THE
SMITHS

# THE SMITHS


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# THE SMITHS

**SMITHS BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES. . .**

Contrived by Johnny Marr in Manchester, The Smiths evolved when Marr unearthed Morrissey and insisted upon a collaboration. The idea was to produce songs which were essentially instantaneous and listenable whilst also provoking deep thought; to mesh Morrissey's words with Marr's music in a sound which, above all, would stand apart without being inaccessible or esoteric. The guitar-based songs would blend melody without havoc, as the words — born out of absolute physical necessity — would tug at the straps of cultural straightjackets.

Christened 'The Smiths' as an antidote to a prevalent idea that modern groups need only a pretentious multi-syllabic name to validate their artistry, the band was completed with Andy Rourke (the bass guitar) and Mike Joyce (the drums). Joyce had previously served time with a cluster of healthily depraved groups, whilst the other three members were without any previous serious musical involvement.

The Smiths first surfaced in September '82 — their live appearances were sporadic — they were determined that all their moves be surefooted and worthwhile. At their seventh gig ever, the University of London Union, a clutch of Rough Trade Records staff and John Peel Show producer John Walters were convinced that this unpretentiously charming band were something special.

Rough Trade, amidst six-figure competition from four major labels, signed The Smiths as its first serious long-term commitment to any band. Producer Walters booked them for what would be the first of five Radio One sessions (three for John Peel and two for David Jensen) that, at last count, have been broadcast sixteen times since July '83.

The first Smiths single, recorded and produced by the band themselves, was "Hand In Glove" b/w "Handsome Devil", released in May '83. Extensive recording ensued for a follow-up 45 and an album, with ex-Teardrop Explodes/Fashion member Troy Tate producing, but halfway through those sessions The Smiths met former Roxy Music bass player/producer John Porter when the two parties were thrown together for a Radio One David Jensen session.

The Smiths were so impressed with Porter's grasp of their sound and songs that the Tate-produced tracks were shelved, and the entire repertoire was re-recorded with John Porter in charge. From those sessions came the second single, "This Charming Man", b/w "Jeane" (the only Tate-produced track to be released), in October '83.

Extensive gigging, massive Radio One exposure, a big Rough Trade push, and the intrinsic magic of the Morrissey and Marr composition made "This Charming Man" a big surprise hit of 1983. With their national reputation established, and their first Top Of The Pops under their belts, the single peaked at number 25 in the charts. In the space of six months, The Smiths had become a household name.

The first half of 1984 was well mapped-out for The Smiths. A comprehensive six-week sell-out tour (marred only by Morrissey's bout with bronchitis) finished on March 20th, during which time their debut LP, "The Smiths", entered the U.K. Gallup chart at number two, and the band have since received "gold records" for it.

April 1984 saw the release of another milestone record, a collaboration of mutual admiration between veteran superstar Sandie Shaw and The Smiths which was a rockin' version of "Hand In Glove" b/w "I Don't Owe You Anything" featuring Johnny, Mike and Andy playing with Sandy belting out Morrissey's lyrics. Sandie's "Hand In Glove" rose into the top thirty whilst adding a new dimension of respect for the potent and prolific pens of the Morrissey and Marr songwriting team.

Two other Smiths' singles since "This Charming Man" have bolstered the Smiths' advance towards their eventual rightful position at the very top of the charts. "What Difference Does It Make?", released just prior to the album, reached number twelve and "Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now" (May'84) ended up in the top ten thanks to the ever burgeoning ranks of Smiths' supporters.

At the time of this writing (August '84) The Smiths are fully committed to writing new material for their second album which they realise must be twice as good as their first. "William, It Was Really Nothing" is released 24 August, — the first of two singles planned for the rest of '84, the second will be "Nowhere Fast". With only half of the next LP composed, The Smiths will avoid serious touring in the U.K. until the beginning of 1985 when they can present an entirely new and different kind of show. This does not mean you will be seeing less of The Smiths, though, television appearances alone will ensure that. . . . just don't expect to see any 'promo videos'.

Stay tuned.

