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The Barbershop Harmony Society

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SWING DOWN CHARIOT

Traditional

As sung by the VAGABONDS

Intro freely Swing low,

Tenor Lead

8

1 2 3

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-in' for to

Bari Bass

Swing low, com-in' for to car-ry me,

4 5 6 7

Swing low,

car-ry me home. Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-in' for to car-ry me

Swing low,

Chorus 1 a tempo

8 9 10

home. Swing down, char-i - ot, stop and let me ride.

Why don't you swing let

Swing Down Chariot

11 12 13

Swing down, char-i - ot, stop and let me ride. Rock me, Lord, rock me, Lord,

Swing let

14 15 16

calm and eas - y. I got a home on the oth - er side.

calm Well, I oth - er side,

Interlude 1

17 18

Swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a

Swing swing swing swing - a swing swing swing swing - a

19 20

swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a

lead solo

Well, well,

swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a

swing swing swing swing - a swing swing swing swing - a

Swing Down Chariot

Verse 1

3

21 22

swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a

well, well, well. Well, E -

swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a

swing swing swing swing - a swing swing swing swing - a

23 24 25

swing-a swing-a swing-a swing-a swing-a swing-a swing - a swing-a swing-a

ze-ki-al went down to the mid-dle of the field. Saw an an-gel work-in' on the

swing-a swing-a swing-a swing-a swing-a swing-a swing - a swing-a swing-a

swing swing swing swing-a swing swing swing swing-a swing swing swing swing-a

26 27

swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a

char-i - ot wheel. Was-n't so par - tic - 'lar 'bout that

swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a swing - a

swing swing swing swing - a swing swing swing swing - a

Swing Down Chariot

28 29 30 **Chorus 2**

8
swing - a swing - a swing. He just want to see how the char-i - ot feel.____

8
char - i - ot wheel.____ He just want to see how the char - i - ot feel.____

swing - a swing - a swing.

swing swing swing swing.

Why don't you

31 32 33

8
Swing down, char-i-ot, stop and____ let me ride.____ Swing down, char-i-ot, stop and____

swing let Swing

34 35 36 *Soft*

8
— let me ride.____ Rock me, Lord, rock me, Lord, calm and cas - y.

let calm Well,

37 38 39 **Interlude 2** 40

8
I got a home on the oth - er side. Swing-a swing-a swing-a swing-a swing-a swing-a

I oth - er side, Swing swing swing swing-a swing swing swing swing-a

41 42 43

swing - a swing - a swing-a swing - a swing-a swing-a swing - a swing-a swing-a

lead solo

Well, well, well, well, well.

swing - a swing - a swing-a swing - a swing-a swing-a swing - a swing - a swing-a

swing swing swing swing-a swing swing swing swing-a swing swing swing swing-a

Verse 2

44 45 46

swing - a swing-a swing-a swing - a swing-a swing-a swing - a swing-a swing-a

Well, E - ze-ki-al went down and he got on board.

swing - a swing-a swing-a swing - a swing-a swing-a swing - a swing-a swing-a

swing swing swing swing-a swing swing swing swing-a swing swing swing swing-a

47 48 49

swing - a swing-a swing-a swing - a swing-a swing-a swing - a swing-a swing-a

Char-i-ot went a-bump - in' on down the road. Was-n't so par - tic - 'lar 'bout that

swing - a swing - a swing-a swing - a swing-a swing-a swing - a swing-a swing-a

swing swing swing swing-a swing swing swing swing-a swing swing swing swing-a

Swing Down Chariot

50 swing - a swing - a swing. He just want to lay down his heav - y load.____

51 bump-in' on the road.____ He just want to lay down his heav - y load.____

52 swing - a swing - a swing.

swing swing swing swing. Why don't you

Chorus 3

53 Swing down, char-i-ot, stop and____ let me ride.____

54 Swing down, char-i-ot, stop and____

55 swing let Swing

56 — let me ride.____

57 Rock me, Lord, rock me, Lord, calm and eas - y.

58 let calm Well,

Reprise

59 I got a home on the oth - er side.____

60 Swing down, char-i-ot, stop and____ let me ride.

61 I oth - er side,____

62

63 64 65

8

Swing down, char-i - ot, stop and____ let me ride. Rock me, Lord, rock me, Lord,

66 67 68

8

calm and eas - y. I got a home on the oth - er

69 70 71

8

side, Swing down, char-i - ot, stop and____

72 73 74

8

— let me ride. Swing down, char-i - ot, stop and____ let me ride.

Swing Down Chariot

75 76 77 Tag 78 79 80 81

Rock me, Lord, rock me, Lord, calm and eas - y. I got a home on the oth - er side, on the oth - er side.

side,

side,

side,

Performance Notes

A close relationship between the barbershop and gospel quartet styles has been apparent for many years. *Swing Down Chariot* adds to the list of numerous gospel/barbershop arrangements published by the Society. Many choruses and quartets include a gospel song in their performance packages.

This particular arrangement was made popular by the **Vagabonds** quartet, 1976 silver medalists from the Pioneer District. The arrangement was inspired by the **Imperials**, one of the most famous of gospel quartets and was adapted by Ken Gibson, tenor of the **Vagabonds**.

The Intro, *Swing Low*, is sung freely and with expression. The tempo beginning with Chorus 1 should be solid and upbeat, without being too fast. Care should be taken that the syncopation throughout is well articulated. Most of all, have fun singing this well-known, uplifting spiritual!

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any other song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask *before* you sing.