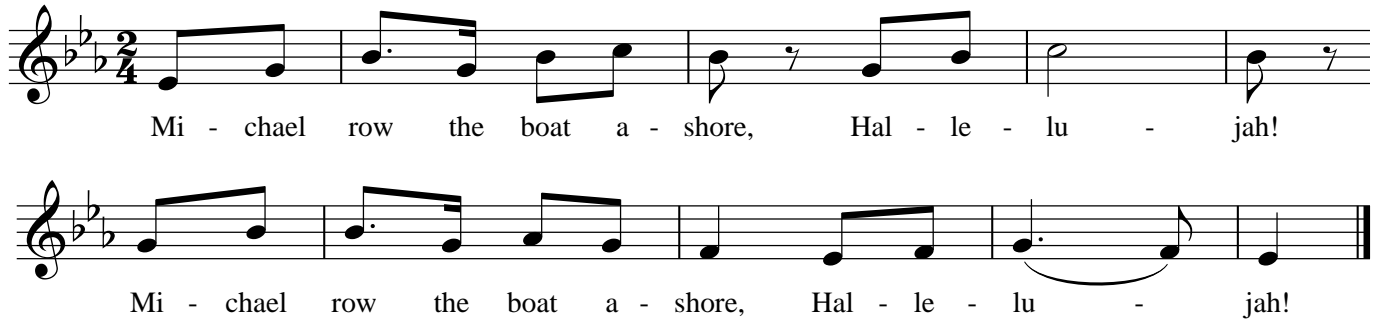


# Michael Row the Boat Ashore

Source:

William Francis Allen, C.P Ware,  
and Lucy McKim Garrison

*Slave Songs of the United States* (1867)



2. Then you'll hear the horn they blow, Hallelujah. (2x)
3. Then you'll hear the trumpet sound, Hallelujah. (2x)
4. Trumpet sound the world around, Hallelujah. (2x)
5. Trumpet sound for rich and poor, Hallelujah. (2x)
6. Trumpet sound the jubilee, Hallelujah. (2x)
7. Trumpet sound for you and me, Hallelujah. (2x)

## Background Information

"The same songs are used for rowing as for shouting. I know only one pure boat-song, the fine lyric, 'Michael row the boat ashore'; and this I have no doubt is a real spiritual - it being the archangel Michael that is addressed. 'As I have written these tunes,' says Mr. Ware, 'two measures are to be sung to each stroke, the first measure being accented by the beginning of the stroke, the second by the rattle of the oars in the rowlocks. On the passenger boat at the [Beaufort] ferry, they rowed from sixteen to thirty strokes a minute; twenty-four was the average. 'Michael row' was used when the load was heavy or the tide was against us.' "

Allen et al, *Slave Songs of the United States*.