

Wayfaring Stranger

Anonymous, *ante* 1858

E minor Anonymous, *ante* 1882
Arranged by William T. Dale, 1893

Solo

1. { I am a poor way-far-ing stran-ger, While trav-ling thro' this world of woe, } I'm go-ing there to see my
Yet there's no sick-ness, toil or dan-ger In that bright world to which I go. }

fa-ther, I'm go-ing there, no more to roam; I'm on-ly go-ing o-ver Jor-dan, I'm on-ly go-ing o-ver home.

1. I am a poor wayfaring stranger,
While traveling through this world of woe,
Yet there's no sickness, toil, nor danger,
In that bright world to which I go.

I'm going there to see my Father,
I'm going there no more to roam.
I'm only going over Jordan,
I'm only going over home.

2. I know dark clouds will gather round me,
I know my way is rough and steep;
Yet beautiful fields lie just before me,
Where God's redeemed their vigils keep.

I'm going there to see my mother,
She said she'd meet me when I come,
I'm only going over Jordan,
I'm only going over home.

3 I'll soon be freed from every trial,
My body sleep in the church yard,
I'll drop the cross of self-denial,
And enter on my great reward,

I'm going there to see my class mates,
Who've gone before me one by one,
I'm only going over Jordan,
I'm only going over home.

4 I want to wear a crown of glory,
When I get home to that good land,
I want to shout salvation's story,
In concert with the blood-washed band.

I'm going there to see my Savior,
To sing His praise forever more,
I'm only going over Jordan,
I'm only going over home.

This is derived from a folk song of unknown origin, apparently first published in 1882; the words first published in 1858 (Garst 1980). However, Boni (1947) says: "After the Revolutionary War, this spiritual sprang up all through the southern mountains ... and appears in the old shape-note hymn books of the period. This is a version sung by the early settlers of De Kalb County, Texas." So far, it has not been found in any nineteenth-century shapenote book. A version appears in *The Sacred Harp* in 1935 and following editions, arranged by John M. Dye. There are several versions of the words.