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ONLY

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DESCRIPTIVE BALLAD

FERN

WORDS AND MUSIC BY

FRANK S. COLBURN.

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Only a Fern.

Descriptive Ballad.

Words and Music by F. S. COLBURN.

Arr. by THEO. H. NORTHRUP,

Moderato espress.

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving bass lines. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present at the beginning.

The vocal line for the first two lines of lyrics, written in a single staff. The melody is in a minor key and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

1. In fol - ly's ways a for - tune squan - dered, Seeking in vain for joy or rest,
2. I knew it marked a fav'rite pas - sage, Mar - gin - al notes were writ - ten near; I

The piano accompaniment for the first two lines of lyrics, consisting of two staves. The right hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment, and the left hand has a simple harmonic accompaniment.

The vocal line for the last two lines of lyrics, written in a single staff. The melody continues with a similar rhythmic pattern to the previous lines.

Home a - gain, at last I wan - dered, The place of all on earth the best. One
tried to read them, but a - las! Age e'en robbed me of her words so dear, The

The piano accompaniment for the last two lines of lyrics, consisting of two staves. The right hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment, and the left hand has a simple harmonic accompaniment.

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day I found my moth-er's bi - ble, A elum - sy, quaint and sa - cred Book; And
 print - ed text told the old sto - ry, A - bout the prod - i - gal's re - turn, Lines

then in ten - der mood, tho' i - dle, Dis - placed it from it's dus - ty nook. I
 to me made dou - bly.... ho - ly, By con - tact with that bit of fern, The

thought, "perchance 'twill en - ter - tain me" As o'er its pa - ges I did turn; But
 sim - plest, sweet - est lit - tle to - ken, Tho' by its emerald hues for - sook,

oh! so sweet-ly did it pain me, To find im - pris-oned there, a
 Fa - ded, with-ered, old, and bro - ken, Be - tween the leaves of moth - er's

fern..... On - ly a fern, A fa - ded leaf of fern, Still
 Book.....

fan - cy paints it bright-er while I look..... Mem-'ry's fin - ger trac - es

Shapes of an - gel fa - ces, In the out - lines of that fern in moth - er's Book.....

Only a Fern. 3-3.

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Contact: Karen Lund, x70156
Lauren Woodis, x73939
Pat Padua, x75904