

# I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger

Handbells used: 3 octaves (27 bells);  
4 octaves (33 bells);  
5 octaves (39 bells)

optional

optional


3 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).  
3 & 4 octave choirs omit notes in < >.  
5 octave choirs play all notes.

Optional Handchimes used: 3 octave (14 chimes)

## Performance Notes

This arrangement invokes the style of American Mountain and Bluegrass music. For example, the opening malletted bass line mimics the plucked strings of the acoustic bass; the treble thumb-damped chords resemble the “chop” of the mandolin; and the melody sings forth as a violin in a mournful low register.

In measures 37-51 the toll swings and echo markings apply only to the whole and tied whole notes.

The gyro technique  is played by ringing the bell, then while holding in a vertical position, slowly rotate to produce a slight vibration in sound. There is no set number of turns per note, but in this piece, one or two rotations per whole note should work well. In measures 88 - 90 one rotation per measure is advised with a clean damp on the first beat of measure 91. Remember, this is a very visual technique, so let the movement reflect the mood.

If the special techniques are difficult to execute at first, rehearse without them until ringers feel comfortable with the notes. Then incorporate the techniques a few at a time.

American Folk Tune  
Arranged by Tammy Waldrop

Plaintive, with a pulse (♩ = 112-120)

1 2 3 4

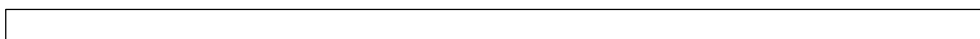
mf

mp TD

5 6 7 8

mp

mf melody



Musical notation for measures 9-12. The score is in G minor (two flats) and 3/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with a long slur over measures 9-10, followed by eighth-note patterns. The left hand provides a bass line with dotted rhythms and chords, marked with '+' signs.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The right hand continues the melodic development with slurs and eighth-note figures. The left hand maintains the bass line with dotted rhythms and chords, marked with '+' signs.

Musical notation for measures 17-20. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) starting in measure 20. The left hand continues the bass line with dotted rhythms and chords, marked with '+' signs.

Musical notation for measures 21-24. The right hand features a complex texture with wavy lines and chords, marked with 'Sk' and 'R'. The left hand has a bass line with slurs and chords, marked with 'R' and 'Θ'. The piece concludes in measure 24.

Musical score for measures 25-28. The piece is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. Measures 25 and 26 feature a complex texture with multiple wavy lines above the staff, labeled 'Sk'. Measures 27 and 28 continue this texture, with a melodic line in the right hand marked 'mf (melody)'.

Musical score for measures 29-32. The texture continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic marking 'mp' is present at the beginning of measure 29.

Musical score for measures 33-35. The texture continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic marking 'mp' is present at the beginning of measure 33. A 'TD' marking is visible at the end of measure 35.

Musical score for measures 36-38. The texture continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic marking 'mf' is present at the beginning of measure 36. A 'R' marking is present above measure 37. A circular arrow symbol is above measure 37, and another 'R' marking is below measure 37.