

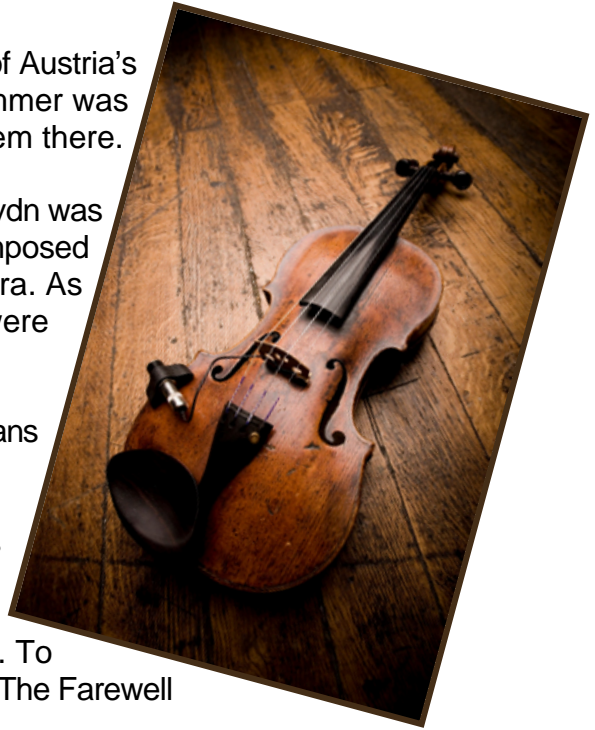
The Farewell Symphony

The young musicians hired to play for the Duke of Austria's summer festivities were ready to go home. Summer was over, and they were tired, but the Duke kept them there.

The brilliant classical composer Franz Joseph Haydn was sympathetic and offered to help them. So he composed a unique symphony that began with full orchestra. As the symphony progressed, fewer instruments were included in the score.

One by one, as their parts were finished, the musicians took their instruments and walked off the stage.

By the end of the composition, only two musicians remained – the first and second violinists playing a beautiful duet. The Duke got the point. Shortly afterward, he sent the grateful musicians home. To this day, Haydn's *Symphony No. 45* is known as "The Farewell Symphony."



God's people are part of another farewell symphony. In our circle of family and friends, and in the professions to which we are called, we see God calling His people home.

And one day, the trumpet of God will sound for all who believe on Him. That will be a day of rejoicing.

– Beecher Hunter