

# We Shall Overcome

A medley of four songs about hope and resilience from the American Tradition.

Sing the songs one after the other.

## 1. BRING ME A LITTLE WATER SYLVIE

Credited to Leadbelly (Huddie Ledbetter)

$\text{♩} = 100$  Gentle swing

Voice

Piano

*mp*

5 CHORUS

Bring me lit-tle wa - ter Syl-vie \_\_\_\_\_ Bring me lit-tle wa - ter now \_\_\_\_\_

9

Bring me lit-tle wa - ter Syl-vie \_\_\_\_\_ E-very lit-tle once in a while \_\_\_\_\_

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13 VERSE

Syl - vie, Syl - vie I'm so hot and dry—

*mf*

17

Syl - vie, Syl - vie Can't you hear, can't— you hear me cal - lin'?

21 CHORUS

Bring me lit - tle wa - ter Syl - vie— Bring me lit - tle wa - ter now—

*mp*

25

Bring me lit - tle wa - ter Syl - vie— E - very lit - tle once in a while—

# 2. HEY LALLY LALLY

Square Dancing Song from  
The Bahamas collected by Alan Lomax in 1935 and  
mentioned in his book "Our Singing Country"  
adapted by Penny Stone

$\text{♩} = 100$

29 **Upbeat - stride piano**

Musical notation for measures 29-32. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter and eighth notes, while the bass clef provides a simple accompaniment of quarter notes.

33

Musical notation for measures 33-36. The notation continues from the previous system, maintaining the same key signature and tempo.

37

Musical notation for measures 37-40. This system includes the vocal line in the treble clef with the lyrics: "Hey lal - ly lal - ly lal - ly hey lal - ly lal - ly - lo\_\_\_". The piano accompaniment in the bass clef is marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano).

41

Musical notation for measures 41-44. This system includes the vocal line in the treble clef with the lyrics: "Hey lal - ly lal - ly lal - ly hey lal - ly lal - ly - lo\_\_\_". The piano accompaniment in the bass clef continues with the same accompaniment pattern.

PIANO SOLO

45 (with hand claps!)

Musical notation for measures 45-49. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of quarter notes. Vertical lines with 'v' indicate hand claps.

Musical notation for measures 50-54. The piano continues with the same melodic and accompaniment patterns as the previous system, maintaining the forte dynamic and hand clapping.

Musical notation for measures 55-60. The piano continues with the same melodic and accompaniment patterns, maintaining the forte dynamic and hand clapping.

61 *Keep clapping!*

Musical notation for measures 61-64. This system includes a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower staves. The lyrics are: "Hey lal - ly lal - ly lal - ly hey lal - ly lal - ly - lo\_\_\_". The piano accompaniment continues with the established patterns, including hand claps.

Musical notation for measures 65-68. This system includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Hey lal - ly lal - ly lal - ly hey lal - ly lal - ly - lo\_\_\_ lal - ly - lo\_\_\_". The piano accompaniment features a first ending (marked '1.') and a second ending (marked '2.'). The key signature changes to E minor (three flats) and the time signature changes to 4/4.

# 3. BETTER TIMES

Music and lyrics by Janis Ian

70  $\text{♩} = 100$  Gospel rock

Bet ter

74 CHORUS

times, bet-ter times will come Bet - ter times, bet-ter

77

times will come When this world learns to live as one

80

Oh, bet-ter times will come When we

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83 VERSE

greet each dawn with - out fear      Kno - wing loved ones soon will be near      When the

winds of war can - not blow a - ny - more      Oh, bet - ter times will come      Bet - ter

91 CHORUS

times,      bet ter times will come      Bet ter times,      bet ter times will come

When this world learns to live as one      Oh, bet - ter times will

# 4. WE SHALL OVERCOME

USA civil rights song  
Adpated by Zilphia Horton, Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan & Pete Seeger  
from the Southern Gospel song "I'll overcome Someday"

98  $\text{♩} = 100$

come

*mp*

102

We shall o - ver - come\_\_\_\_\_ We shall o - ver - come\_\_\_\_\_

*con Ped.*

110

We shall o - ver - come some day\_\_\_\_\_ Oh - oh,

## We Shall Overcome

118

deep in my heart I do be - lieve That

This system contains measures 118 through 125. The vocal line features a melodic line with a long note on 'heart' and another on 'lieve'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

126

we shall o - ver - come some day

This system contains measures 126 through 133. The vocal line has a long note on 'day'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

134

*poco rit.*

We shall o - ver - come some day

This system contains measures 134 through 141. The vocal line has a long note on 'day'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. The system ends with a double bar line.