

Steal Away

Wallis Willis?

Moderato

Wallis Willis?, arr. Fisk
Jubilee Singers, 1872

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

p

p

The first system of musical notation for 'Steal Away'. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line consists of a half note chord G2-Bb2-Db3. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and accents.

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

f *p* *Fine*

f *p*

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and bass line. The melody has a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) and a half note (C5). The bass line has a triplet of eighth notes (G2, Bb2, Db3) and a half note (C3). Dynamics include forte (*f*) and piano (*p*). The system ends with the word 'Fine'.

1. My God — calls me, God calls me by the thun-der, The
2. Green trees are bend-ing Poor sin-ners stand trem-bling; The

f

The third system of musical notation. It features two lines of lyrics. The melody is a half note (G4) followed by quarter notes (A4, Bb4, C5). The bass line is a half note chord (G2-Bb2-Db3). Dynamics include forte (*f*).

13 trum-pet sounds it in my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.
trum-pet sounds it in my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

D.C. al Fine

The fourth system of musical notation. It features two lines of lyrics. The melody is a half note (G4) followed by quarter notes (A4, Bb4, C5). The bass line is a half note chord (G2-Bb2-Db3). Dynamics include forte (*f*). The system ends with the instruction 'D.C. al Fine'.

“The lyrics of these black folk songs...had double meanings, serving as code songs that conveyed plans to escape.... The phrase ‘steal away’ thus meant absconding; ‘Jesus’ [meant] freedom in the North;... ‘I ain’t got long to stay here’ meant that flight northward was imminent.”—*Steal Away, Steal Away: New Jersey’s Underground Railroad Heritage*, (Trenton, N.J.: New Jersey Historical Commission, n.d. [c. 2000]).