

Better Days

Words by
Seyton May

Music by
John Rogers Thomas

Andante sostenuto

The piano introduction consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with a long note followed by eighth notes. The left hand plays a steady accompaniment of eighth notes in triplets. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats).

E \flat

B \flat 7/F

B \flat

5 *p*

The vocal line begins with a rest for five measures, then enters with a melody. The lyrics are: "1. An old man sat by a cottage door; 2. From the vine-wreathed door two children came, In".

1. An old man sat by a cot-tage door;
2. From the vine-wreathed door two chil-dren came, In

The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note triplet pattern in the left hand. The right hand has a melodic line with triplets. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano).

G7/B

Cm

A dim7

B \flat

E \flat

9

The vocal line continues with the melody. The lyrics are: "Wea-ry he was, and faint, and poor, And far had he walked that pit-y-ing hearts and eyes the same, And food they brought for the".

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12

Bb7/F Bb7 Cm G7/D Cm/Eb Gb7(b5) Bb/F F7 Bb

dim. e rall. **p**

Sum - mer _ day, With no kind voice to cheer his way,
 poor man's need, And gen - tle words, that were food in - deed!

12

colla voce

15

Bb7(omit 5) *a tempo* G7/B Cm

Think - ing, 7 think - ing thoughts of the past, Of the
 "Once I, had chil - dren, too, like these, My

15

p *a tempo*

17

Bb/D Eb F7 Bb Eb/G Ab

espress.

hap - py time that fled so fast, And look - ing fond - ly, with
 Boy lies deep 'neath the rock - ing seas; My Girl, I know not

17

20

B \flat 7 B \flat 7/D E \flat F m/A \flat B \flat 7(omit5) E \flat

mist - y gaze, Back to the beau-ti-ful Bet-ter Days!
 where she strays, And so fell the night on my Bet-ter Days!

24

Agitato C m B \dim 7 C m C m A \flat

p

3. A sud-den cry on his sad thoughts broke, One word, one thrill-ing

29

A \flat 7 G C m N.C. G7/B C m C m G7/D C m E \flat G \flat 7(\flat 5)

f

tone it spoke: 'Twas "Fa-ther!" 'twas his sail - or son, The lost, the wept, re -

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33

B \flat F7 B \flat B \flat 7(omit5) G7/B C \flat m

cov - ered one! Now rest, old man, no more ___ to roam, The

36

B \flat /D E \flat F7 B \flat E \flat /G A \flat

vine - wreathed door says "Wel - come, wel - come home!" Thy daugh - ter walked in

colla voce

39

B \flat 7 E \flat A \flat B \flat 7 E \flat

vir - tue's ways: Thou'lt meet her ___ in God's Bet - ter Days!