Eight was the eight\_ that\_ stood\_ at the gate, <sup>to 7</sup>  
 Nine was the nine\_ got\_ left\_ be - hind, <sup>to 8</sup>



wrapped in swad-dling cloth-ing, ly-ing in a



man - ger, Born, born, Lord! Born in Beth-le-hem.

From the singing of children at Breedings Creek Colored School, Ky., 1946.

## The Grey Goose

Negro Secular Song

Collected by Olive J. Williams

*Rather fast*

LEADER

REFRAIN



1. Well, one Mon-day morn-in', O, O, O.

LEADER

REFRAIN



Well, one Mon-day morn-in', O, O, O.

Dorchester Academy, McIntosh, Georgia

2. My daddy went a-huntin'
3. Huntin' for the grey goose
4. A-huntin' in the big woods
5. An' he took along his houn' dog
6. Houn' dog -'gin to whinin'
7. Long came a grey goose
8. Well, daddy pull the trigger
9. An' the gun went boo-loo
10. Down he come a-fallin'
11. He was six weeks a-fallin'
12. He was six weeks a-pickin'
13. An' they put him on a-cookin'
14. He was six weeks a-cookin'
15. An' they put him on the table
16. But the fork wouldn't stick him
17. So they took him to the saw-mill
18. An' he broke the saw's teeth out
19. O, the las' time I saw her
20. She was flyin' 'cross the ocean
21. Had a long string of goslin's
22. An' they all went "Quonk, quonk."

The refrain is sung by the chorus. New leader may begin at verse No. 12 if desired.

## Rocks on the Mountains

Negro Work Song

Collected by Olive J. Williams



1. Rocks on the moun-tains shine like dia-monds. Rocks on the
2. This old ham-mer kill John Hen-ry. This old
3. This old ham-mer ring like judge-ment. This old
4. Can't you hear it ring-ing on the moun-tain? Can't you



moun-tains shine like dia-monds. Rocks on the moun-tains  
ham-mer kill John Hen-ry. This old ham-mer  
ham-mer ring like judge-ment. This old ham-mer  
hear it ring-ing on the moun-tain? Can't you hear it



shine like dia-monds. Let 'em shine, boy. Let 'em shine.  
kill John Hen-ry. Didn't kill me, boy. Didn't kill me.  
ring like judge-ment. Let it ring, boy. Let it ring.  
ring-ing on the moun-tain? Ring-ing so fine, boy. Ring-ing so fine.

Dorchester Academy, McIntosh, Georgia

## Green Trees

Negro Play Song

Collected by Olive J. Williams

LEADER CHORUS LEADER CHORUS

Green trees. Rock-y road. Green trees. Rock-y road. Choose your

lov-er, Don' let him go. Don' give him time to say yes or no.

Leader in center of single circle chooses a partner at "choose your lover," and they dance on to the end of the song, when chosen one, in turn, becomes leader. Those in circle clap on second half of each beat all through the song. Continue until all have been leader.

## Two Wings

LEADER CHORUS

Oh, Lord, I want two wings to veil my face,  
 Oh, Lord, I want two wings to fly a-way,  
 Oh, Lord, I want two wings to veil my face,

ALL Fine LEADER

So the dev-il can't do me no harm. My

1, 2, CHORUS

Lord, did he come at the break of day? No!  
 Lord, did he come in the heat of noon? No!  
 Lord, did he come in the cool of the

3 ALL D.C.

eve-ning? Yes! And he washed my sins a-way.

## O Won't You Sit Down

Who's that yon-da dressed in red? Must be the chil-len that

Mo-ses led. O won't you sit down? Lord, I can't sit down,

O won't you sit down? Lord, I can't sit down, 'Cause I

just got to heav-en, got-ta look a-round.

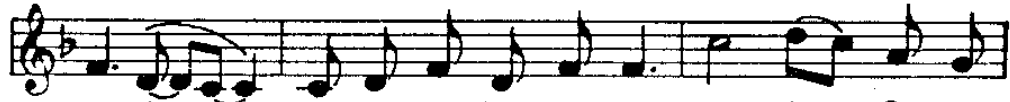
2. Who's that yonda dressed in white?  
Must be the chillen of the Israelite.
3. Black? . . . Hypocrites turnin' back.
4. Pink? . . . Solomon tryin' to think.
5. Green? . . . 'Zekiel in his flyin' machine.
6. Gray? . . . Sinners turnin' away
7. Blue? . . . Chillen a-comin' thru.

