

# Keep a Inching Along

TTBB

From "The Story of the Fisk Jubilee Singers," 1880. "Attention is called to the appropriateness of the melody of these singular words. It is all embraced within the first three tones of the scale, and thus may be said to be itself not more than an inch long."

Spiritual

Arr. by Wayne Hooper

Chorus 1

The musical score is written for four voices (TTBB) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Keep a inch-ing a-long, keep a inch-ing a-long, Je-sus will come by'n bye, Keep a inch-ing a-long like a poor inch worm, Je-sus will come by'n bye. 1.Twas a inch by inch I sought the Lord, Je-sus will come by'n bye, And a inch by inch He blessed a my soul, \* Je-sus will come by'n bye. Keep a inch-ing a-long, keep a inch-ing a-long, Je-sus will come by'n bye, Keep a". There are asterisks in the original image above the first and last notes of the first and fourth systems, and above the first note of the fifth system. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

8 \* Keep a inch-ing a-long, keep a inch-ing a-long, Je-sus will come by'n

5 8 bye, Keep a inch-ing a-long like a poor inch worm, Je-sus will come by'n

5

9 8 bye. 1.Twas a inch by inch I sought the Lord, Je-sus will come by'n bye, And a

9 \* \* \*

14 8 inch by inch He blessed a my soul, \* Je-sus will come by'n bye. Keep a

14

18 8 inch-ing a-long, keep a inch-ing a-long, Je-sus will come by'n bye, Keep a

18

Copyright 2002 by Wayne Hooper

22  
8  
22  
inch - ing a - long like a poor inch worm, Je - sus will come by'n bye. 2.The

26  
8  
26  
Lord is com - ing to take us home, \* Je - sus will come by'n bye. And

30  
8  
30  
then our work will all be done, \* Je - sus will come by'n bye. Keep a

\* Chorus 3

34  
8  
34  
inch - ing a - long, keep a inch - ing a - long, Je - sus will come by'n bye, Keep a

38  
8  
38  
inch - ing a - long like a poor inch worm, Je - sus will come by'n bye.

42  
8  
42  
3.Tri - als and trou - bles are on our way, Je - sus will come some - day. But we must watch and

47 *Rubato* *Final Chorus*

al - ways pray, Je - sus will come some - day. Keep a inch - ing a - long, keep a

51 *Gradually slow down*

inch - ing a - long, Je - sus will come by'n bye, Keep a inch - ing a - long like a

55 *Coda* *Gradually softer & softer*

poor inch worm, Je - sus will come by'n bye. Keep a inch - ing a - long, keep a

59 *p* *f* *Tempo 1*

poor inch worm, Je - sus will come by'n bye. Je - sus will come by'n bye.