

Lord of the Dance

for Marian Gaynor and the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow, Ireland

Shaker Melody, 19th century
Adapted by Sydney B. Carter
Arranged by Tom Kendzia

Sydney B. Carter, 1915–2004

INTRO ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80$)

Melody

Piano

D(no3)

1. I

VERSE 1

1. danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, And I danced in the moon and the

A(no3)/D

simile

1. stars ___ and the sun, And I came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth. At

D(

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REFRAIN

All

1. Beth - le - hem I had my birth. "Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be;

A(no3)/D D(no3) D(no3)/B

I am the Lord of the Dance said "And I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may

Gsus2 Em7 A D(no3) D/F#

be, And I'll lead you all the Dance" said he. 2. I

Gsus2 A Em7/A D(no3)

Solo

VERSE 2

2. danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, But they would not

D D/F# G A

The first system of music for Verse 2 consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in the treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are "2. danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, But they would not". The piano accompaniment is in the grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with the same key signature and time signature. The first two measures of the piano part feature a D major chord and a D/F# chord. The third measure features a G major chord, and the fourth measure features an A major chord. A large, bold, black watermark "SAMPLE" is overlaid vertically across the center of the page, partially obscuring the piano accompaniment.

2. dance and they would-n't fol ; I danced for the fish - er - men, for

D

The second system of music for Verse 2 continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line lyrics are "2. dance and they would-n't fol ; I danced for the fish - er - men, for". The piano accompaniment features a D major chord in the third measure. A large, bold, black watermark "SAMPLE" is overlaid vertically across the center of the page, partially obscuring the piano accompaniment.

2. James and John; They ca with me and the dance went on.

D/F# G G/A D

The third system of music for Verse 2 concludes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line lyrics are "2. James and John; They ca with me and the dance went on.". The piano accompaniment features D/F# and G major chords in the first two measures, and G/A and D major chords in the last two measures. A large, bold, black watermark "SAMPLE" is overlaid vertically across the center of the page, partially obscuring the piano accompaniment.

REFRAIN

Soprano

Alto
"Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Tenor

Bass

Bm Gmaj7

Dance," said he. "And I'll le - ve you all, wher - ev - er you may be, And I'll

div.

Em A D Em7 D/F# G

lead you all in the Dance," said he. 3. I

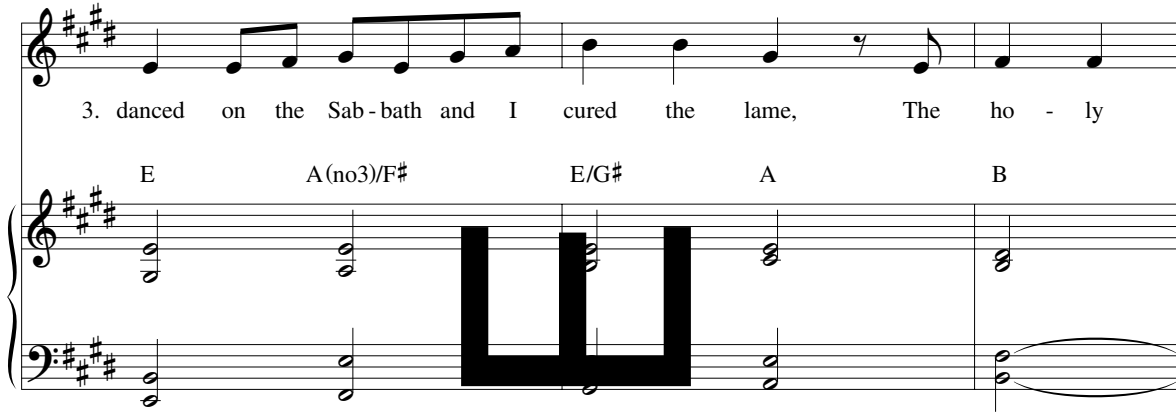
Solo

A A6 G/A D D(no3) (NC)

