Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal

Traditional or it could have been written by F.R. Warren and / or Alice Parker

D G
Hark! I hear the Harps eternal,
D G
Ringing on the farther shore.
D G
As I near those swollen waters,
D G
With their deep and solemn roar.

CHORUS

D G D G
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, praise the Lamb!
D G D G
Hallelujah, hallelujah, Glory to the great I AM!

} INTRO

And my soul, tho' stain'd with sorrow,
Fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o'er those waters,
To the city far away.

CHORUS

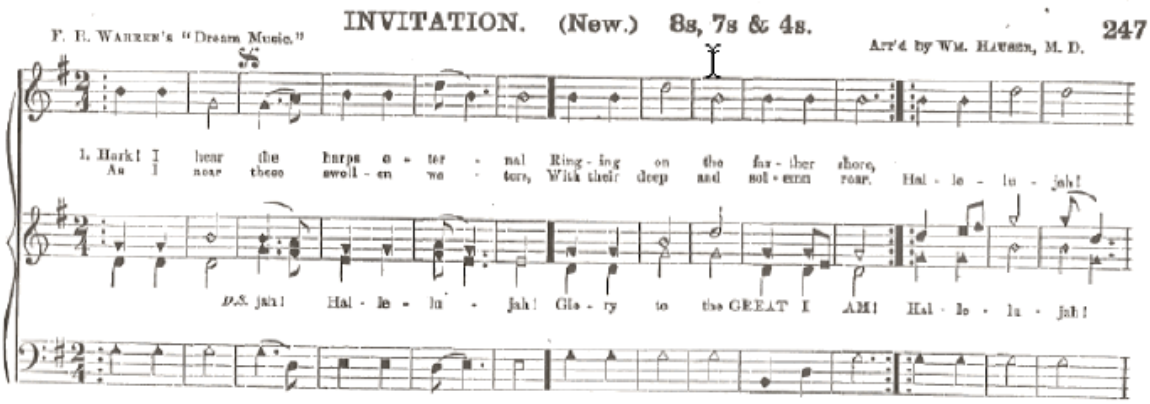
Souls have cross'd before me, saintly,
To that land of perfect rest;
And I hear them singing faintly,
In the mansions of the blest.

CHORUS

Scripture and History

Psalms 89:52 53 Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and amen!

The harp had a special connotation in 19th century Appalachia, where "**Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal***"* originated. "Harp singing" was first recorded in the 1844 publication of *The Southern Harp*, a collection of songs



"Hark! I hear the Harps Eternal" earliest shape-note form with lyrics (1878)

noted in "shape notes" thought to be easier for amateur singers to learn. These song were meant to be sung a cappella.

The harmonization made possible through shape notes, created the same chordal harmony one can produce by strumming a harp. Several Appalachian instruments were referred to as harps, including the bow harp, jaw harp, door harp, and dulcimer.

The tune of "Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal" was first published in the 1854 edition of *Southern Harmony*, a harp singing collection, where it went by the title, " Invitation*"*. It is sometimes attributed to F. R. Warren and /or Alice Parker.

from *Advent News and Notes*, Advent Lutheran Church, 2504 Broadway, New York, NY 10025, May-June 2012