

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(no3)

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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 he. "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 in 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

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

D

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

D/F# G A G/A D

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 lead 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 was a shame; They whipped and they stripped and they

A/C# B/D# 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

C#m7 A maj7

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

Solo

B A/B E (NC)

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 am the dance and I still go on.

F/A B♭ C 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/C Bb F/A

Dance,” said he. “And I’ll lead 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/D Bb/E F (NC)

Lord of the Dance

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

REFRAIN

S
A
T
B

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

G G/F# Em Em/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 G Am7 G/B Cadd9

As desired Final

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

As desired Final

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

Lord of the Dance

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

(Guitar/Vocal)

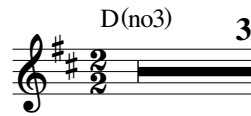
Shaker Melody, 19th century

Adapted by Sydney B. Carter

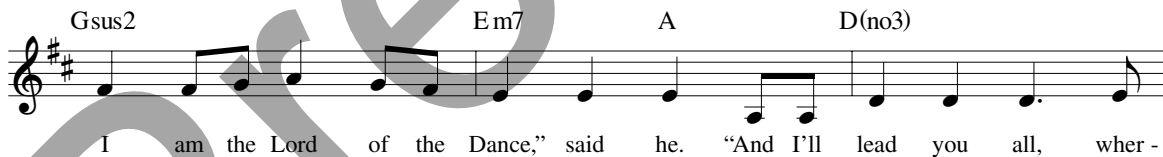
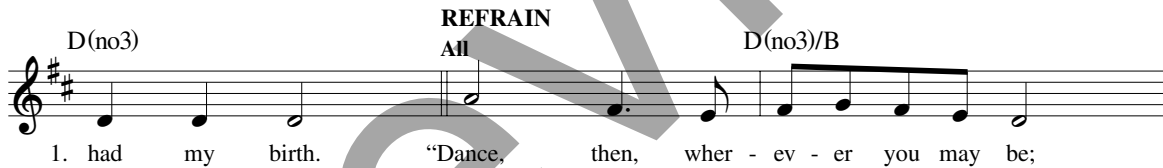
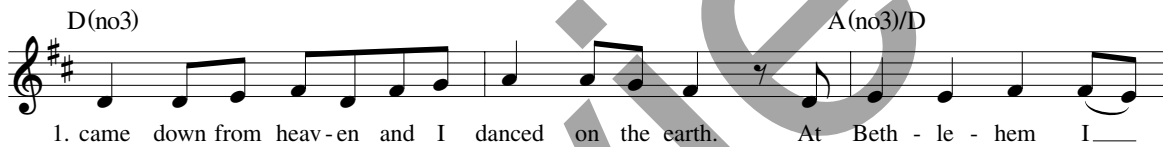
Arranged by Tom Kendzia

Sydney B. Carter, 1915–2004

INTRO (♩ = ca. 80)



VERSE 1



VERSE 2



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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

REFRAIN

G/A D All Bm

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

Gmaj7 Em A 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.

VERSE 3

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

3. I danced on the Sab - bath and I

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

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

E F#m E/G# Amaj7 B

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

REFRAIN

A/B E All C#m

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

(NC) 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 F/A Bb 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 C/E Dm Dm/C

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

Bb F/A Gm C F Gm7

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

F/A Bb C C6 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 nev - er, nev - er 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

As desired	Final
C/E C/F# G	C/D G

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

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

Preview