(August 1984)

## THE SMITHS DISCOGRAPHY (UK RELEASES ONLY)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| RT131 | **Hand in Glove/Handsome Devil** | 7" | May '83 |
| RT136 | **This Charming Man/Jeane** | 7" | October '83 |
| RTT136 | **This Charming Man/Wonderful Woman/Accept Yourself** | 12" | October '83 |
| RT146 | **What Difference Does It Make?/Back To The Old House** | 7" | January '84 |
| RTT146 | **What Difference Does It Make?//Back To The Old House/ These Things Take Time** | 12" | January '84 |
| ROUGH 61 | **The Smiths** | LP | February '84 |
| RT130 | ***Hand In Glove/I Don't Owe You Anything** | 7" | April '84 |
| RTT130 | ***Hand In Glove//I Don't Owe You Anything/Jeane** | 12" | April '84 |
| RT156 | **Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now/Suffer Little Children** | 7" | May '84 |
| RTT156 | **Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now//Girl Afraid/Suffer Little Children** | 12" | May '84 |
| RT166 | **William, It Was Really Nothing/Please Please Please Let Me Get What I Want** | 7" | August '84 |
| RTT166 | **William, It Was Really Nothing//How Soon Is Now?/Please Please Please Let Me Get What I Want** | 12" | August '84 |

