

Works for Solo Harpsichord

Travelin' Music (2012-13)

Prelude: Goin' Get Ready
Goin' Joyful
Goin' Away
Goin' Alone
Goin' to a better place
Goin' to settle down

Commissioned by Jackie Edwards Henry, and dedicated to her late husband, Dr. William Patrick Henry (1958-2014.) For many years, Bill was a professor of Inorganic Chemistry at Mississippi State University, but he was also an avid music lover and great supporter of his wife's work as a professional musician. He especially loved the harpsichord and enjoyed Jackie's numerous performances on this instrument.

Jackie requested a suite of pieces for the harpsichord that would celebrate the American folk tradition. She also requested that the pieces be "audience-friendly," and they are! Each of the selected tunes touch travel in some way, either in tempo and style, or by the text that is often associated with the tune. The movements may be presented as a set, or separately.

Prelude: Goin' Get Ready: After the suite was completed, Dr. Edwards-Henry requested a "warm-up" piece, a little bit of business that would prepare the fingers for the rapid passage work in *Goin' Joyful*. This brief prelude attempts to fulfill this request, with the help of various motives and phrases from the subsequent movements.

Goin' Joyful is an energetic setting of a traditional American folk song *Cindy*, a tune that may have originated in North Carolina. The piece uses an straightforward exposition-development-recapitulation format, and yes, the open-ended conclusion is on purpose!.....

Goin' Away: He's Gone Away is an Appalachian folk song that describes a woman's love, one that continues even though her lover and she will be separated for a long time. This simple, quiet setting offers two presentations of the folk song, with the latter presenting a more developmental variation.

Goin' Alone: The folk tune/spiritual *Wayfaring Stranger* tells the tale of a solitary traveller, one who has been on the road of life for quite some time, and longs for a better place, the kind that Heaven will provide. In this setting, the famous tune is introduced by a somber refrain, one that interacts with the more famous tune at various times. The development section takes the tune through a variety of intense and dramatic styles, with more than a touch of jazz and the blues.

Goin' to a Better Place: Like *Wayfaring Stranger*, the folk song *All My Trials* speaks of a better day to come, despite the current hard times. The song was rather popular during the social protest era of the 1950s and 60s. The tune itself may have some connections with the Bahamas; some sources refer to the tune as a lullaby. It is this link that influences the more gentle travelling song setting that you will hear in this presentation.

Goin' to settle down: Not everyone wishes to spend their life on the road. There are those travelin' folks who finally decide to find one place and call it home. This humorous, more off-the-wall theme and variations is based on *Old Settler's Song (Acres of Clams)*, a tune that is attributed to the Pacific Northwest. Expect lots of sudden changes of style, mood and temper, not unlike watching a Warner Bros. cartoon.