

from the Broadway musical *Ragtime*
BACK TO BEFORE
 for S.S.A. voices and piano

Performance time: approx. 4:00

Arranged by
LISA DeSPAIN

Music by **STEPHEN FLAHERTY**
 Words by **LYNN AHRENS**

In one (♩ = ca. 50)

PIANO

mp

6

13 S. I *opt. SOLO (or unison)*

p

S. II

There was a time our hap - pi - ness seemed nev - er - end - ing.

A.

p

* Visit alfred.com for digital scores and audio.

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(end solo)

I was so sure that where we were head-ing was right. _____

25 ALL

p

Life was a road so cer-tain and straight and un-bend-ing.

p

Life was a road so cer-tain and straight and un-bend-ing.

31

Our lit-tle road with nev-er a cross-road in sight. _____

Our lit-tle road with nev-er a cross-road in sight. _____

37

mp

Back in the days when we spoke in civ - i - lized voic - es.

mp

Oo, _____

oo. _____

mp

43

Wom - en in white and stur - dy young men at the oar. _____

Oo, _____

and stur - dy young men at the oar. _____

49

Back in the days when I let you make all my choic - es.

Back in the days when I let you make all my choic - es.

*conducted freely**mf**a tempo*

We can nev - er go back to be - fore.

mf

We can nev - er go back to be - fore.

*mf**conducted freely**a tempo**with pedal, legato**expressive and flowing**mp*

There was a time my feet were so sol - id - ly plant -

mp

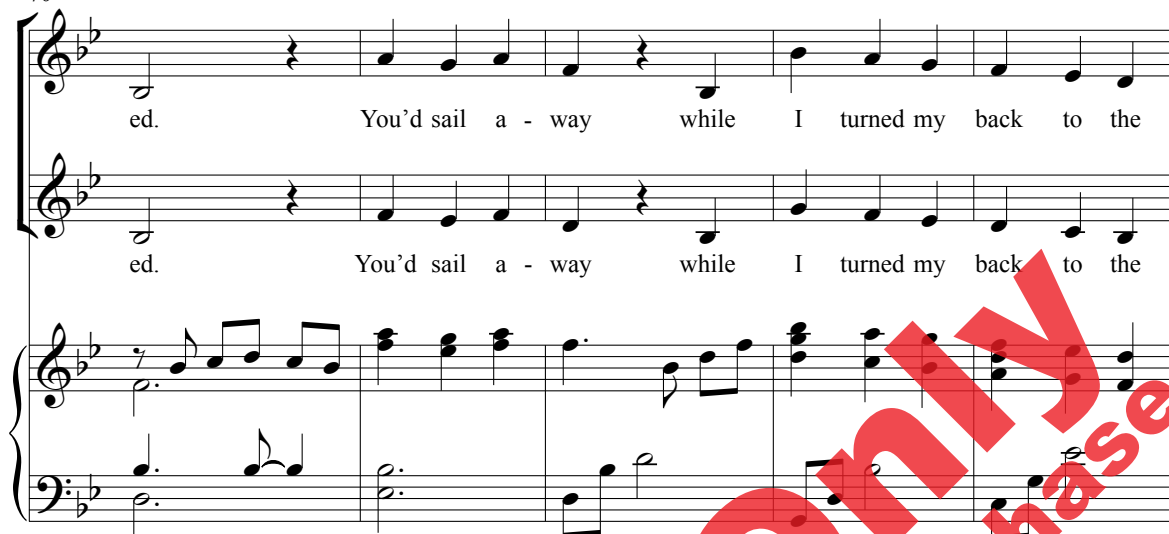
There was a time my feet were so sol - id - ly plant -

