

Sam Kauffman

**He's Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger**

SATB

Poem by Richard Chisholm



# He's Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger

(2026)

by Richard Chisholm (b. 1944)

He's just a poor wayfaring stranger  
He traveled here from far away  
He fled from famine, bombs, and danger  
If he'll return, he couldn't say  
He came to us to save his fam'ly  
He thinks of them the livelong day  
He longs for home and peace and safety  
Will he find peace? He couldn't say

He's seeking more than food and water  
He needs somewhere his head to lay  
He's come with dreams of peace, not slaughter  
A quiet place in which to pray  
What sort of world will he discover?  
His dream of peace will we betray?  
Can we all help him to recover?  
His trust in us can we repay?

I know dark clouds will gather round him  
But gentle thoughts are here as well  
Our welcome arms, they just might calm him  
Our gen'rous hearts, his fears dispel  
Our kinder side will he uncover?  
For what's been done can we atone?  
Though much is gone, he might discover  
He's lost his land but found a home



# He's Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger

Richard Chisholm

SATB

Trad. American  
Arr. Sam Kauffman

*Soulfully* ♩ = c. 48 *p*

Soprano

He's just a poor way-far-ing strang-er. He trav-eled here from far a -

Alto *pp* Stagger breath

Tenor *pp* Stagger breath

Bass *pp* Stagger breath

5 way. He fled from fam - ine, bombs, and dan-ger. If he'll re - turn, he could-n't say. He came to

10 us to save his fam-'ly. He thinks of them the live-long day. He longs for home and peace and

The musical score is arranged for SATB voices and piano accompaniment. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Soulfully' with a quarter note equal to approximately 48 beats per minute. The score is divided into three systems. The first system covers measures 1-4, the second system covers measures 5-8, and the third system covers measures 9-12. The piano accompaniment consists of a single melodic line with a bass line. The vocal parts are written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics are: 'He's just a poor way-far-ing strang-er. He trav-eled here from far a - way. He fled from fam - ine, bombs, and dan-ger. If he'll re - turn, he could-n't say. He came to us to save his fam-'ly. He thinks of them the live-long day. He longs for home and peace and'. The score includes dynamic markings such as 'p' (piano) and 'pp' (pianissimo), and performance instructions like 'Stagger breath' and 'Oo'.

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28

peace will we be - tray? Can we all help him to re - cov - er? His trust in

ah ah oo

ah ah oo

ah oo

*p*

*p*

*p*

32

us can we re - pay? I know dark clouds will gath - er round him, but gen - tle

oo I know dark clouds will gath - er round him, but gen - tle

oo I know dark clouds will gath - er round him, but gen - tle

oo I know dark clouds will gath - er round him, but gen - tle

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

36

thoughts are here as well. Our wel - come arms, they just might calm him, our gen - 'rous

thoughts are here as well. Our wel - come arms, they just might calm him, our gen - 'rous

thoughts are here as well. Our wel - come arms, they just might calm him, our gen - 'rous

thoughts are here as well. Our wel - come arms, they just might calm him, our gen - 'rous

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

# He's Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger

Broadly ♩ = c. 76

40

hearts \_\_\_\_\_ his fears dis - pel. Our kind-er side \_\_\_\_\_ will he un - cov - er? For what's been

hearts \_\_\_\_\_ his fears dis - pel. Our kind-er side \_\_\_\_\_ will he un - cov - er? For what's been

hearts \_\_\_\_\_ his fears dis - pel. Our kind-er side \_\_\_\_\_ will he un - cov - er? For what's been

hearts \_\_\_\_\_ his fears dis - pel. Our kind-er side \_\_\_\_\_ will he un - cov - er? For what's been

47

done \_\_\_\_\_ can we a - tone? Though much is gone, \_\_\_\_\_ he might dis - cov - er

done \_\_\_\_\_ can we a - tone? Though much is gone, \_\_\_\_\_ he might dis - cov - er

done \_\_\_\_\_ can we a - tone? Though much is gone, \_\_\_\_\_ he might dis - cov - er

done \_\_\_\_\_ can we a - tone? Though much is gone, \_\_\_\_\_ he might dis - cov - er

54

he's lost his land \_\_\_\_\_ but found a home. \_\_\_\_\_

he's lost his land \_\_\_\_\_ mm \_\_\_\_\_

he's lost his land \_\_\_\_\_ mm \_\_\_\_\_

he's lost his land \_\_\_\_\_ mm \_\_\_\_\_