

Nelly Was a Lady

Edited by
Robert A. Hudson

Written and Composed by
Stephen C. Foster

Adagio

The piano introduction is in 3/4 time, marked Adagio. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter and eighth notes, while the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

5 A D B A/E E A Bm/D E7 A

Down on the Mis - sis - sip - pi float - ing, Long time I tra - vel on the way,
Now I'm un - hap - y and I'm weep - ing Can't tote the cot - ton - wood an - y - more;
When I saw my Nel - ly in the morn - ing, Smile till she o - pened up her eyes,
Close by the mar - gin of the wa - ter, Where the lone weep - ing wil - low grows,
5 Down in the mea - dow 'mong the clo - ver, Walk with my Nel - ly by my side;

The vocal line is written in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps. The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment includes chords and melodic lines that support the vocal melody.

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The lyrics have been updated from the original minstrel dialect.

Nelly Was a Lady

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A D B7 A/E E A Bm/D E7 A

All night the cot - ton - wood a - tot - ing, Sing for my true love all the day.

Last night, while Nel - ly was a - sleep - ing, Death came a - knock - ing at the door.

Seemed like the light of day a - dawn - ing, Just 'fore the sun be - gan to rise.

There lived Vir - ginia's love - ly daugh - ter; There she in death may find re - pose.

9 Now all those hap - py days are o - ver, Fare - well my dark Vir - gin - ia bride.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a single treble clef staff, and the piano accompaniment is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains six lines of music, each with a line of lyrics underneath. The second system contains two lines of music, each with a line of lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the first line of the first system. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, often using chords. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

CHORUS

A D/A Bm B7 E A D A E7 A

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Nel-ly was a la - dy Last night she died, Toll the bell for love - ly Nell, My dark Vir - gin - ia bride.

Nel-ly was a la - dy Last night she died, Toll the bell for love - ly Nell, My dark Vir - gin - ia bride.

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