

Nr. 12 Alter Joe - Old Black Joe!

Diese Linie muß unter der ersten Melodiesaite C 1 liegen — This line must be lying under the stringmelodie (C 1)

The musical score is written on a single staff with a double line at the top, indicating it should be placed under the first string melody. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and fingerings (1, 2, 3). The score is divided into three distinct sections, each corresponding to a different verse of the song. The first section is the most complex, featuring many triplets and sixteenth notes. The second section is simpler, with more whole and half notes. The third section is the simplest, consisting of a few whole notes. The score is written in a style typical of early 20th-century sheet music for guitar or lute.

1. Gone are the days when my heart was young and gay,
Gone are my friends from the cotton fields away:
Gone from the earth to a better land I know,
I hear their gentle voices calling: "Old Black Joe!"
"I'm coming I'm coming!" For my head is bending low
I hear those gentle voices calling: "Old Black Joe!"

2. Why do I weep when my heart should feel no pain?
Why do I sigh that my friends come not again.
Grieving for forms now departed long ago?
I hear their gentle voices calling: "Old Black Joe!"
"I'm coming, etc."

3. Here are the hearts once so happy and so free,
The children so dear, that I held upon my knee?
Gone to the shore where my soul has long'd to go,
I hear their gentle voices calling: "Old Black Joe!"
"I'm coming, etc."