

I CAN'T STAY BEHIND, Araya
SBMP1879

SATB div.
a cappella

Rayvon T. J. Moore
 CHORAL SERIES

I CAN'T STAY BEHIND

Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by
Nolawi Araya



Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

sbmp.com

I Can't Stay Behind

Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by Nolawi Araya

♩ = 120-126

mf-p

S
I can't stay be - hind, ___ Lord, _ I can't stay be - hind, ___

A
I can't stay be - hind, ___ Lord, _ I can't stay be - hind, ___

T
I can't stay ___ be - hind, ___ Lord, _ I can't stay ___ be - hind, ___

B
I can't stay be - hind, ___ Lord, _ I can't stay be - hind, ___

for rehearsal only

4

1.

Oh I can't stay be - hind my Lord, _ Oh I can't stay be - hind. ___

Oh I can't stay be - hind my Lord, _ Oh I can't stay be - hind. ___

Oh I can't stay be - hind my Lord, _ Oh I can't stay be - hind. ___

Oh I can't stay be - hind my Lord, _ Oh I can't stay be - hind. ___

1.

9 ^{2.} *mf*

hind._____ There's_ room, there's room, there's room e - nough, room e -

mf

hind._____ There's_ room, there's room, there's room e - nough, room e -

mf

8 hind._____ There's_ room, there's room, there's room e - nough, room e -

mf

hind. Room, room, on e - nough, in the

^{2.}

12

nough in the Heav - en my Lord, room e -

nough in the Heav - en my Lord, room e -

nough in the Heav - en my Lord, room e - nough in the

Heav - en my Lord, there's room e - nough in the

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

15

nough, I can't stay be-hind.

nough, I can't stay be-hind.

Heav-en my Lord, I can't stay be-hind. Oh I can't,

Heav-en my Lord, I can't stay be-hind.

18

I can't stay be-hind, Lord, I can't stay be-hind, Oh

I can't stay be-hind, Lord, I can't stay be-hind, Oh

I can't stay be-hind, Lord, I can't stay be-hind, Oh

I can't stay be-hind, Lord, I can't stay be-hind, Oh

22

I can't stay be - hind my Lord, Oh I can't stay be - hind.

I can't stay be - hind my Lord, Oh I can't stay be - hind.

I can't stay be - hind my Lord, Oh I can't stay be - hind.

I can't stay be - hind my Lord, Oh I can't stay be - hind.

26

I've searched eve - ry room,

I been all a - round the Heav - en my Lord, I've searched eve - ry room,

I been all a - round the Heav - en my Lord, I've searched eve - ry room,

I've searched eve - ry room,

29

The an - gels sing - in' all a - round the throne, my Fa - ther call and
The an - gels sing - in' all a - round the throne, my Fa - ther call and

8

This block contains the musical notation for measures 29 through 32. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a grand staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "The an - gels sing - in' all a - round the throne, my Fa - ther call and".

33

This section of the score is not included for copyright protection.
© Copyright 2026 for ALL COUNTRIES by Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

8

This block contains the musical notation for measures 33 through 36. The notation is mostly empty staves, indicating that this section of the score is not included for copyright protection. The key signature remains three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4.

35

Heav - en my Lord, I've searched eve - ry room, —

Heav - en my Lord, I've searched eve - ry room, —

Heav - en my Lord, I've searched eve - ry room, —

en my Lord, I've been all a - round the —

37

an - gels sing - in' all a - round the throne, my

mf the an - gels sing - in' all a - round the throne, my

mf the an - gels sing - in' all a - round the throne, my

mf the an - gels sing - in' all a - round the throne, my

Heav - en my Lord, Oh the an - gels sing - in' all a - round the throne, my

40

Fa - ther call and I must go. I can't stay be - hind, Lord,

Fa - ther call and I must go. I can't stay be - hind, Lord,

Fa - ther call and I must go. I can't stay be - hind, Lord,

Fa - ther call and I must go. I can't stay be - hind, Lord,

44

I can't stay be - hind, Oh I can't stay be -

I can't stay be - hind, Oh I can't stay be -

I can't stay be - hind, Oh I can't stay be -

I can't stay be - hind, Oh I can't stay be -

53

mf

Lord, _____ room e - nough in the Heav - en my Lord, _____

mf

Lord, _____ room e - nough in the Heav - en my Lord, _____

mf

8 Lord, _____ there's room e - nough, _____

mf

Lord, _____ there's room e nough,

56

mf

I can't stay be - hind. _____

mf

I can't stay be - hind. _____ I can't _____ stay be - hind, _____

mf

8 I can't stay be - hind. _____

mf

I can't _____ stay be - hind, _____

60

S

S

A *(mf)*
I can't _____ stay be - hind, _____ I can't _____ stay be - hind, _____

T *mf*
I can't stay ___ be - hind, Oh _____ n't _____ I can't stay ___ be - hind,

T *mf*
I can't stay ___ be - hind, _____ I _____ can't, _____ I can't stay ___ be - hind,

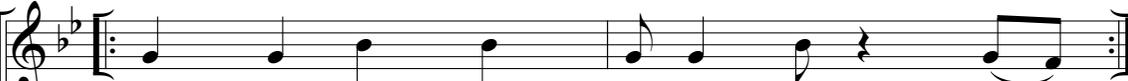
B *mf*
I can't _____ stay be - hind, _____ I can't _____ stay be - hind, _____

