

Golden Slippers

The musical score for "Golden Slippers" is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed letter 'A' above a 'G' chord. The second staff features a first ending bracket labeled '1.' and a 'G' chord. The third staff has a second ending bracket labeled '2.' and a 'G' chord, followed by a boxed letter 'B' and a 'C' chord. The fourth staff includes 'Am' and 'D7' chords, followed by a first ending bracket labeled '1.' and a 'G' chord. The fifth staff has a second ending bracket labeled '2.' and 'D7' and 'G' chords.

This song (originally titled "Oh, Dem Golden Slippers") was composed by prominent black minstrel songwriter and banjo player James A. Bland (with Haverly's Minstrels) in 1879. The melody later passed from the minstrel stage into folk and fiddling tradition. "Oh, Dem Golden Slippers" was originally a mockery of "Golden Slippers", a spiritual song sung by the Fisk Jubilee Singers. Bland's version surpassed the Fisk song in popularity and is now commonly referred to as "Golden Slippers".

It has been recorded by Delaware Water Gap, Clark Kessinger, Bill Spence and Fennig's All-Stars and others.

I originally worked this out on the hammered dulcimer after hearing the recording by Bill Spence and Fennig's All-Stars.