# Cotton Needs A-Pickin'

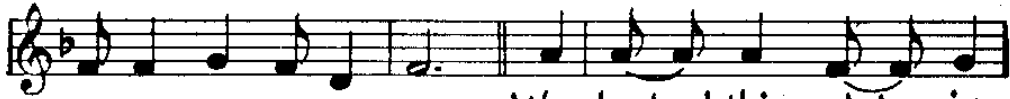
Negro Folk Song



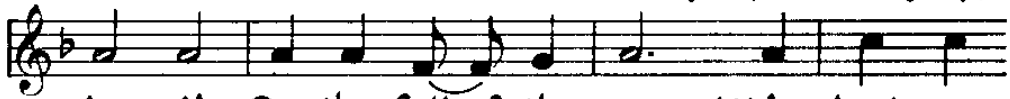
Cot-ton needs a-pick-in' so bad, Cot-ton needs a-pick-in'



so bad, Cot-ton needs a-pick-in' so bad, Gon-na



We plant-ed this cot-ton in  
pick all o-ver this field. Boy, stop goos - in' that  
Hur-ry up, hur-ry up,



A - pril On the full of the moon. We've had a  
cot-ton, And take bet - ter care, Make haste, you  
chil-dren, We ought to have been gone, This weath-er



hot, dry sum-mer, That's why it o-pened so soon.  
la - zy ras-cal, And bring that row from there.  
looks so cloud-y I think it's go-in' to storm.

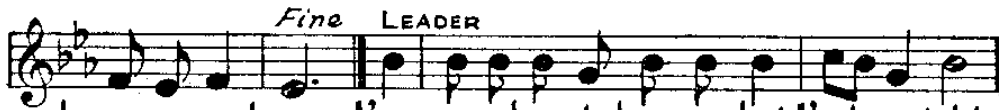
# Trampin'



I'm a-tramp-in', tramp-in', Tryin' to make heav-en my



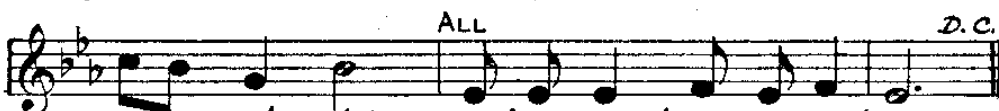
home, Hal-le-lu-jah! I'm a-tramp-in, tramp-in', Tryin' to make



heav-en my home. I've nev-er been to heav-en but I've been told,



Tryin' to make heav-en my home, That the streets up there are



paved with gold; Tryin' to make heav-en my home.



# Han' Me Down

Jubilee Song



Oh, han' me down, han' me down, Han' me down Yo'



sil-vah trum-pet, Ga-briel, Han' me down,



han' me down, Han' me down Yo' sil-vah trum-pet, Lord



If life were a thing that mon-ey could buy,  
The Lord He would not have it so, Han' me down Yo'  
The dev-il's mad and I am glad,



The rich would live and the poor would die,  
sil-vah trum-pet, Ga-briel. The rich must die just the same as the poor,  
He lost a soul that he thought he had,



Han' me down Yo' sil-vah trum-pet, Lord. Oh, han' me down,



han' me down, Han' me down Yo' sil-vah trum-pet Ga-briel,



Han' me down, throw it down, An-y way you get it down,



Han' me down Yo' sil-vah trum-pet, Lord.

From ROLLIN' ALONG IN SONG, copyright 1937. Permission Viking Press, Inc.

## Chicka - hanka

Track Laborer's Song

Cap'n go side-track yore train,

Chick-a-hank-a, chick-a-

Cap'n go side-track yore

hank-a, chick-a-hank-a, chick-a-hank-a;

train, \_\_\_\_\_ Num-ber three in

Chick-a-hank-a, chick-a-hank-a, chick-a-hank-a, chick-a-hank-a;

line, A - com-in' in on time,

Chick-a-hank-a, chick-a-hank-a; Chick-a-hank-a, chick-a

Cap'n go sidetrack yore train. \_\_\_\_\_

hank-a; Chick-a-hank-a, chick-a-hank-a, chick-a-hank-a.

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