

Beach Spring

attr: B. F. White
(c. 1844)

Musical score for "Beach Spring" in 3/4 time, G major. The score consists of four staves of music with chord markings above the notes. The first staff (measures 1-4) has chords G, C, Em, C. The second staff (measures 5-8) has chords Am, Em, C, G. The third staff (measures 9-12) has chords D, G, Bm, C. The fourth staff (measures 13-16) has chords G, Em, C, G.

Beach Spring is a pentatonic American hymn tune attributed to Benjamin Franklin White (1800-1879) and first published in his "The Sacred Harp" shape-note collection of 1844. Shape-note singing is a unique choral hymn singing method that flourished in the southern USA in the 18th and 19th centuries. The "shapes" refer to special note heads, thought to help singers sight-read and find their pitches in this unaccompanied singing style.

The first line of Beach Spring was originally notated like this (and set in 4/4, though it falls more naturally in 3/4 as above):

Musical score for the first line of "Beach Spring" in 4/4 time, G major. The score shows a single staff of music with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3.

The tune of Beach Spring has been used for a number of hymns, including "Come and Journey with a Savior" and "Lord Whose Love Through Faithful Service".