Arrangement inspired by the following verses:

A poor wayfaring man of grief hath often crossed me on my way, Who sued so humbly for relief that I could never answer nay. I had not power to ask his name, whereto he went, or whence he came; Yet there was something in his eye that won my love; I knew not why. Once, when my scanty meal was spread, he entered; not a word he spake, Just perishing for want of bread. I gave him all; he blessed it, brake, And ate, but gave me part again. Mine was an angel's portion then, For while I fed with eager haste, the crust was manna to my taste. *In pris'n I saw him next, condemned to meet a traitor's doom at morn.* The tide of lying tongues I stemmed, and honored him 'mid shame and scorn. My friendship's utmost zeal to try, he asked if I for him would die. The flesh was weak; my blood ran chill, but my free spirit cried, "I will!" Then in a moment to my view the stranger started from disguise. The tokens in His hands I knew; the Savior stood before mine eyes. He spake, and my poor name He named, "Of Me thou hast not been ashamed. These deeds shall thy memorial be; fear not, thou didst them unto Me."

Helpful Hints:

• Using tempo and/or volume, subtly broaden into then diminish out of each phrase. (phrase in groups of four measures almost entirely until the mood change at m. 81)

A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief

| = 120 Slow, somber copyright ©2006

written by George Coles arranged by Jon Schmidt







