

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

One of the best known and most popular hymns, “What a Friend...” originally began as a poem written in Canada by Joseph Scriven in the mid-nineteenth century. Several years later, Charles Converse, an American lawyer and musician, composed music to the poem and completed the creation of the hymn still sung today.

In the tab, the A and C sections’ first two measures rely largely on a prominent reverse roll pattern that corresponds to the lyrics “What a friend we have in...” Compared to “Bury Me Beneath the Willow,” which used a fairly small reverse roll, this song uses an M I T sequence four times in a row. It may be challenging to master, but the result is worthwhile.

