

“Anymore” Program Notes

by

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The song “Anymore” is an arrangement of the traditional hymn “I Can’t Feel at Home Anymore”, which began appearing anonymously in hymnals around 1925. This particular arrangement of the hymn was created by Katherine Shepler, Sam Herlihy, and Karissa Juhas at a songwriters’ retreat at Liberty University.

The lyrics of “Anymore” are similar to those of the hymn upon which the song is based. However, they have been altered just enough to transform the lyrical rhythm and feel. In the rewrite’s verses, the rhythm has been changed from iambic hexameter to iambic pentameter. Since iambic pentameter is the poetic meter that most closely resembles everyday speech, the verses of the rewrite have a natural, flowing feel. Meanwhile, the chorus of the rewrite consists of simple yet selective repetition of the most important phrases in the original, giving the song a contemplative feel.

The song’s melody begins rather simply in the verse, then slowly builds to the chorus. In the chorus, the melody soars to new heights, but does so with gentle vocal expression. In the tag, “anymore”, the head voice is utilized as the melody alternates between steps and the occasional perfect fourth up. The sudden fourth gives the song an ethereal feel, pointing the listener toward thoughts of heaven.

Another interesting facet of the song is its ever-changing rhythmic meter. Although the song is in 4/4, it does not stay there the whole time. For example, the first measure of the chorus

is in 3/4, and the second measure of the chorus is in 2/4. Not until the third measure of the chorus does the meter return to 4/4. The ever-changing meter supports the lyrics, which talk of not feeling at home in this world anymore and longing for heaven. The listener does not feel rhythmically “at home”.

The song’s unique and ever-changing lyrical structure, melody, and rhythmic meter contribute to the song’s mood and message: we as Christians have hope for something better, something beyond what we can see. We do not feel at home in this world, but long for our eternal, true home above.