

31. Lord of the Dance

Words by
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(1915–2004)

Melody adapted by SYDNEY CARTER
from a traditional Shaker song,
arranged by DAVID WILLCOCKS

Joyfully (♩ = c. 72)

SOPRANO
Dance, dance, dance, dance, dance, then, wher -

ALTO
Dance, then, dance, then, dance, wher -

4
- ev - er you may be: 1. I danced in the morn-ing When the world was be-gun, And I
- ev - er you may be. I danced, And I

7
danced in the moon And the stars - and the sun; And I came down from hea-ven And I
danced in the moon And the stars and the sun; And _____ I

10
S. danced on the earth, At Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
A. danced on the earth, At _____ Beth - le - hem I _____ had my birth.
T. _____
B. _____

f Dance, -

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REFRAIN

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S. A. *(f)*

'Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be, I am the Lord of the

T. B. *f*

'Dance, then, dance, then, I'm the Lord of the

then,

16

Dance,' said he, 'And I'll lead you all, wher -

18

- ev - er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance,' said he.

21

S. *mf*

Dance, dance, dance, dance, dance, then, wher -

A. *mf*

A. 1 dance, wher -

Dance, then, dance, then, A. 2 dance, then,

24

- ev - er you may be: *p* I danced, I danced,

- ev - er you may be: 2. I *mp*

dance: 2. I danced for the scribe and the Pha - ri - see, But they

They would not dance, nor fol-low me. I danced for
 would not dance And they would-n't fol-low me. I danced for the fishermen, For

30
 James and John - They came with me And the Dance went on.
 James and John - They came with me And the Dance went on.

33
 S. *mf* 'Dance, then, dance, then, I am the Lord_ of the
 A. *f* 'Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be, I am the Lord of the
 T. *mf* 'Dance, then, dance, — then, I am the Lord of the
 B. *mf* 'Dance, then, dance, then, I am the Lord of the

36
 Dance,' said he, And I'll lead you all, 'And I'll
 Dance,' said he, 'And I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may be, And I'll
 Dance,' said he, And I'll lead you wher - ev - er you may be, 'And I'll
 Dance,' said he, 'And I'll lead you wher - ev - er you may be, And I'll

39

lead you all in the Dance,' said he. Dance, dance, dance, dance,

lead you all in the Dance,' said he. Dance, then, dance, then,

lead you all in the Dance,' said he.

lead you all in the Dance,' said he.

43

legato *p* dance, then, wher-ev-er you maybe: I danced, I cured the lame;

legato *p* dance, wher-ev-er you may be: I danced, I cured the lame;

mf 3. I danced on the Sabbath And I cured the lame; The

p I cured the lame;

47

pp The ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame. They bu-ried me,

pp The ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame. They bu-ried me,

p ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame. They bu-ried my bo-dy And they

pp They said it was a shame. They

50

mp cresc.
They thought I'd gone - But I am the Dance, And I still go on.

mp cresc.
They thought I'd gone - But I am the Dance, And I still go on.

mf cresc.
8 thought I'd gone - But I am the Dance, And I still go on.

mp cresc. *f*
thought I'd gone - But I am the Dance, And I still go on. 'Dance, -

53

f
S. 'Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be, I am the Lord of the
A. 'Dance, then, dance, then, I'm the Lord of the
T. then,
B.

56

Dance,' said - he, 'And I'll lead - you - all, wher - ev - er you may be, And I'll
Dance,' said - he,
Dance, then, dance, then,

59

Poco meno mosso
mp più legato
S. lead you all in the Dance,' said he. Dance, dance, dance, dance,
A. lead - you all in the Dance,' said he. Dance, then, dance, then,
T. lead you all in the Dance,' said he.
B.

63

dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be: *p* 4.I danced when the
 dance, wher - ev - er you may be: *p* 4.I danced when the
 (TENORS and BASSES) *mp* unis.
 4.I danced on a Fri-day When the

66

S. *mp*
 A. sky turned black; It's hard to dance With the de - vil on your back. They
 I. *mf*
 B.

69

whipped and they stripped And they hung me on high, And they left me there On a
 dim.
 dim.

72

cross to die. *pp* 'Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be:
 'Dance, then, dance, then,
pp 'Dance, then,

75

I am the Lord of the Dance,' said he, 'And I'll lead you all, wher -
 I'm the Lord of the Dance,' said he,

78

- ev - er you may be, And I'll lead - you all in the Dance,' said he.

Poco a poco più animato

ppp *cresc.* *mf sempre cresc.*

S. Dance, dance, dance, dance, dance, dance, dance, dance, dance, dance,

ppp *cresc.* *mf sempre cresc.*

A. Dance, then, dance, then, dance, then, dance, then, dance, then,

Tempo I
f cresc.

S. dance, dance, dance, dance, wher - ev - er you may be: 5. They

A. dance, then, dance, dance, wher - ev - er you may be: 5. They

T. 5. They

B. 5. They

Poco largamente

ff *ff* *ff* *ff*

S. cut me down. And I leapt on high; 'I am the Life That-'ll

A. cut me down And I leapt on high; 'I am the Life That-'ll

T. cut me down And I leapt on high; 'I am the Life That-'ll

B. cut me down And I leapt on high; 'I am the Life That-'ll

92

ne-ver, ne-ver die. I'll live in you_ If you'll live in me;
 ne-ver, ne-ver die. I'll live in you_ If you'll live in me;
 ne-ver, ne-ver die. I'll live in you_ If you'll live in me;
 ne-ver, ne-ver die. I'll live in you, in you If you'll live in me;

95

f **Tempo I**
 I am the Lord of the Dance,' said he. 'Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be,
 I am the Lord of the Dance,' said he. 'Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be,
 I am the Lord of the Dance,' said he. 'Dance, then, dance, then,
 I am the Lord of the Dance,' said he. 'Dance, then, then,

99

cresc.
 S. I am the Lord of the Dance,' said he, 'And I'll lead you all, wher-
 A. I'm the Lord of the Dance,' said he, 'And I'll lead you all, wher-
 T. *cresc.*
 B. *cresc.*

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ff **allargando**
 - ev-er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance,' said he.
ff