

# OLD BLACK JOE

STEPHEN C. FOSTER

Poco adagio

mf

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand features a melodic line with a series of eighth notes and a final half note. The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and a steady eighth-note bass line.

*p*

1. Gone are the days when my heart was young and gay,

The first line of the song features a vocal melody in the right hand and a piano accompaniment in the left hand. The piano part consists of chords and a simple bass line.

Gone are my friends from the cot - ton fields a - way,

The second line of the song continues the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The piano part maintains the same harmonic structure as the first line.

*p*

Gone from the earth to a bet - ter land, I know, I

The third line of the song concludes the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The piano part ends with a final chord and a half note in the bass.

hear their gen - tle voic - es call - ing, "Old Black Joe!"

*sost.*

*sost.*

Chorus.  
SOPRANO.

I'm com - ing, I'm com - ing, For my head is bend - ing low; I

ALTO.

I'm com - ing, I'm com - ing, For my head is bend - ing low; I

BASS.

*p*

hear those gen - tle voic - es call - ing, "Old Black Joe!"

*sost.*

*sost.*

hear those gen - tle voic - es call - ing, "Old Black Joe!"

*sost.*

*dim.*

*sost.*

*mf*

2. Why do I weep when my heart should feel no pain?  
 3. Where are the hearts once so hap - py and so free? The

*p*

Why do I sigh that my friends come not a - gain, Griev - ing for forms now de -  
 chil - dren so dear, that I held up - on my knee? Gone to the shore where my

*p*

part - ed long a - go? I hear their gen - tle voi - ces call - ing "Old Black Joe!"  
 soul has long'd to go. I hear their gen - tle voi - ces call - ing "Old Black Joe!"

*dim. sost. (Rep. Chorus)*

*dim. sost.*

Repeat Chorus