

How far from home?

Anon.

Tis Midnight Hour
888.6.D

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 four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat). The melody in the treble clef begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line consists of a series of chords, primarily triads and dyads, providing harmonic support for the melody.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It features the same two-staff format. The melody in the treble clef includes a measure with a fermata over a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line continues with chords, including some dyads.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. It maintains the two-staff format. The melody in the treble clef ends with a quarter note G4. The bass line concludes with a final chord in the bass clef.

How far from home? I asked, as on
I bent my steps—the watchman spake:
“The long, dark night is almost gone,
The morning soon will break.
Then weep no more, but speed thy flight,
With Hope’s bright star thy guiding ray,
Till thou shalt reach the realms of light,
In everlasting day.”

I asked the warrior on the field;
This was his soul inspiring song:
“With courage bold, the sword I’ll wield,
The battle is not long.
Then weep no more, but well endure
The conflict, till thy work is done;
For this we know, the prize is sure,
When victory is won.”

I asked again; earth, sea and sun
Seemed, with one voice, to make reply:
“Time’s wasting sands are nearly run,
Eternity is nigh.
Then weep no more—with warning tones,
Portentous sights are thickening round,
The whole creation, waiting, groans,
To hear the trumpet sound.”

Not far from home! O blessed thought!
The traveler’s lonely heart to cheer;
Which oft a healing balm has brought,
And dried the mourner’s tear.
Then weep no more, since we shall meet
Where weary footsteps never roam—
Our trials past, our joys complete,
Safe in our Father’s home.

Annie R. Smith