

AND  
GLORY SHONE  
AROUND

---

Jordan Sramek, Series Editor



**Help Just a Little**

William J. Kirkpatrick

arr. Jordan Sramek, Dan Chouinard,  
Ginna Watson

**ROSE PUBLICATIONS**

From the archives of *The ROSE ENSEMBLE*

Daniel Mahraun & Jordan Sramek, General Editors

**Source:**

George D. Elderkin, ed. *The Finest of the Wheat: Hymns Old and New, for Missionary and Revival Meetings and Sabbath-Schools*. Chicago: R. R. McCabe & Co., 1890.

**About the source / general notes on genre:**

Near the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the simple but infectious music of the revival tents and missionary halls began to overshadow the traditional folksongs that had once dominated the sacred and secular worlds. They feature characteristically simple melodies, catchy rhythms, and refrains that are easy to remember.

Between 1880 and 1897, John R. Sweney and Kirkpatrick published nearly fifty hymnals and gospel songbooks. Among the most familiar of Kirkpatrick's tunes are "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place," "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" and "He Hideth My Soul." His song "Help Just a Little" appeared for the first time in the Sweney & Kirkpatrick hymnal *The Wells of Salvation: Songs for the Sabbath School* (Philadelphia: John J. Hood, 1881). He set words by Mrs. E.C. Ellsworth to music in 4/8. 1890 saw the appearance of a new version of the gospel song. A text by Rev. Spencer and a change in meter to 3/4 give the song a gentler, more touching character.

**Text:** William A. Spencer (1840–1901)

**Music:** William J. Kirkpatrick (1838– 1921)

**Editorial method / notes:**

This arrangement sets verses 1, 4, and 5 of the original. These were chosen specifically for their outward-looking, service-oriented words.

**Performance suggestions:**

The piano part provided may be seen as a simple background, when a performance includes the full instrumentation. It may be fleshed out by the performer in the absence of other instruments.

**Duration:** 3m 20s

**8 Help Just a Little.**

Rev. W. A. SPENCER, D. D. WM. J. KIRKPATRICK.

1. Broth-er for Christ's kingdom sighing; Help a lit-tle, help a lit-tle;  
 2. Is thy cup made sad by tri-al? Help a lit-tle, help a lit-tle;  
 3. Tho' no wealth to thee is giv-en, Help a lit-tle, help a lit-tle;

Help to save the mil-lions dy-ing, Help just a lit-tle.  
 Sweet-en it with self-de-ni-al, Help just a lit-tle.  
 Sac-ri-fice is gold in heav-en, Help just a lit-tle.

**CHORUS.**

Oh, the wrongs that we may righten! Oh, the hearts that we may lighten!  
 Oh, the skies that we may brighten! Helping just a lit-tle.

4 Let us live for one another,  
 Help a little, help a little;  
 Help to lift each fallen brother,  
 Help just a little.

5 Tho' thy life is pressed with sorrow,  
 Help a little, help a little;  
 Bravely look t'ward God's to-morrow,  
 Help just a little.

By permission of John J. Hood, 11

The Rose Ensemble's recording, *A Toast to Prohibition: All-American Songs of Temperance and Temptation*, is available on most download and streaming platforms.

# Help Just a Little

Solo, SATB, fiddle, guitar, string bass

William A. Spencer (1840–1901)

William J. Kirkpatrick (1838– 1921)  
arr. Jordan Sramek, Dan Chouinard, Ginna Watson  
ed. Daniel Mahraun

À la sarabande (♩ = 58-63)

The musical score is arranged in five systems. The first system is for Fiddle, showing a melody in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The second system is for Solo, with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, containing rests. The third system is for Soprano and Alto, with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, containing rests. The fourth system is for Tenor and Bass, with a bass clef and a 3/4 time signature, containing rests. The fifth system is for Piano, with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a 3/4 time signature, showing a harmonic accompaniment.

Help Just a Little

6

*mp*  
Broth - er for Christ's king - dom sigh - ing,

11

*mp* *poco*  
Help to save the mil - lions dy - ing,  
Help tle. help a lit - tle;

*mp* *poco*

15 *hopefully*

Oh, the wrongs that we may right - en!

Help just a lit - tle. \_

19

Oh, the skies that we may bright - en!

Oh, hearts that we may light - en!

23

Help-ing just a lit - tle. —

*mf*

27

**Risoluto**  
*mf*

Let us live for one an-oth - er,

Help a lit - tle, help a lit - tle;

*mp* *poco* *poco* *mf*

31 *opt.*

Help to lift each fal - len broth - er,  
oo Help just a lit - tle. —

35 *mf*

*mf*  
Oh, the wrongs that we right - en! Oh, the hearts that we may light - en!  
*mf*

39 *mp*

Oh, the that we may bright - en! Help - ing just a lit - tle. —  
*mp*

43 *p*

Though thy life is pressed with sor - row,

*p*

47 *poco* <

Help a lit - tle, help a lit - tle; Brave - ly look toward God's to-mor - row,

*poco* <

51 *f*

... just a lit - tle. — Oh, the wrongs that we may right - en!

*f*

*mf*



55 *diminuendo poco a poco*

Oh, the hearts that we may light - en!  
Oh, the hearts that we may light - en! Oh, the skies that we may bright - en!

*diminuendo poco a poco*

59 *rit. p*

Help-ing just a lit - tle, help-ing just a lit - tle.

*p*

Fiddle

# Help Just a Little

Solo, SATB, fiddle, guitar, string bass

William A. Spencer (1840–1901)

William J. Kirkpatrick (1838– 1921)  
arr. Jordan Sramek, Dan Chouinard, Ginna Watson  
ed. Daniel Mahraun

À la sarabande (♩ = 58-63)

*mp*

6

13

20

*mf*

**Risoluto**

27

*mp* *mf*

37

*mp* *p*

47

*mf*  
*rit.*

55

*diminuendo poco a poco* *p*

# Help Just a Little

Solo, SATB, fiddle, guitar, string bass

William A. Spencer (1840–1901)

William J. Kirkpatrick (1838– 1921)  
arr. Jordan Sramek, Dan Chouinard, Ginna Watson  
ed. Daniel Mahraun

**À la sarabande** (♩ = 58-63)

*mp*

9

18

**Risoluto**

27

35

*mf* *mp*

43

53

*mf* *diminuendo poco a poco* *p* *rit.*

# Help Just a Little

Solo, SATB, fiddle, guitar, string bass

William A. Spencer (1840–1901)

William J. Kirkpatrick (1838– 1921)  
arr. Jordan Sramek, Dan Chouinard, Ginna Watson  
ed. Daniel Mahraun

À la sarabande (♩ = 58-63)

arco

*mp*

9 pizz.

Risoluto

20

30

41

arco

*mp*

*p*

52

pizz.

*diminuendo poco a poco*

*p*

*rit.*