* **With Sandie Shaw**

Folio produced by Ron Fry
Photo credits:
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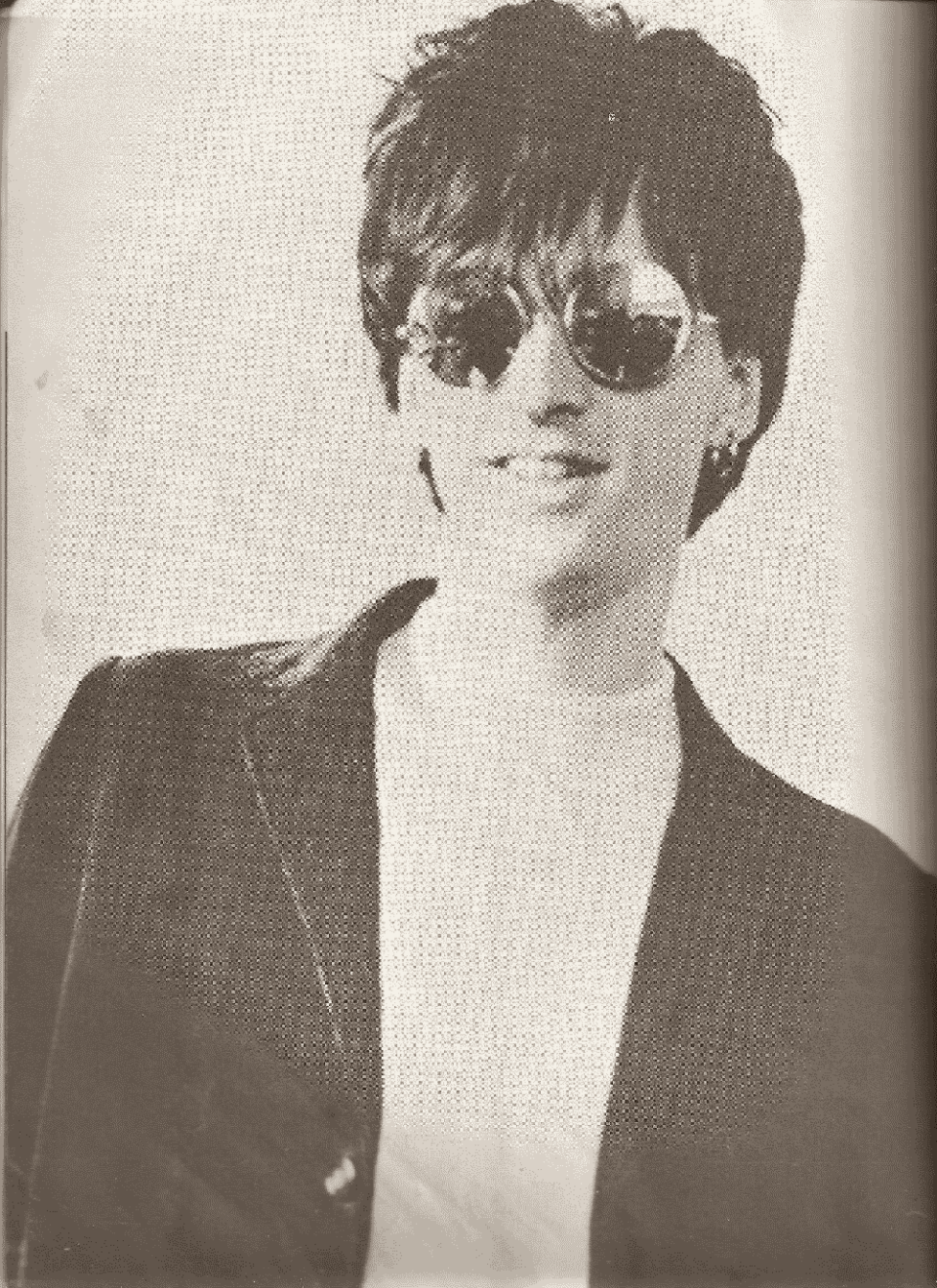
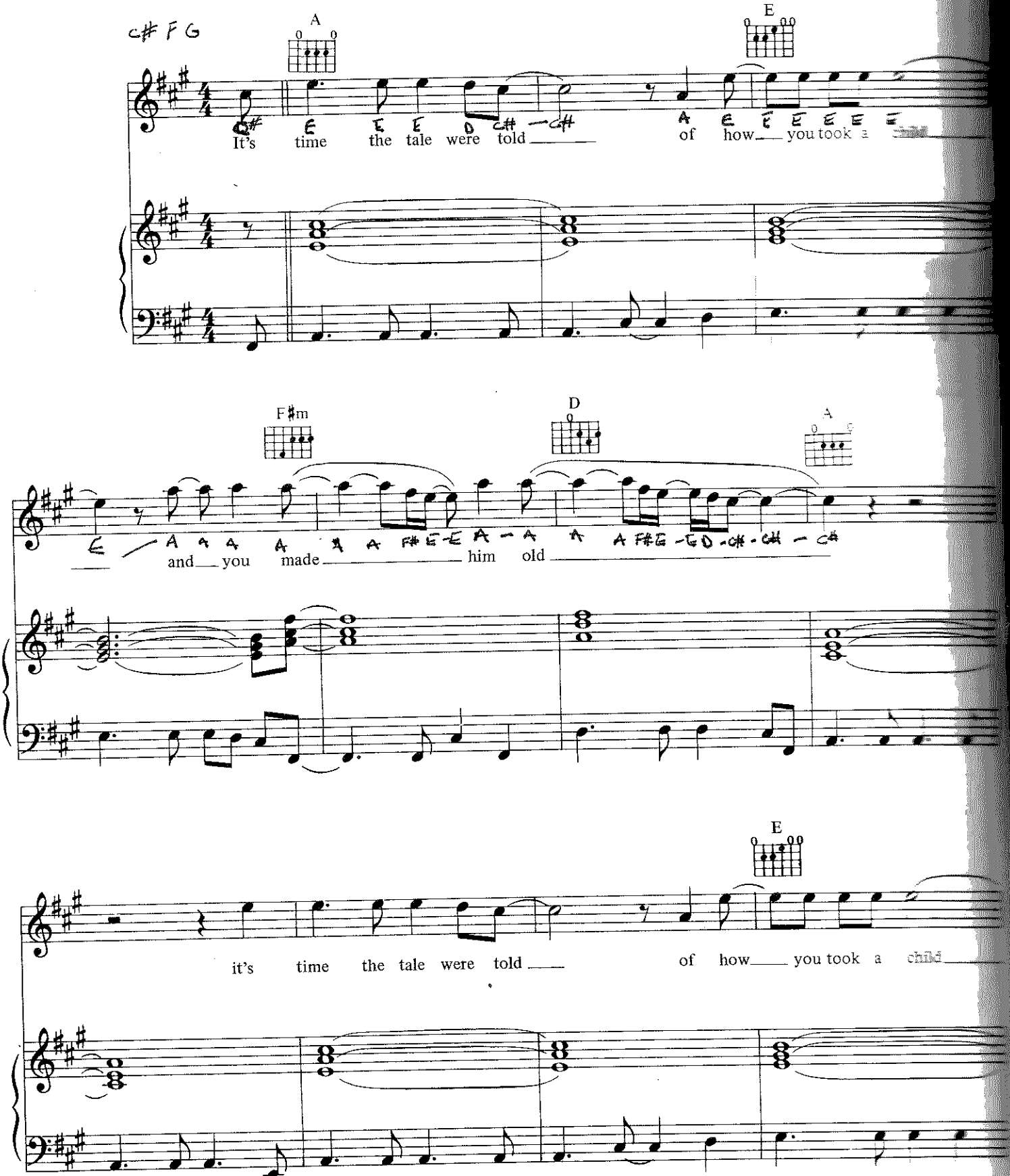
Photo page 6: Angie Brown.



