

# Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

$\text{♩} = 64$

*light swing*

African-American Spiritual  
Wallace Willis c. 1820-1880

**Chorus**

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot Com-in' for to car - ry me home! Swing

*End here last time*

low, sweet char - i - ot Com-in' for to car - ry me home!

**9 Verse**

I looked o - ver Jor-dan and what did I see? Com - in' for to car - ry me home! A  
If you get there be - fore I do Com-in' for to car - ry me home! Just

**14**

band of an - gels com-in' af - ter me, Com - in' for to car - ry me home!  
tell my friends that I'm a com-in' too, Com - in' for to car - ry me home!

\* G, B, D, F $\natural$

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" is a well known African-American spiritual, thought to have been composed by Wallace Willis, a Choctaw slave (later freedman) in Oklahoma, before the Civil War. He and his wife Minerva are also credited with "Steal Away to Jesus" and several others.

Before Emancipation, songs such as these were used by the Underground Railroad as coded language for arranging escapes: the Underground Railroad (sweet chariot), coming south (swing low), going to freedom (carry me home), across the Ohio River (over Jordan). Harriet Tubman was the most famous Underground Railroad "conductor" (her code word was "Moses"). According to Sarah Hopkins Bradford's biography, *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman*, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" was one of Ms. Tubman's favorite songs.