

# SILVER THREADS AMONG THE GOLD

1873

Hart Pease Danks of New Haven, Connecticut was already an experienced composer of sacred songs, singer and conductor, when he spotted a poem in a Wisconsin farm journal edited by Eben Rexford, an authority on gardening and floriculture. Rexford was in the habit of writing poems as space fillers in his magazine. He sold a group of poems to Danks, and one of them was "Silver Threads Among The Gold." The rest, as they say, is history. The song sold over two million copies in the 19th century alone and perhaps more in this century.

Joe Liles, a Texan, a barbershop singer and writer of songs in several styles, felt that such a beautiful chorus needed an appropriate verse. He composed both words and music.

Danks composed over 1,200 songs but died alone and in poverty in Philadelphia. He and Rexford are remembered today only by this song. Joe Liles lives in Kenosha, Wisconsin and is an active member of SPEBSQSA, Inc.

Words by EBEN E. REXFORD and JOE LILES  
(1846-1916) (1930- )

Music by H. P. DANKS and JOE LILES  
(1834-1903) (1930- )

## VERSE:

1  
8 Twi - light time is steal - ing, years go swift - ly by;

2

3  
8 Sil - ver hair re - veal - ing, end of life draws nigh. Yet be - fore my dim-ming eyes

4

5

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6 blooms a rose of May; Brings the heart to re-al-ize what I want to say. —

7

8

CHORUS:

9 Dar-ling, I am grow-ing old, Sil-ver threads a-mong the

10

11

12 gold Shine up-on my brow to-day;

13

14

15 Life is fad-ing fast a-way. But, my dar-ling, you will

16 a-way.

17 a-way.

18 be, will be Al-ways young and fair to me, to me.

19

20 (b)

21 22 23

8 Yes! my dar-ling, you will be Al - ways young and fair to

*REPRISE:*

24 25 26

8 me. But, my dar - ling, you will be, will be

27 28 29

8 Al - ways young and fair to me. Yes! my dar-ling, you will

30 31 32

8 be Al - ways young and fair to me. so fair to me.

*Additional chorus:*

When your hair is silver white and your cheeks no longer bright  
 With the roses of the May, I will kiss your lips and say:  
 Oh! My darling, mine alone, alone, you have never older grown;  
 Yes! My darling, mine alone, you have never older grown.