# REEL AROUND THE FOUNTAIN

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

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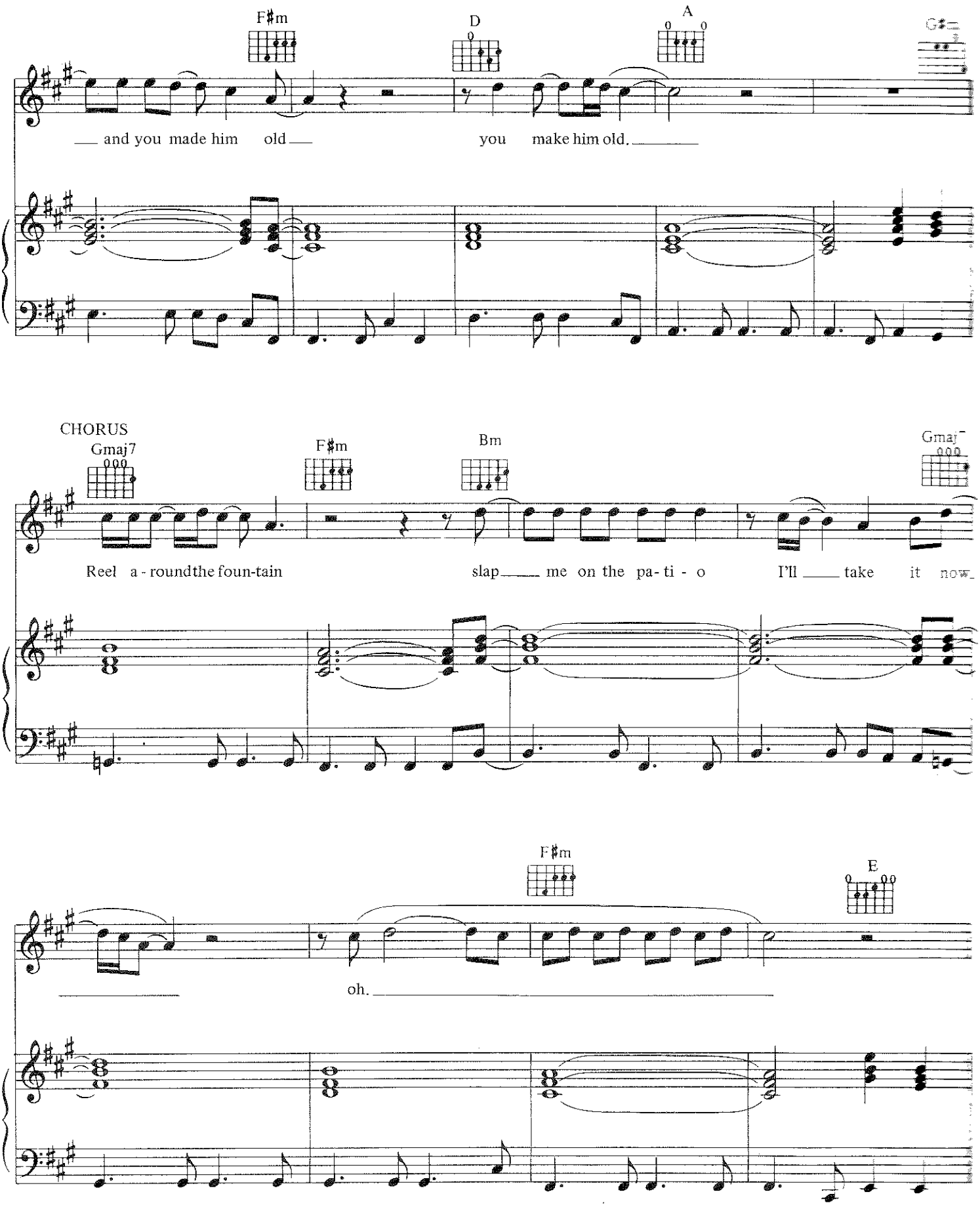
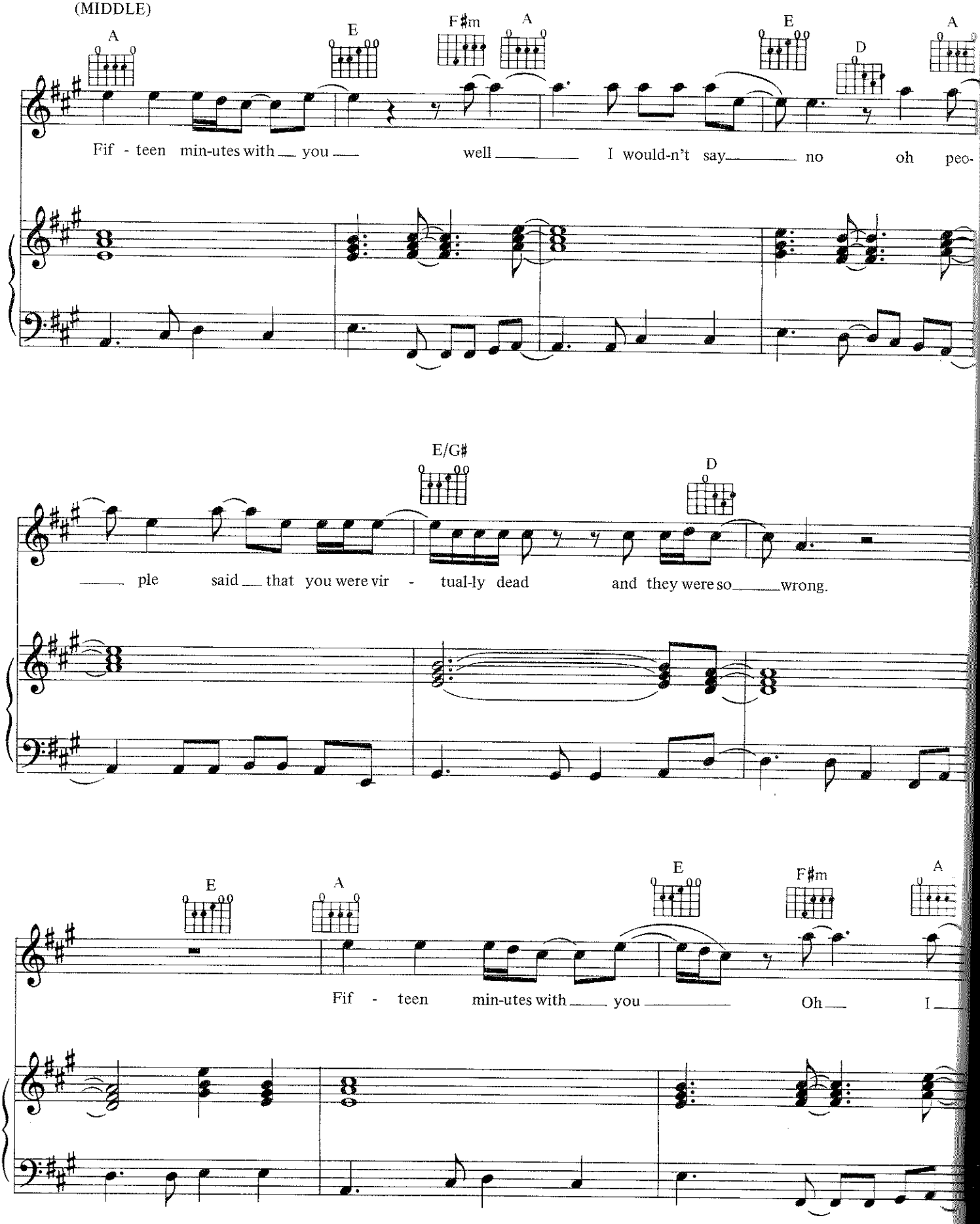
