

Nine Hundred Miles

Traditional American Folk Song
Arr. Philip E. Silvey

All Voices

mp

Longingly $\text{♩} = 72$

S
A

Piano

mp *rit.* *a tempo* *p*

I am

5

walk-in' on this track, I've got tears in my eyes, I'm try'n to read a let-ter from my

mp

9

home And if that train runs me right, I'll be home Sat-ur-day night, 'Cause I'm

p

nine hun-dred miles from my home. And I

p

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hate to hear that lone - some whis - tle___ blow, that

S long lone - some train whist - lin' down.

A long lone - some train whist - lin' down.

For Perusal Only

18

mp Miles and miles and miles and miles, miles and miles from home,___

mf

mp

miles from home.

Miles and miles and miles and miles, miles and miles from home.

sim.

mp 23

Well this train I ride on is a

mp

train that I ride on

For Perusal Only

blow

hun - dred coach - es long. You can hear her whis - tle blow a mil - lion

hun - dred coach - es long. hear her whis - tle blow a mil - lion

sim.

27

miles. And if this train runs me right, I'll be

miles. train runs me right,

home Sat-ur-day night, 'Cause I'm nine hun - dred miles from my home.

home Sat - ur - day night nine hun - dred miles from my home.

For Perusal Only

32

mf from home,

mf Miles from home

mf *l.h.*

34 *f* from home

f Miles from home.

ff *molto spr.*

38 *slower* *p* Miles and miles and miles, miles and miles and miles,

p *slower*

© protection

from home *rit.*

mf Miles and miles from home, miles and miles from home.

mf miles, miles and miles from home, miles and miles from

mf *rit.*

f home. *46 a tempo* *p* And 1

f *molto rit.* *p a tempo*

The musical score is for a song in B-flat major, 4/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "hate to hear that lone - some whis - tle ___ blow, that long lone - some train whist - lin' ___ down." The score includes dynamic markings such as *unis.*, *rit.*, *mp*, *a tempo*, and *p*. A large red watermark "For Perusal Only" is overlaid on the bottom system of the score.

About the song

A long-forgotten newsworthy event is thought to have inspired this song. The lyrics invite us to wonder, who is singing? Who wrote the letter and what does it say? Why are there tears in the singer's eyes? While leaving the particulars to our imagination, the song succeeds in capturing the mood and the spirit of life on the American railroad in the early twentieth century.

This arrangement was inspired by a creative arts activity in which young singers read their own improvised ideas of what was written in the letter. Many thanks to Norma Freeman for developing this concept and allowing me to share it as part of this arrangement of a classic American folk song.

I am walkin' on this track,
I've got tears in my eyes,
I'm tryin' to read a letter from my home.
And if that train runs me right,
I'll be home Saturday night,
'Cause I'm nine hundred miles from my home.
And I hate to hear that lonesome whistle blow,
that long lonesome train whistlin' down.

Well this train I ride on
is a hundred coaches long.
You can hear her whistle blow a million miles.

About the arranger

Philip Silvey (b. 1965) is Associate Professor of Choral Music Education at Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory where he directs the Women's Choir, the Conservatory Outreach Honors Chorales, and teaches undergraduate courses in music education. Prior to this he was Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at the University of Maryland and served as Music Director for the acclaimed Maryland Boy Choir. He holds degrees in composition from Houghton College and the Pennsylvania State University, and a doctorate in music education from the University of Illinois. He taught for seven years in public schools in Michigan where his choral ensembles were honored with invitations to perform at state conferences for three successive years. He has served as guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator in numerous states and directed all-state choruses in both Maryland and Virginia. His original choral compositions and arrangements, published by Santa Barbara Music, have been performed by both all-state and national honors choruses.

This arrangement is also available for TTB: SBMP 439
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SBMP 438

