

How Long the Earth by Signs Perplexed?

Donald Bell and Maarten Ryder

$\text{♩} = 100$

Em *A* *B7* *Em7* *F#m7*

How long the earth by signs per - plexed? And states by fears and tu - mults

The first system of music features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 9/8. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 100. The system contains five measures. The vocal line starts with a quarter note on G4, followed by eighth notes on A4, B4, C5, and D5. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

G(maj7) *G* *A* *F* *Em7*

vexed? By all the powers of hea - ven sha - ken, Your Word is

The second system of music continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. It contains five measures. The vocal line has a quarter note on G4, followed by eighth notes on A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

Bb *Am* *C* *D* *G* *A* *F#m7* *G*

spo - ken yourli - ving text.

The third system of music concludes the piece. It contains five measures. The vocal line has a quarter note on G4, followed by eighth notes on A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line, ending with a double bar line.

1. How long the earth by signs perplexed?
And states by fears and tumults vexed?
By all the powers of heaven shaken,
Your Word is spoken,
Your living text.
2. And tossed and carried to and fro,
Our ventures fail, our systems fray;
From futile rage, from weary travail,
From wooing evil,
We would be free.
3. For all things new beneath the sun,
All works and wonders seen and done,
Of trade and rule, of school and temple,
Are vain, are empty,
Except you come.
4. As watchers here your people rouse;
To glimpse redemption lift our eyes
To see beyond earth's tribulation
The fig tree's lesson,
Our hope to raise.
5. That so your church may read our time,
May mark your justice, learn our doom,
Till one who came fulfils our watching,
When this world's waiting
Has run its term.