

8. Old Folks At Home

!Both melody and words of this song, which is known and loved throughout the world, were written by Stephen C. Foster (1826-1864), an American of Irish descent. His songs have gained for him the title of the great American folk-song writer. Foster's words always come to him accompanied by melodies, so that when he had finished his verses the music was also completed.

Foster

Andante espressivo

1. 'Way down up-on the Swa-nee Rib-ber, Far, far a-way. Dere's wha my heart is turn-ing eb-ber,
 2. All round de li-tle farm I wander 'd, When I was young, Den man-y hap-py days I sqander 'd,
 3. One lit-tle hut a-mong de bush-es, One dat I love, Still sad-ly to my mem-ry rush-es,

Dere's wha de old folks stay. All up and down de whole cre-a-tion, Sad-ly I
 Man-y de songs I sung. When I was play-ing wid my brud-der, Hap-py was
 No mat-ter wha I roam. When will I see de bees a-hum-ming All round de

roam, Still log-ing for the old plant-ta-tion, And for the old folks at home.
 I; Oh! take me to my kind old mud-der, Dere let me live and die.
 comb? When will I hear the ban-jo tum-ming Down in my good old home?"

CHORUS.
 All de world am sad and drear-ry, Eb-ry-where I roam;

Oh! dark-ies, how my heart grows wear-y, Far from the old folks at home.



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Source: Dykema, Peter, Will Earhart, Osbourne McConathy, and Hollis Dam. *I Hear America Singing: 55 Songs and Choruses for Community Singing*. Boston,; C. C. Birchard & Company, 1917.