B *mf*
I can't stay be - hind, Oh _____ I _____ can't, _____ I can't stay be - hind,

66 *mf*
 S there's___
 S room there's room, in the Heav - en my Lord,___
 A I can't___ stay be - hind,___
 T I can't stay___ be - hind, Oh___ I___ can't,___
 T I can't stay___ be hind, Oh___ I___ can't,___
 B I can't___ stay be - hind,___
 B I can't stay be - hind, Oh___ I___ can't,___

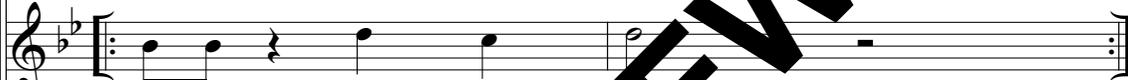
Perform m. 68-69 a total of 3 times

68

S  room, there's room, there's room e - nough, there's__

S  room there's room, in the Heav - en my Lord,_____

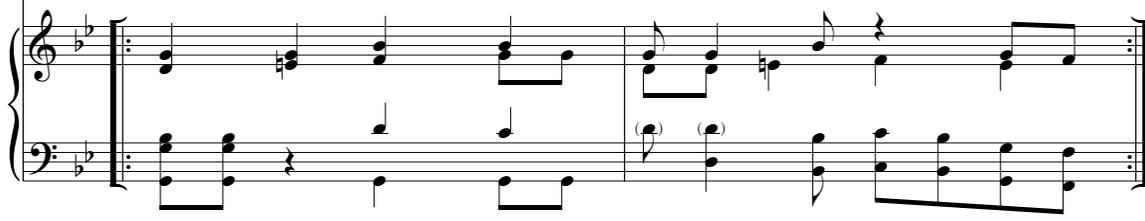
A  I can't_____ stay be - hind,___

T  I can't stay be - hind,___

T  I can't stay be - hind, Oh_____ I_____ can't,___

B  I can't_____ stay be - hind,___

B  I can't stay be - hind, Oh_____ I_____ can't,___




70

S room, there's room, there's room e - nough, there's__

S room there's room, in the Heav - en my Lord, I been all__

A I can't_____ stay be - hind,_____ there's__

T I can't stay be - hind,_____ there's__

T I can't stay be hind, Oh_____ I can't,_____

B I can't_____ stay be - hind,_____ I been all__

B I can't stay be - hind, Oh_____ I can't,_____

72

S room, there's room, there's room e - nough, room e -

S a - round the Heav - en my Lord, I've been all

A room, there's room, there's room e - nough, room e -

T room, there's room, there's room e - nough, room e -

T I can't stay be - hind, Oh I can't,

B a - round the Heav - en my Lord, I've been all

B I can't stay be - hind, Oh I can't,

74

S
nough in the Heav - en my Lord,

S
a - round the Heav - en my Lord,

A
nough in the Heav - en my Lord,

T
nough in the Heav - en my Lord,

T
I can't stay be - hind,

B
a - round the Heav - en my Lord,

B
I can't stay be - hind,

gliss.

gliss.

PREVIEW

76 *f* *rit.*

S I can't stay be - hind, ___ Lord, ___ I can't stay be - hind, ___

S I can't stay be - hind, ___ Lord, ___ I can't stay be - hind, ___

A I can't stay be - hind, ___ Lord, ___ I can't stay be - hind, ___

T I can't stay be - hind, ___ Lord, ___ I can't stay be - hind, ___

T I can't stay be - hind, ___ Lord, ___ I can't stay be - hind, ___

B I can't stay be - hind, ___ Lord, ___ I can't stay be - hind, ___

B I can't stay be - hind, ___ Lord, ___ I can't stay be - hind, ___

80 **Freely** *mf* *sfp*

S I can't stay be - hind, my _____ Lord.

S I can't stay be - hind, my _____ Lord.

A I can't I can't stay be - hind, my _____ Lord.

T I can't stay be - hind my _____ Lord.

T I can't stay be - hind, my _____ Lord.

B I can't stay be - hind, my _____ Lord.

B I can't stay be - hind, my _____ Lord.

The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: a right-hand treble clef staff and a left-hand bass clef staff. The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The right hand features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand.

PREVIEW

About the arranger

Nolawi "Noly" Araya (b.1995) is a Charlotte, North Carolina native. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from East Carolina University. During his undergraduate studies, he sang with the prestigious ECU Chamber Singers, performed with the ECU Opera Theatre, and studied voice with Dr. Jami Rhodes-Galloway. After earning his degree, he spent six years teaching middle school chorus in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Following his time in the classroom, he began actively composing in the fall of 2023. Nolawi is passionate about writing music that conductors, singers, and audience members alike can connect with and enjoy.



About the text

I Can't Stay Behind originated from Slave Songs of the United States edited by William Francis Allen, Charles Pickard Ware, and Lucky McKim Garrison. This book is a collection of 136 religious and secular songs of enslaved African Americans.

Ranges

S S A T T B B



recording and rehearsal tracks
available at sbmp.com

DO NOT
PHOTOCOPY



SBMP1879 Code: C20



7 85147 87806 3