VERSE 3

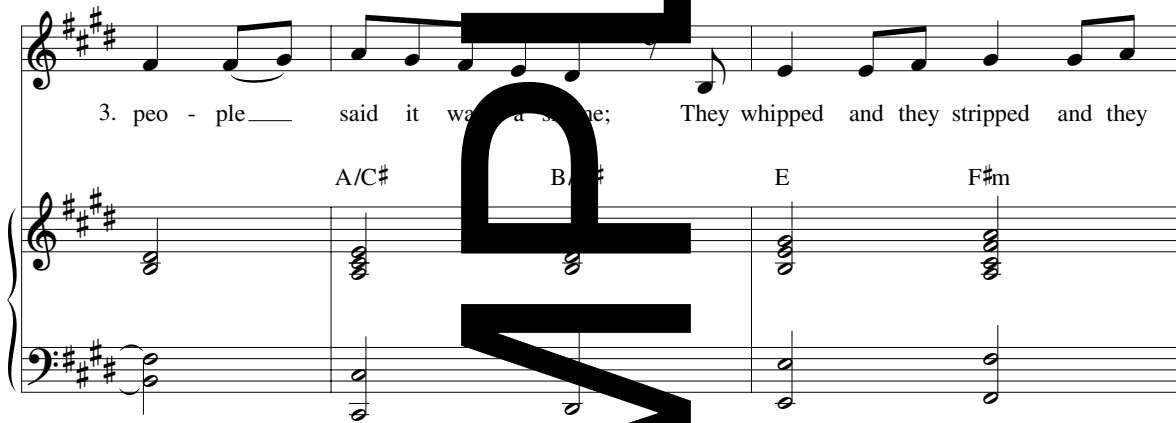
3. danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame, The ho - ly

E A(no3)/F# E/G# A B



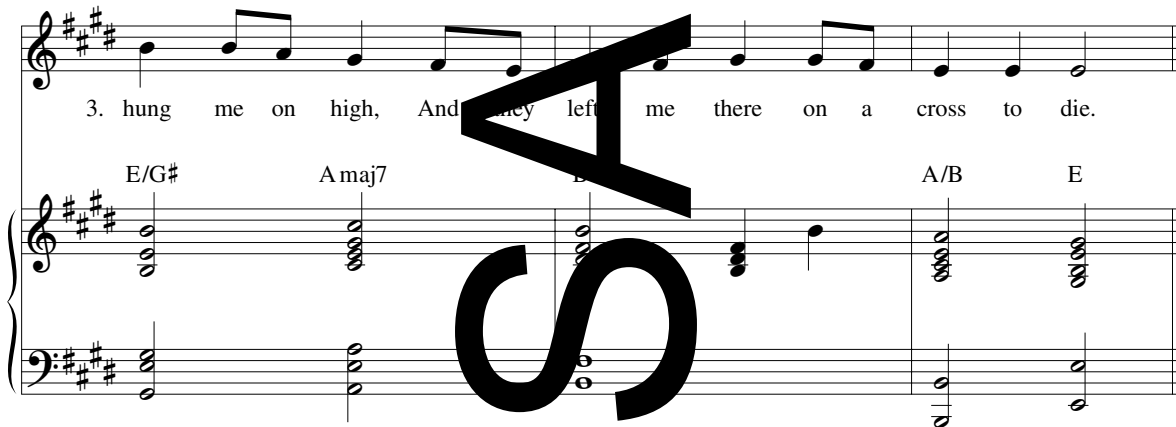
3. peo - ple — said it wa - s a s - i - g - n; They whipped and they stripped and they

A/C# B# E F#m



3. hung me on high, And they left me there on a cross to die.

E/G# A maj7 B A/B E



REFRAIN

S
A

“Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

T
B

Cm7 Amaj7

Dance,” said he. “And I’ll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be, And I’ll

div.

F#m7 B E F#m7 E/G# A

lead you all in the Dance,” said he. 4. I

B A/B E (NC)

Solo

VERSE 4

4. danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black; It's hard to

F Gm7 F/A B♭ C

4. dance with the dev - il on your back; They bur - ied my bod - y and they

B♭/D C/E F Gm7

4. thought I'd gone; But I still go on.

F/A B♭ C6 B/D C/E F

REFRAIN

S
A

“Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

T
B

C/E Dm Dm/Bb F/A

Dance,” said he. “And I’ll d you all, wher - ev - er you may be, And I’ll

div.

