



I Wonder As I Wander

John Jacob Niles

🎵 Level 43/100 (Ambitious)

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Side Notes: This is a Christmas carol written by John Jacob Niles. The carol has its origins in a song fragment collected in 1933 at a fundraising meeting held by evangelicals who had been ordered out of town by the police. In the unpublished autobiography, Niles wrote:

"A girl had stepped out to the edge of the little platform attached to the automobile. She began to sing. Her clothes were unbelievably dirty and ragged, and she, too, was unwashed. Her ash-blond hair hung down in long skeins.... But, best of all, she was beautiful, and in her untutored way, she could sing. She smiled as she sang, smiled rather sadly, and sang only a single line of a song."

Based on this girl's song, Niles wrote this well known tune.

I Wonder as I Wander

Arranged by
JASON TONIOLI

With Feeling ♩ = 80

The musical score is written for piano in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. It begins with a tempo marking of 80 beats per minute and a dynamic of *p* (piano). The score is divided into three systems. The first system contains measures 1 through 6. The second system, starting at measure 7, contains measures 7 through 13. The third system, starting at measure 14, contains measures 14 through 20. The score features a large, stylized 'O' watermark in the center.

Music by: John Jacob Niles 1892-1980
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