

I Wonder As I Wander

Text and Tune: collected by John Jacob Niles (1892-1980) in Murphy, Cherokee County, North Carolina, 1933 Published in his *Songs of the Hill-Folk* (1934). It has been suggested that the carol is 'neither so old nor so folk as we might suppose.' (NOBC, p. 578) "Late in his life Niles confessed that his interference with the folk material he had published ranged from alteration to entirely original composition, and it may be that the three excellent carols we have taken from his publications are among his original works rather than genuine survivals from a folk tradition." (IBID, p. 577.)

1. I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
For poor on-'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

2. When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all;
But high from the heavens a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

3. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
He surely could have it 'cause he was the King.

Repeat verse 1

text *New Oxford*

I Wonder, As I Wander

Appalachia

Arranged for Dulcimer
by Steve Eulberg

Mode: Aeolian

1

I won - der, as I wan - der out un - der the sky, how

	0	7	4	3
D	0	0 7	4	2
A	5	8 5 8 8 10 9 8	7 5 3 4	5
C				

4

Je - sus, the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like

	0	7	6	0	0	7
D		7	6	7	0	7
A	8	5 8 10 9 8	10 9 8 8 5	8	5 8 10 9 8	
C						

7

you and like I. I won - der, as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

	6	4	0	3
D	6	5	0 7 10	1
A	10 9 8 7 5	8 5 8 8 10 12 8	10 8 5 4	
C				

Text & Tune: Appalachian Carol,
collected & adapted by John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980