

JAMES SYLER

Hard Times Come
Again No More

by Stephen Foster
Arranged for 4-Part Flexible Instrumentation

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STEPHEN FOSTER

Arr. James Syler

DURATION: 3:30

GRADE: Easy

NOTES

Stephen Foster (1826-1864) was America's first great songwriter. *Hard Times Come Again No More* stands out as a unique and personal song compared to his minstrel and parlor songs. Written in 1854, the song was composed during a period of loss - the death of his parents and best friend, separation from his wife, and a failing career. It's a song of comfort for hard times. Since the 1990's the song has experienced a revival through numerous covers from a variety of performers.

CONDUCTOR'S NOTES

You may find this simple hymn-like arrangement useable as a quiet piece, a concert closer, or an encore. The flexible instrumentation can use any combination of instruments as long as all parts are covered. All parts are available in C, Bb, Eb, and F. Feel free to make octave changes depending on the instrument(s) used.

Recommended Instrumentations:

PART 1

Piccolo, Flute, Bb Clarinet, Oboe, Soprano Sax, Trumpet, Flugelhorn.

PART 2

Flute, Bb Clarinet, Oboe, Soprano Sax, Alto Sax, Trumpet, Flugelhorn.

PART 3

Bb Clarinet, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Horn, Trombone, Euphonium.

PART 4

Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, Marimba, String Bass.

*1. Let us pause in life's pleasures and count its many tears,
While we all sup sorrow with the poor;
There's a song that will linger forever in our ears;
Oh! Hard times come again no more.*

Chorus

*Tis the song, the sigh of the weary,
Hard Times, hard times, come again no more.
Many days you have lingered around my cabin door;
Oh! Hard times come again no more.*

*2. While we seek mirth and beauty and music light and gay,
There are frail forms fainting at the door;
Though their voices are silent, their pleading looks will say
Oh! Hard times come again no more.*

Chorus

*3. There's a pale drooping maiden who toils her life away,
With a worn heart whose better days are o'er:
Though her voice would be merry, 'tis sighing all the day,
Oh! Hard times come again no more.*

Chorus

*4. Tis a sigh that is wafted across the troubled wave,
'Tis a wail that is heard upon the shore
'Tis a dirge that is murmured around the lowly grave
Oh! Hard times come again no more.*

Chorus

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www.jamessyler.com

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Hymn-like ♩ = 62-70

Part 1
mf *legato*

Part 2
mf *legato*

Part 3
mf *legato*

Part 4
mf *legato*

The first system of the score consists of four staves (Part 1 to Part 4) in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. Each staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* and a *legato* instruction. The music is characterized by long, flowing lines with many ties across bar lines.

5

P. 1
mp

P. 2
mp

P. 3

P. 4
mp

Chorus

The second system begins at measure 5. The dynamic marking changes to *mp* for all parts. The word "Chorus" is written above the staff. The musical texture continues with long lines and ties.

10

P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

P. 4

The third system begins at measure 10. The musical texture continues with long lines and ties across the four staves.

17

P. 1
P. 2
P. 3
P. 4

mf

mf

P. 1
P. 2
P. 3
P. 4

p

p

mf

p

p

Chorus

P. 1
P. 2
P. 3
P. 4

33

P. 1
P. 2
P. 3
P. 4

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

35

P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

P. 4

41

P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

P. 4

46

P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

P. 4

51

P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

P. 4