

# Dorchester

Isaac Watts, 1719  
(Hymn 58, Book 2) 86. 86. (C.M.)

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*The Singing-Master's Assistant*, 1778.

F# minor  
William Billings, 1778

1. Time, what an empty vapor 'tis, And days how swift they are, Swift

The first system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is the vocal line, followed by a piano accompaniment consisting of three staves (treble and bass clefs). The music is in F# minor and 3/4 time. A measure number '5' is placed above the fifth measure of the vocal line.

1. as an Indian arrow flies, Or like a shooting star.

The second system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is the vocal line, followed by a piano accompaniment consisting of three staves (treble and bass clefs). The music continues in F# minor and 3/4 time. Measure numbers '10' and '15' are placed above the vocal line at the beginning and middle of the system, respectively.

2. The present moments just appear,  
Then slide away in haste,  
That we can never say, "They're here,"  
But only say, "They're past."

3. Our life is ever on the wing,  
And death is ever nigh;  
The moment when our lives begin  
We all begin to die.

4. Yet, mighty God! our fleeting days  
Thy lasting favors share,  
Yet with the bounties of thy grace  
Thou load'st the rolling year.

5. 'Tis sovereign mercy finds us food,  
And we are clothed with love;  
While grace stands pointing out the road  
That leads our souls above.

6. His goodness runs an endless round;  
All glory to the Lord!  
His mercy never knows a bound,  
And be his name adored!

7. Thus we begin the lasting song;  
And when we close our eyes,  
Let the next age thy praise prolong,  
Till time and nature dies.