mp

70

ed. You'd sail a - way while I turned my back to the

ed. You'd sail a - way while I turned my back to the



75

77

sea. I was con - tent, a prin - cess a -

sea. I was con - tent, a prin - cess a -



80

sleep and en - chant - ed. If I had dreams, then

sleep and en - chant - ed. If I had dreams, then



I let you dream them for me. _____

I let you dream them for me. _____



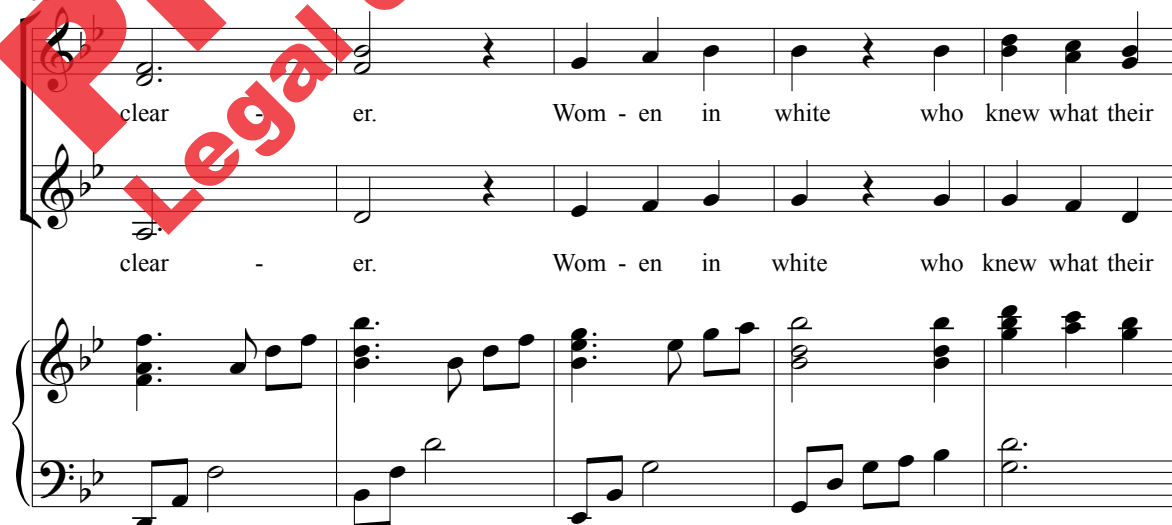
Back in the days when ev - 'ry - thing seemed so much

Back in the days when ev - 'ry - thing seemed so much



clear er. Wom - en in white who knew what their

clear - er. Wom - en in white who knew what their



98

101

lives held in store. _____ Where are they now, those

lives held in store. _____ Where are they now, those

103

wom - en who stared at the mir - ror?

wom - en who stared at the mir - ror?

107

mf We can nev - er go back to be -

mf We can nev - er go back to be -

mf

fore. _____

fore. _____



115 *sub. p* *mp* 119

Oo. _____ There are peo - ple out

sub. p *mp*

Oo. _____ There are peo - ple out

decresc. *mp*



120

there un - a - fraid of re - veal - ing _____

there un - a - fraid of re - veal - ing _____



125

— that they might have a feel - ing, that they

— that they might have a feel - ing, that they

130

might have been wrong. There are

might have been wrong There are

cresc. *mf*

135

peo - ple out there un - a - fraid to feel sor -

peo - ple out there un - a - fraid to feel sor -

12

140

row, un - a - fraid of to - mor - row,

row, un - a - fraid of to - mor - row,

145

un - a - fraid to be weak un - a -

un - a - fraid to be weak, un - a -

150

cresc.
fraid to be strong.

cresc.
fraid to be strong.

cresc.

155

f

There was a time when you were the per - son in

f

There was a time when you were the per - son in

f

8^{vb}...

159

mo - tion. I was your wife. It

mo - tion. I was your wife. It

163

rit. e decresc.

nev - er oc - curred to want more. *decresc.*

nev - er oc - curred to want more. *rit. e decresc.*

167 Expressively, in 3 (♩ = ca. 120)

mp *rit.*

You were my sky, my moon and my stars and my o -

You were my sky, my moon and my stars and my o -

Expressively, in 3 (♩ = ca. 120)

mp *rit.*

172

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 50)

f

cean. We can nev - er go back to be -

cean. We can nev - er go back to be -

Tempo I (♩ = ca. 50)

sub. f

177

fore.

fore.

182

rit.

We can nev - er go back to

We can nev - er go back to

rit.

186

a tempo

be - fore.

be - fore.

a tempo

190

be - fore.

be - fore.

8va

8vb