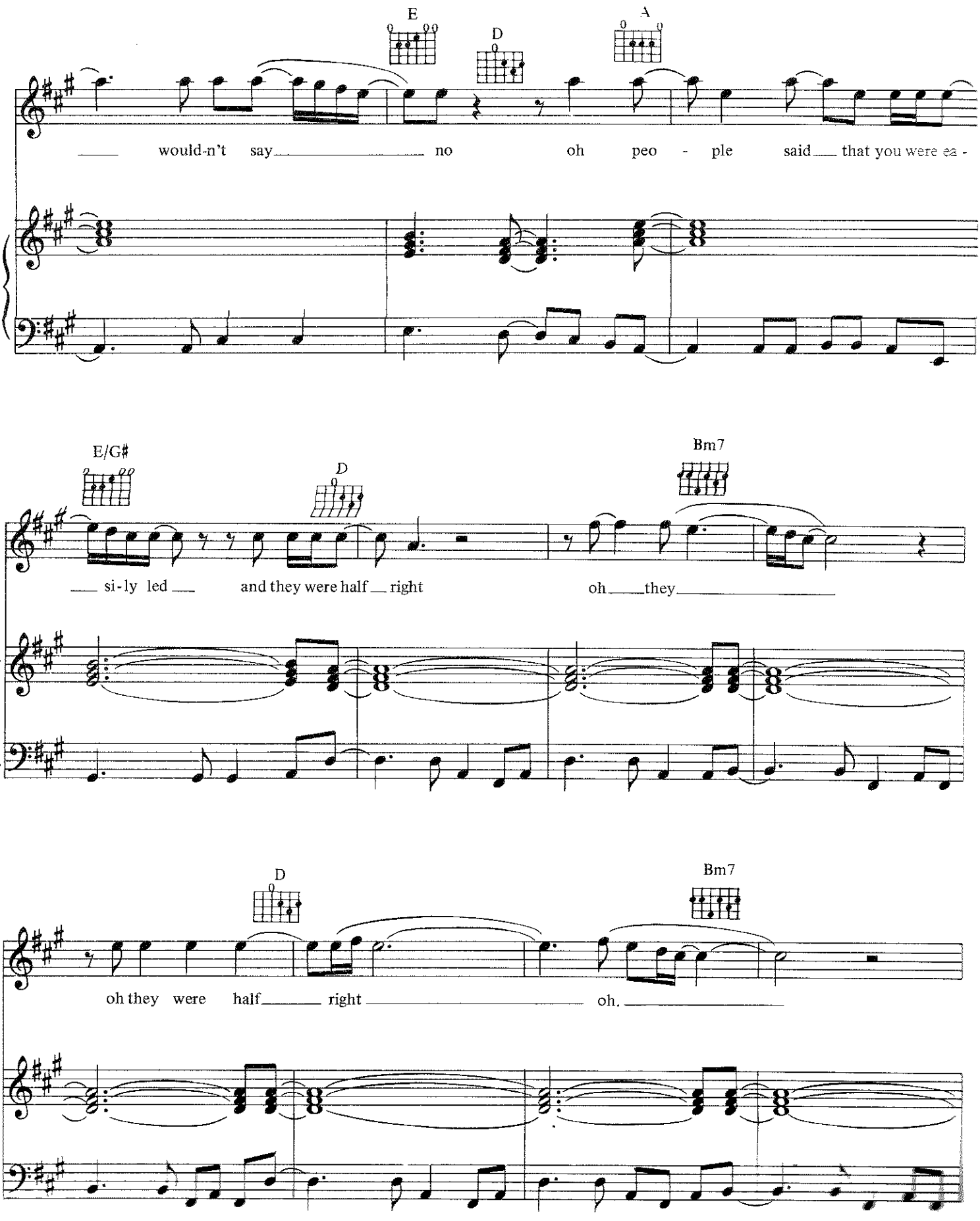
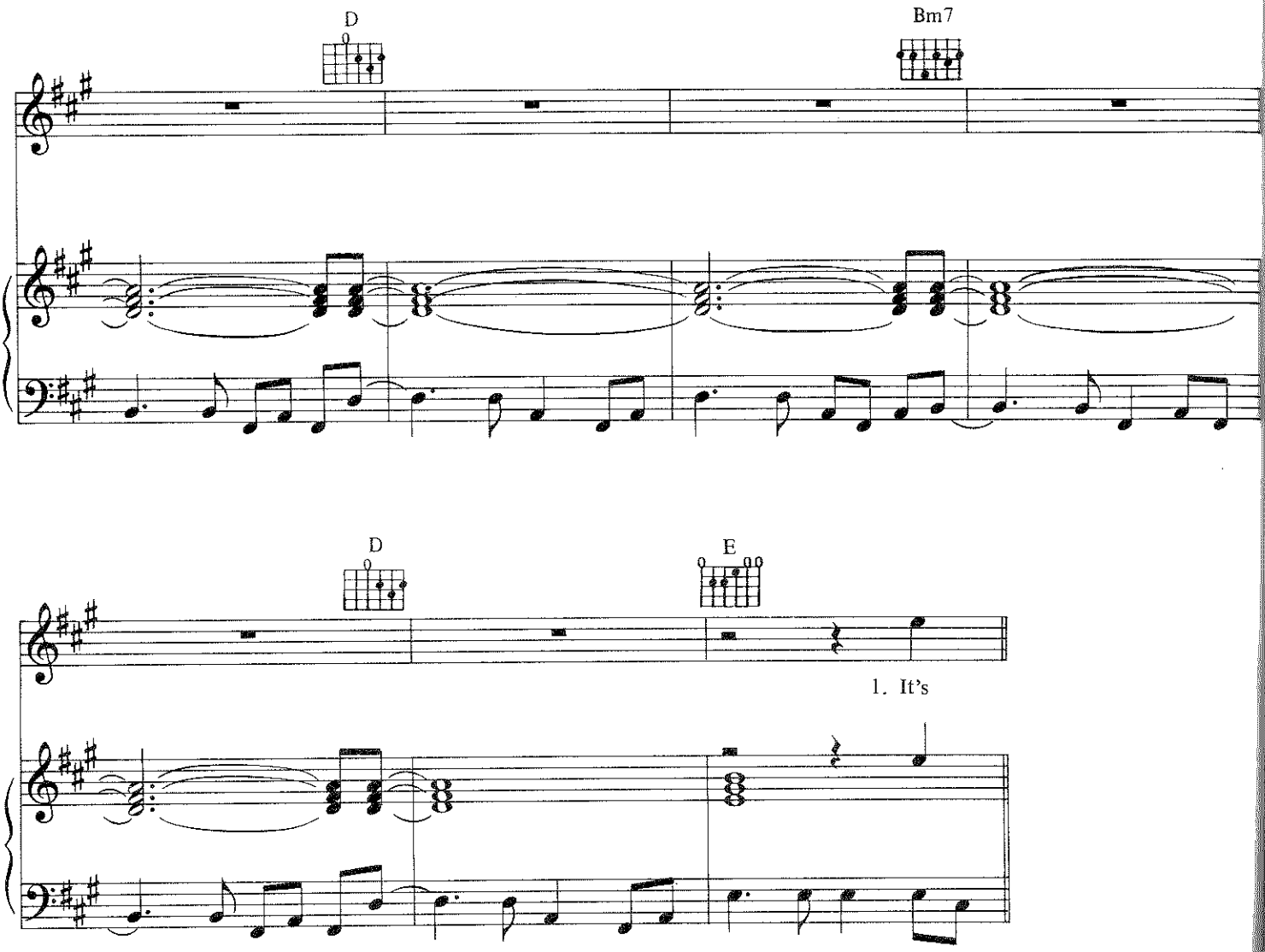

