The Mountains

WORDS AND MUSIC BY WASHINGTON GLADDEN, CLASS OF 1859

The alma mater “The Mountains,” thought to be the first composed by an undergraduate, was written by Washington Gladden, Williams class of 1859. In his memoirs, he wrote: “I had been wishing that I might write a song which could be sung at some of our exhibitions; and one winter morning, walking down Bee Hill, the lilt of the chorus of ‘The Mountains’ came to me. I had a little music-paper in my room in the village, and on my arrival I wrote down the notes. Then I cast about for words to fit them, and the refrain ‘The Mountains, the Mountains’ suggested itself. I wrote the melody of the stanza next and fitted the verses to it. …That it would … become the accepted College Song, I could not, of course, have imagined.”

Allegretto  Bb

1. O, proudly rise the monarchs of our mountain land, With their
2. The snows of winter crown them with a crystal crown, And the
3. O, mightily they battle with the storm-king’s power; And the
4. Beneath their peaceful shades may old Williams stand, Till the

kingly forest robes, to the sky, Where Alma Mater dwell-eth with her chosen band, And the
silver clouds of summer round them cling; The Autumn’s scarlet mantle flows in richness down; And they
conquerors shall triumph here for aye; Yet quietly their shadows fall at evening hour. While the
suns and mountains never more shall be, The glory and the honor of our mountain land, And the

peaceful river flows gently by. The mountains! The mountains! We greet them with a song, Whose
reveal in the garniture of Spring.
gen-tle breezes round them softly play.
dwelling of the gallant and the free.
echoes rebounding their woodland heights along. Shall mingle with anthems that

winds and fountains sing. Till hill and valley gaily gaily ring.