

Behold a host, arrayed in white

Norwegian folk tune, c 1609
Arr by Edward H. Grieg, 1907

Great White Host
88.86 12 lines

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody in the treble clef begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a quarter note B-flat4. The bass clef accompaniment starts with a half note G3, followed by a half note B-flat3. A measure rest '5' is placed above the treble staff at the end of the system.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It features two staves with treble and bass clefs. The melody in the treble clef has a quarter note C5, followed by a quarter note D5, and then a quarter note E5. The bass clef accompaniment has a half note G3, followed by a half note B-flat3. A measure rest '10' is placed above the treble staff at the end of the system.

The third system of musical notation continues the piece. It features two staves with treble and bass clefs. The melody in the treble clef has a quarter note F5, followed by a quarter note G5, and then a quarter note A5. The bass clef accompaniment has a half note G3, followed by a half note B-flat3.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece. It features two staves with treble and bass clefs. The melody in the treble clef has a quarter note B5, followed by a quarter note C6, and then a quarter note B5. The bass clef accompaniment has a half note G3, followed by a half note B-flat3. A measure rest '15' is placed above the treble staff at the beginning of the system.

Behold a host, arrayed in white,
Like thousand snow clad mountains bright,
With palms they stand. Who is this band
Before the throne of light?
Lo, these are they of glorious fame
Who from the great affliction came
And in the flood of Jesus' blood
Are cleansed from guilt and blame.
Now gathered in the holy place
Their voices they in worship raise,
Their anthems swell where God doth dwell,
Mid angels' song of praise.

Despised and scorned, they sojourned here;
But now, how glorious they appear!
Those martyrs stand a priestly band,
God's throne forever near.
So oft, in troubled days gone by,
In anguish they would weep and sigh.
At home above the God of Love
For aye their tears shall dry.
They now enjoy their Sabbath rest,
The paschal banquet of the blest;
The Lamb, their Lord, at festal board
Himself is Host and Guest.

Then hail, ye mighty legions, yea,
All hail! Now safe and blest for aye,
And praise the Lord, who with His Word
Sustained you on the way.
Ye did the joys of earth disdain,
Ye toiled and sowed in tears and pain.
Farewell, now bring your sheaves and sing
Salvation's glad refrain.
Swing high your palms, lift up your song,
Yea, make it myriad voices strong.
Eternally shall praise to Thee,
God, and the Lamb belong.

Hans A. Brorson