

# Be Still, My Soul

Words by Katharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel & Music by Jean Sibelius

*D Dsus2 D G6 D Dsus2 D G6 Dsus2 D*

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on thy side;

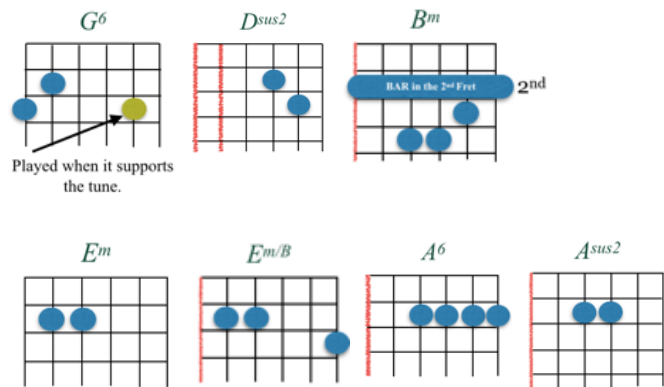
*D Dsus2 D G6 D Dsus2 D G6 D*  
Bear pa - - tiently the cross of grief or pain;

*D Bm F#m A6 G6 G*  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;

*Em/B A6 Asus2 D G6 F#*  
In every change He faithful will remain.

*D Bm F#m A6 Em Em/B*  
Be still my soul, thy best thy heavenly friend,

*Em/B F#m A D G6 A D*  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.



*D Dsus2 D G6 D Dsus2 D G6 Dsus2 D*

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake,

*D Dsus2 D G6 D Dsus2 D G6 D*  
To guide the fu- ture, as He has the past.

*D Bm F#m A6 G6 G*  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;

*Em/B A6 Asus2 D G6 F#*  
All now mys - terious shall be bright at last.

*D Bm F#m A6 Em Em/B*  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know,

*Em/B F#m A D G6 A D*  
His voice Who ruled them while He dwelt below.

*D Dsus2 D G6 D Dsus2 D G6 Dsus2 D*

Be still, my soul: be-gin the song of praise.

*D Dsus2 D G6 D Dsus2 D G6 D*  
On earth, believing, to Thy Lord on high;

*D Bm F#m A6 G6 G*  
Acknowledge Him in all thy words and ways,

*Em/B A6 Asus2 D G6 F#*  
So shall He view thee with a well-pleased eye.

*D Bm F#m A6 Em Em/B*  
Be still, my soul: the Sun of life divine,

*Em/B F#m A D G6 A D*  
Through passing clouds shall but more brightly shine.

*D Dsus2 D G6 D Dsus2 D G6 Dsus2 D*

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on,

*D Dsus2 D G6 D Dsus2 D G6 D*  
When we shall be for-e - - ver with the Lord.

*D Bm F#m A6 G6 G*  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,

*Em/B A6 Asus2 D G6 F#*  
Sor - -row for - -got, love's purest joys restored.

*D Bm F#m A6 Em Em/B*  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,

*Em/B F#m A D G6 A D*  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

## Additional Verse

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,  
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,  
Then shalt thou better know His love, His heart,  
Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.  
Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay,  
From His own fullness all He takes away.

# Scripture and History

**Psalm 46:10** “Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth.”

**Luke 12:23-26** He [*Jesus*] said to [his] disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap; they have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important are you than birds! Can any of you by worrying add a moment to your life-span? If even the smallest things are beyond your control, why are you anxious about the rest?”

Also see **Proverbs 3:5; Isaiah 30:15; 40:31; and Hebrews 10:35.**



Spiritual revivals throughout history have always been accompanied by an outburst of new song. This was especially true of the sixteenth century reformation movement when, following centuries of dormancy during the Middle Ages, congregational singing was rediscovered. However, by the seventeenth century the church was once more cold and non-evangelistic. Again God lit the fires of revival in the latter half of that century with a movement in Germany known as the Pietistic Revival, which was similar to the Puritan and Wesleyan movements in England. The Pietistic movement also gave birth to many rich German hymns, one of which incorporates the contributions of three persons.

Katharina von Schlegel was the outstanding woman of this revival movement. Little is known of her other than that she was a Lutheran and may have been the canoness of an evangelical women's seminary in Germany. She and her husband may have converted to Catholicism later in life. We do know that she contributed a number of lyrics to a collection of spiritual songs published in 1752.

Approximately one hundred years after it was written, this hymn text was translated into English by Jane L. Borthwick, a scholar noted for her fine work in translating German texts. This hymn tune is an arrangement of one movement from Jean Sibelius's "Finlandia." Sibelius was Finland's best-known composer, and his music is generally characterized by a strong nationalistic fervor.

God has used the talents of these three individuals from different lands to provide His people with a hymn that teaches so well the biblical truth that we all need to relearn daily: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength" (**Isaiah 40:31**).

*notes from "Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions"*