

## **Greitai, greitai** **Time Passes Swiftly**

*North American-Lithuanian camp song*

*Author: unknown*

*Arrangement: Jonas Govėdas*

“Time Passes Swiftly” is a song popular in diaspora camp settings as well as other festive gatherings. The song speaks of the inexorable flow of time. It reveals emotions connected with our hopes, dreams, past experiences, and our ever changing life. The “voice in the forest” represents the peacefulness and beauty of nature, but its echo also creates a nostalgic mood – remembrances of things past.

Our youth, adults, and seniors all sing it: each finding unique meaning, memories, joys of friendship – and also feelings of nostalgia and the sadness of separation.

During summer camps or various festivals, new acquaintances are made and friendships (possibly romantic) blossom. Maintaining and growing these relationships is not easy for Lithuanians scattered throughout North America. The song urges us to leave the past behind and not seek revenge, to forget our previous loves and heartfelt moments – which, sad to say, cannot be continued or repeated.

All the lyrics of “Time Passes Swiftly” invite us to reflect on the past, forgiveness, and the pain of emotional distancing. The song describes deep emotions experienced by many of us: love, lost love, and the unstoppable flow of time.