

SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT

Traditional Gospel Song; **DATE:** 1800's (Cabin and Plantation Songs – 1874); **CATEGORY:** Early Gospel Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys (1951) Lucky Chapman and John Duffey; Seldom Scene; Jim and Jesse and the Virginia Boys (1964) Clyde Moody (1989); Jethro Burns (1995); Red Allen and Frank Wakefield (1994); Bruce Jones and the Southern Blue Grass Boys; **OTHER NAMES:** Swing Low, Chariot; **NOTES:** Swing Low, Sweet Chariot is originally a black spiritual in repertoire of the Fisk Jubilee Singers in 1909. It was first recorded by Vaughan Quartet in 1924. Early print versions include Printed in Fenner, 1874, Cabin and Plantation Songs, as The Danville Chariot, p. 11 and Swing Low, Sweet Chariot p. 179 with sheet music. Bascom Lamar Lunsford thinks Swing Low Chariot, a forerunner of Swing Low, Sweet Chariot he recorded in 1925, is an early mountain version.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and common time. It consists of five staves of music. Chords are indicated by letters G, C, D above the staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

G **C** **G**
 I looked o - ver Jor - dan and what did I see Com - ing for to
D **G** **C**
 car - ry me home A band of an gels com - ing af - ter
G **D** **G**
 me Com - ing for to car - ry me home Swing low sweet
C **G** **D**
 cha - ri - ot Com - ing for to car - ry me home Swing
G **C** **G** **D** **G**
 low sweet cha - ri - ot Com - ing for to car - ry me home.

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G **C** **G** **D**
I looked over Jordan and what did I see, coming for to carry me home

G **C** **G** **D** **G**
A band of angels coming after me, coming for to carry me home.

G **C** **G** **D**
Chorus: Swing low sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home

G **C** **G** **D** **G**
Swing low sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.

If you get there before I do, coming for to carry me home
Tell all my friends I'm coming, too, coming for to carry me home. *Chorus*

I'm sometimes up and sometimes down, coming for to carry me home
But still my soul feels heavenward bound, coming for to carry me home. *Chorus*