

I'LL FLY AWAY

Bluegrass Gospel Song by Albert E. Brumley; **DATE:** 1932; **CATEGORY:** Early Gospel Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Kossoy Sisters; Chuck Wagon Gang; George Jones; Johnny Cash; Merle Haggard; Stanley Brothers; Osborne Bros., Bill Monroe; **NOTES:** Albert Edward Brumley (1905-1977) started working for Stamps Baxter Music Co. in 1943. Brumley appreciation day started in Spiro, OK, 1976 where he received a trophy for "I'll Fly Away" as recognition of the song being the most recorded gospel song in history. Brumley: "I was picking cotton on my father's farm and was humming the old ballad that went like this: 'If I had the wings of an angel, over these prison walls I would fly' and suddenly it dawned on me that I could use this plot for a gospel-type song. About three years later, I finally developed the plot, titled it 'I'll Fly Away,' and it was published in 1932 [in "Wonderful Message," Hartford Music Co.]. Those familiar with the song will note that I paraphrased one line of the old ballad to read 'Like a bird from prison bars have [has] flown.' When I wrote it, I had no idea that it would become so universally popular." Similar versions from the African-American tradition existed in the 30's and 40's.

Up Tempo

Some glad morn - ing when this life is o - ver I'll fly a - way

To a home on God's ce - les - tial shore I'll fly a - way

I'll fly a - way oh glo - ry I'll fly a - way

when I die ha - lle - lu - jah by and by I'll fly a - way.

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G **C** **G**
Some glad morning, when this life is over I'll fly away

D **G**
To a home on God's celestial shore I'll fly away.

G
Chorus: I'll (fly away) fly away, Oh glory

C **G**
I'll (fly away) fly away (in the morning)

When I die Hallelujah, by and by

D **G**
I'll (fly away) fly away (I'll fly away).

When the shadows of this life have grown I'll fly away
Like a bird from prison bars have flown I'll fly away *Chorus*

Just a few more weary days and then I'll fly away
To a land where joys shall never end I'll fly away *Chorus*