

The Old Ark's A-Moverin'

American Negro Spiritual

Moderately brisk and rhythmic

Chorus

The old ark's a - mov-er - in', a - mov-er - in', a - mov-er - in', The
 old ark's a-mov-in' by the Spir-it of God! The old ark's a - mov-er-in', a -
 mov-er-in', a-mov-er-in', The old ark's a-mov-in' and I thank God.

F C7 F
 F C7 F
 C7 F7 C7 F *Fine*
Fine

Verse
Call F

Response
C7

F C7 F

Solo >How man - y days did the wa-ter fall?

ALL For- ty days and nights in all.

Call

Response

F **C7** **F** **C7** **F** **D.C.**

Solo *All*

Old ark she rocked, Old ark she rocked, Old ark she land-ed on the moun-tain top.

D.C.

- S¹ 2. Ham, Shem, and Japheth were settin' one day,
 A¹ Talkin' on the upper deck and lookin' at the bay;
 S² While they were disputin' 'bout this and that,
 A¹ The ark done bump on Ararat.
 3. See that sister all dressed so fine.
 A¹ She ain't got Jesus on her mind.
 S² See that brother all dressed so gay?
 Death's gonna come and carry him away.
 4. See that sister there comin' so slow?
 A¹ She wants to go to heaven 'fore the heaven door close.
 Ain't but one-a thing on my mind,
 My sister's gone to heaven an'-a lef'-a me behin'.

PROGRAM GUIDE: *American Negro spiritual*

It is easy to get this spiritual "a-moverin'" the way it should; the marvelously rhythmic words do it for you. Assign soloists or a group to do the calls in the verse and let everyone join in the responses and the choruses. The routine is chorus, verse, chorus, verse, chorus, etc., ending on a chorus. You may also want to set up a rhythm section for clapping. Any of the natural patterns work, but the melodic rhythm itself suggests a very nice pattern:

The second system of the exercise consists of two measures. The first measure contains a quarter note, followed by an eighth note, and then a beamed eighth-note pair. The second measure contains a beamed eighth-note pair, followed by a quarter note, and then a beamed eighth-note pair. The notation is written on a single staff with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature.