

Be Still My Soul

Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957

Finlandia
10.10.10.10.10.10

The first system of musical notation for 'Be Still My Soul' is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with a series of chords, followed by a melodic line with a fermata over the fifth measure. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and a melodic line.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It features similar chordal textures in the treble staff and a more active bass line. A fermata is placed over the tenth measure in the treble staff.

The third system of musical notation shows further development of the harmonic language. The treble staff has a melodic line with a fermata over the fifteenth measure. The bass staff continues with a steady accompaniment.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece. It features a final melodic phrase in the treble staff with a fermata over the twenty-fifth measure, and a final chordal cadence in the bass staff.

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change, He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord.
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
To guide the future, as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice Who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Katharina A. von Schlegel