Gm C F Gm7 F/A Bb

lead you all in the Dance,” said he. 5. They

Solo

C C6 Bb Bb/E F (NC)

VERSE 5

5. cut me_ down_ and I leapt up high; I am the life that-'ll nev-er, nev-er die, I'll

G Am7 G/B Cmaj9 D D/A Am/E D/F#

5. live in_ you_ if you'll live in me; "I am the Lord of the Dance," said he.

G Am7 G/B D D/A C/E C/F# G

REFRAIN

S
A "Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

T
B

G G/F# F#m D Cmaj7 G/B

Dance," said he. "And I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be, And I'll

div.

Am D C Am7 G/B Cadd9

As desired

Final

lead you all in the Dance," said he.

As desired

Final

D Bm/D C/E C/F# C

C/D G

Lord of the Dance

for Marian Gaynor and the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow, Ireland

(Guitar/Vocal)

Shaker Melody, 19th century

Adapted by Sydney B. Carter

Arranged by Tom Kendzia

Sydney B. Carter, 1915–2004

INTRO (♩ = ca. 80) **VERSE 1**

D(no3) 3

1. I danced in the morn-ing when the

A(no3)/D

1. world was be-gun, And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I

D(no3) A(no3)/D

1. came down from heav-en and I arth. At Beth - le - hem I

D(no3) **REFRAIN** D(no3)/B

1. had my birth. "Dance, wher - ev - er you may be;

Gsus2 D(no3)

I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. "And I'll lead you all, wher -

D/F# Gsus2 A Em7/A D(no3)

ev - er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance," said he.

VERSE 2 D

2. I danced for the scribe and the

D/F# G A

2. Phar - i - see, But they would not dance and they would-n't fol - low me; I

D D/F# G A

2. danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John They came with me and the

G/A D Bm

REFRAIN

2. dance went on. "Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be;

Gmaj7 Em D Em7

I am the Lord of the Dance," said he. "And I'll lead you all, wher -

D/F# G A A6 G/A D

ev - er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance," said he.

D(no3) (NC) E A(no3)/F#

VERSE

3. I danced on the Sab - bath and I

E/G# A B A/C# B/D#

3. cured the lame, The ho - ly people said it was a shame; They

E F#m E/G# maj7 B

3. whipped and they stripped and they left me high, And they left me there on a

A/B E All C#m

REFRAIN

3. cross to die. "Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be;

Amaj7 F#m7 B E F#m7

I am the Lord of the Dance," said he. "And I'll lead you all, wher -

E/G# A B A/B E

ev - er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance," said he.

VERSE 4

F Gm7

4. I danced on a Fri - day when the

F/A Bb C Bb/D C/E

4. sky turned black; It's hard to dance with the dev - il on your back; They

F Gm7 C C6

4. bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone; But I am the dance and I

REFRAIN

B/D C/E F All Dm Dm/C

4. still go on. "Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be;

Bb F/A C C F Gm7

I am the Lord of the Dance," said "And I'll lead you all, wher -

F/A Bb C Bb/D Bb/E F

ev - er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance," said he.

VERSE 5

(NC) G Am7 G/B Cmaj9

5. They cut me down and I leapt up high;

D D/A Am/E D/F# G Am7

5. I am the life that - 'll never, never die, I'll live in you if you'll

G/B C D D/A C/E C/F# G

5. live in me; "I am the Lord of the Dance," said he.

REFRAIN

All G G/F# Em Em/D Cmaj7 G/B

"Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Am D G Am7 G/B Cadd9

Dance," said he. "And I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may be, And I'll

D Bm/D **Final** C/D G

lead you all in the Dance," said he. Dance," said he.

WANTS

Composer Notes

This arrangement/recording of “Lord of the Dance” combines the color of Celtic instruments with the multiple modulations typical of spirituals and gospel music. The traditional tune and wonderful Sydney Carter text are a particularly joyous combination to be sung as a “sending forth” during the Easter Season.

After the singing, instrumentalists are encouraged to improvise further. The three recorded instrumental postludes display a traditional Irish reel, an American “rag” in the style of Aaron Copland, and a pastoral setting of the tune. Explore these and other ideas in an outburst of Easter Joy!

—*Tom Kendzia*

SAMPLE