
Like It Here

from *Hinterlands*

Words by Danny Haengil Larsen and Michelle Elliott

Music by Danny Haengil Larsen

[PG]

Parental
guidance

About

In the middle of nowhere, growing up gay is the worst. *The Hinterlands* (2013) is a seven-part original musical webseries exploring the life of a gay teen who lives in a small town in a remote, very conservative, area of the United States. As Paul, sixteen, struggles with bullying and not fitting comfortably in his family's dynamic, he must decide how he will move forward with his life in the face of hostility and lack of understanding. Danny Haengil Larsen and Michelle Elliott wrote, produced, filmed, edited and released *The Hinterlands* in response to the spate of young gay people taking their own lives and/or causing harm to themselves because of being bullied or being perceived as LGBTQA+ [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Asexual, Ally + Other Identities]. The videos have received over a million total views to date.

In performance

Paul learns about the suicide of another gay teen in a neighbouring town and travels alone to attend the funeral. He is late for the burial service, and everyone has gone, allowing him a moment alone at the gravesite of this unknown boy with whom he shares something in common.

In the first two verses, imagine you are trying to comfort someone in need of a friend. Use a gentle, caring tone. In the bridge, your tone is questioning, but careful.

The last question in the lyric hits home, so express your feelings musically and follow the dynamic markings written in the score. The last verse is very personal — take your time between phrases to negotiate the difficult questions that have to be asked.

Lyrics

Like It Here

from **The Hinterlands**

I think you'll like it here.
I think you'll like it here.
There's a beautiful view.
It's a nice spot to be,
upon the hill under a cottonwood tree.
There'll be birds in the spring,
fireflies in July.
Leaves-'ll turn yellow.
You'll see the snow fly.
Peaceful all year...
I think you'll like it here.

I think you'll like it here.
No one tear-in' you down.
No more dreading the hall,
Or findin' your name scratched
on each bathroom stall.
Here, it's tranquil and calm.
Nothin' but sky and earth.
No one can harm you
or question your worth.
Just rabbits and deer...
I think you'll like it here.

Do you like it here?
Are you glad that you did it?
Was it the right thing to do?
Are you filled with regret?
Do you think I should die too?

Would I like it here?
Would I like it here?
Would I finally fit in,
With the worms and the dirt—
Buried so deep,

Far from the pain and the hurt?
But then what would I miss?
Dating and learning to drive?
Mom, Dad and Janie?
Just being alive?
Guess nothing is clear...
Would I like it here?

Like It Here

from Hinterlands

Words by Danny Haengil Larsen and
Michelle Elliott
Music by Danny Haengil Larsen

Moderato, folk ballad

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody in the treble clef begins with a half rest, followed by a quarter note G#4, and then a half note G#4. The bass clef accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern: G#3, F#3, G#3, F#3, G#3, F#3, G#3, F#3. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present at the start of the first measure.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The melody continues with a half note G#4, followed by a half note G#4. The bass clef accompaniment remains the same eighth-note pattern.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The melody continues with a half note G#4, followed by a half note G#4. The bass clef accompaniment remains the same eighth-note pattern. A *sim.* (sostenuto) dynamic marking is present at the start of the first measure.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The melody continues with a half note G#4, followed by a half note G#4. The bass clef accompaniment remains the same eighth-note pattern.

17 *p* Amaj7

I think you'll like_____ it here.____

Musical score for measures 17-20. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 8/8. The piano part features sustained chords in the right hand and rests in the left hand.

21 *p*

I think you'll like_____ it_____ here._____

Musical score for measures 21-24. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features sustained chords in the right hand and rests in the left hand.

25 *p*

There's a beau - ti - ful view.____ It's a

Musical score for measures 25-28. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features sustained chords in the right hand and rests in the left hand.

29 D5(add2)

nice spot to be,_____ up_____ on the hill_____ un - der a

Musical score for measures 29-32. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features sustained chords in the right hand and rests in the left hand. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in the final measure.

33

cot - ton - wood tree. There'll be

37

F#m⁷(sus4)

F#m⁹(sus4)

birds in the spring, fire - flies in Ju - ly.

41

A/E

Leaves - 'll turn yel - low. You'll see the snow fly.

45

D⁵(add2)

E(sus4)

E⁵

mp

mf

Peace - ful all year... I think you'll like it here.

50 A Amaj7 A(sus4)

I think you'll like_ it here.

54 A Amaj7 A(add2) A(sus4)

No one

58 A A(sus4) A A(sus4)

tear_ in' you down._ No more dread_ in' the hall,_ Or

62 D5(add2) D D(add4)

find - in' your name_ scratched on each bath - room stall._

65

F#m7

F#m7(add13)

F#m7

F#m7(add13)

Here, it's tran- quil and calm. Noth- in' but sky and earth...

69

F#m7

F#m7(add13)

No one can harm you or ques -

72

F#m7

F#m7(add13)

D5(add2)

- tion your worth. Just rab - bits and deer...

75 G(9)/D Em⁷ D/E D(add4)/E

I think you'll like it

78 Gmaj⁷ G G

here. Do you like it

82 A A^{sus} A A^{sus} A

here? Are you

86 Gmaj7 G G⁵(add2) G

glad that you did _____ it? _____ Was it__ the right

90 A A^{sus} A A^{sus} A

_____ thing to do? _____ Are you

94 G⁶ G Gmaj7 G *subito mp*

filled__ with__ reg-ret? _____ Do you

98 *D*⁵(add2) *D* *D*(add4) *p*

think I should die too? Would I like it

subito mp

103 *A* maj7 *p*

here? Would I like it

p

107 *A* maj7 *A* maj9

here? Would I

111 *A* maj7

fin - lly fit in, With the worms and the dirt

115

D⁵(add2)

Dmaj9

Bur - ied so deep, Far from the pain and the hurt?

119

F#m⁷

F#m⁹

But then what would I miss? Dat-ing and learn-ing to drive?

123

A/E

Mom, Dad and Ja-nie? Just be-ing a -

127

D5(add2)

Esus

pp

live? Guess noth-ing is clear... Would I like it

132

A maj7

here?

pp

136

A maj7

A(add2)

A