

Nelly Was a Lady

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Adagio

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time, key of A major (three sharps). It consists of four measures. The right hand plays a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

5

A D B A/E E A Bm/D E7 A

Down on the Mis - sis - sip - pi float - ing, Long time I tra - vel on the way,
Now I'm un - hap - y and I'm weep - ing Can't tote the cot - ton - wood an - y - more;
When I saw my Nel - ly in the morn - ing, Smile till she o - pened up her eyes,
Close by the mar - gin of the wa - ter, Where the lone weep - ing wil - low grows,
Down in the mea-dow 'mong the clo - ver, Walk with my Nel-ly by my side;

5

The vocal melody is written in a single treble clef staff. The piano accompaniment is written in grand staff notation (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are aligned with the vocal melody. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

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The lyrics have been updated from the original minstrel dialect.

Nelly Was a Lady

9 A D B7 A/E E A Bm/D E7 A

All night the cot - ton - wood a - tot - ing, Sing for my true love all the day.

Last night, while Nel-ly was a - sleep - ing, Death came a - knock-ing at the door.

Seemed like the light of day a - dawn - ing, Just 'fore the sun be - gan to rise.

There lived Vir-ginia's love - ly daugh - ter; There she in death may find re - pose.

9 Now all those hap-py days are o - ver, Fare - well my dark Vir-gin-ia bride.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. The key signature is A major (three sharps: F#, C#, G#). The tempo and style are not explicitly marked. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system contains five staves of vocal melody, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The second system contains two staves of piano accompaniment, with the right hand in the upper staff and the left hand in the lower staff. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal staves: A, D, B7, A/E, E, A, Bm/D, E7, and A. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex harmonic structure in the left hand, including some chords and moving lines.

CHORUS

13 A D/A Bm B7 E A D A E7 A

Nel-ly was a la - dy Last night she died, Toll the bell for love - ly Nell, My dark Vir - gin - ia bride.

Nel-ly was a la - dy Last night she died, Toll the bell for love - ly Nell, My dark Vir - gin - ia bride.

This block contains the musical notation for the chorus, starting at measure 13. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is A major (three sharps). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. The lyrics are: 'Nel-ly was a la - dy Last night she died, Toll the bell for love - ly Nell, My dark Vir - gin - ia bride.' The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in the right and left hands.

17

This block contains the musical notation for measures 17 through 20. It features a vocal staff and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is A major (three sharps). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in the right and left hands.