

Parting as Friends

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Flowing and free but not too fast (♩=107)

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a tempo of 107 beats per minute. It consists of eight staves of music. The melody is simple and lyrical, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: Am, Dm, C, F, Am, Dm, Am, Dm, C, F, C, G7, C, C7, F, F, C, C, D7, D7, G7, G7, C, G7, C, F, C, G7, C. The lyrics are: 'May the day you have chosen to take off your rings Be as fine as the day you were wed. May the sky prepare omens of sunshine and warmth As its gift for the years still ahead. May the letters you write to explain this be free Of a bitterness no one intends. May your minds be at ease to accept what must be, And may you be parting as friends.'

May the day you have cho-sen to take off your rings
Be as fine as the day you were wed.
May the sky pre-pare o-mens of sun-shine and warmth
As its gift for the years still a-head.
May the let-ters you write to ex-plain this be free
Of a bit-ter-ness no one in-tends.
May your minds be at ease to ac-cept what must be,
And may you be par-ting as friends.

May the day you have chosen to take off your rings
Be as fine as the day you were wed.
May the sky prepare omens of sunshine and warmth
As its gift for the years still ahead.
May the letters you write to explain this be free
Of a bitterness no one intends.
May your minds be at ease to accept what must be,
And may you be parting as friends.

May you share one last harvest of basil and thyme
From the summer's warm, generous sun.
May the fruit of the apple tree planted by two
Be not bitter when eaten by one.
May the weeds never grow to recover the ground
Where the swing from the maple descends.
May no mark you have left ever turn to a wound,
And may you be parting as friends.

May the unfinished sweater asleep in a drawer
That was meant as a Christmas surprise
Be completed this autumn and sent out by post,
Not reknit in another one's size.
May the postman bring word of each change of address
As the road towards the future extends.
May you both know good health and new love and success,
And may you be parting as friends.

May you laugh at the pottery neither will claim
As the boxes are packed and prepared.
May your futures be strengthened, informed, and enriched
By this love you so recently shared.
May you never regret that this time had its start;
May you only regret that it ends.
As you did when you joined, may you kiss when you part,
And may you be parting as friends.

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