F♯m
D
A
and you made him old
you make him old.
CHORUS
Gmaj7
F♯m
Bm
Reel a - roundthe foun-tain
slap me on the pa- ti - o
I'll take it
F♯m
E
oh.


(MIDDLE)
A
E
F♯m
A
E
D
A
Fif - teen min-utes with you well I would-n't say no oh peo-
E/G♯
D
ple said that you were vir - tual-ly dead and they were so wrong.
E
A
E
F♯m
A
Fif - teen min-utes with you Oh I


E
D
A
would-n't say no oh peo - ple said that you were ea -
E/G#
D
Bm7
si-ly led and they were half right oh they
D
Bm7
oh they were half right oh.




*VERSE 1 + CHORUS: (Repeat)*

*MIDDLE:* Fifteen minutes with you
Oh I wouldn't say no
People see no worth in you
Oh but I do

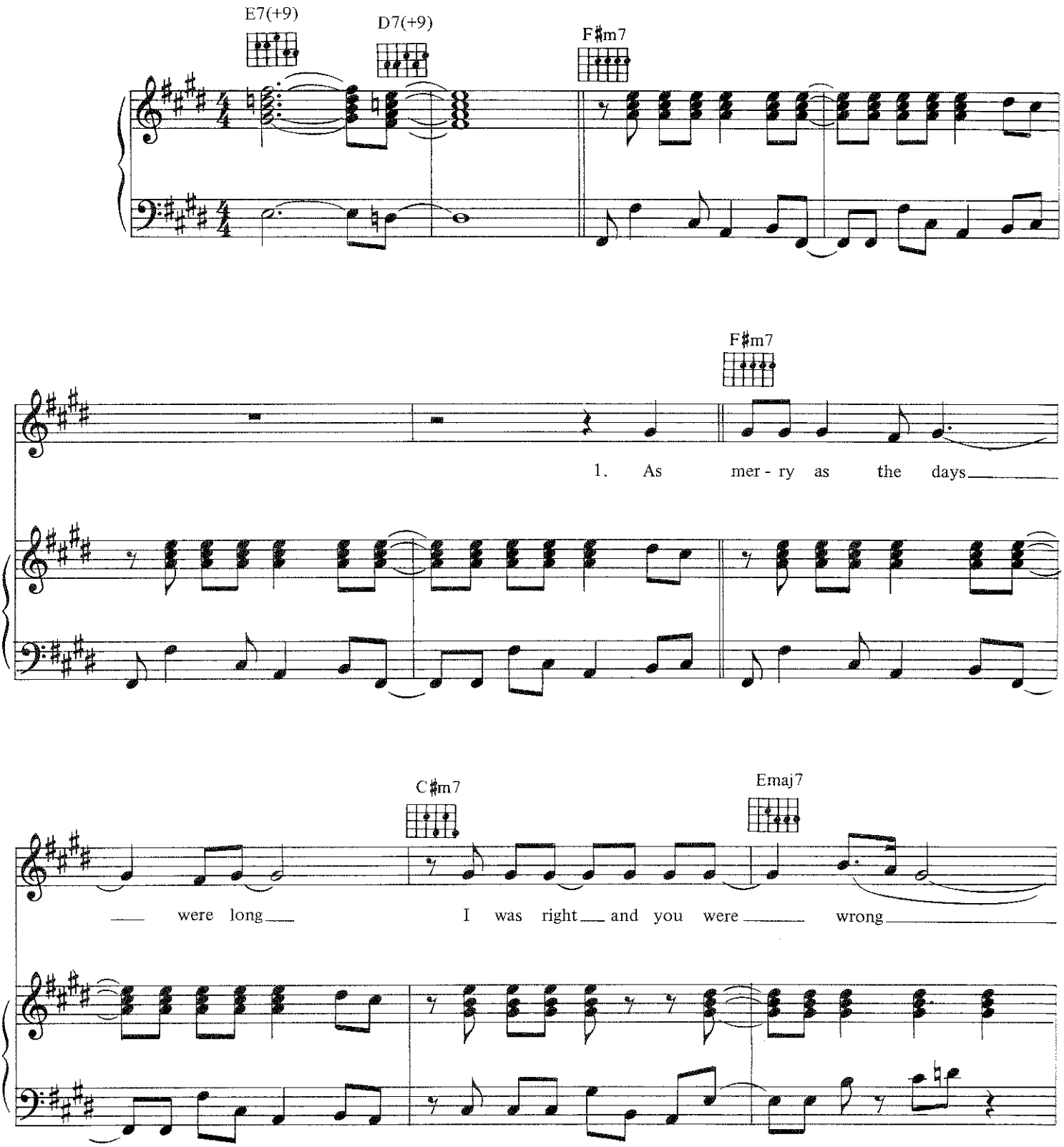
*VERSE 2:* I dreamt about you last night
And I fell out of bed twice
You can pin and mount me like a butterfly
But take me to the haven of your bed
Was something that you never said
Two lumps, please
You're the bee's knees
But so am I.

*CHORUS:* Meet me at the fountain
Shove me on the patio
I'll take it slowly.

*MIDDLE:* *(Repeat as 2º)*

# YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING NOW

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

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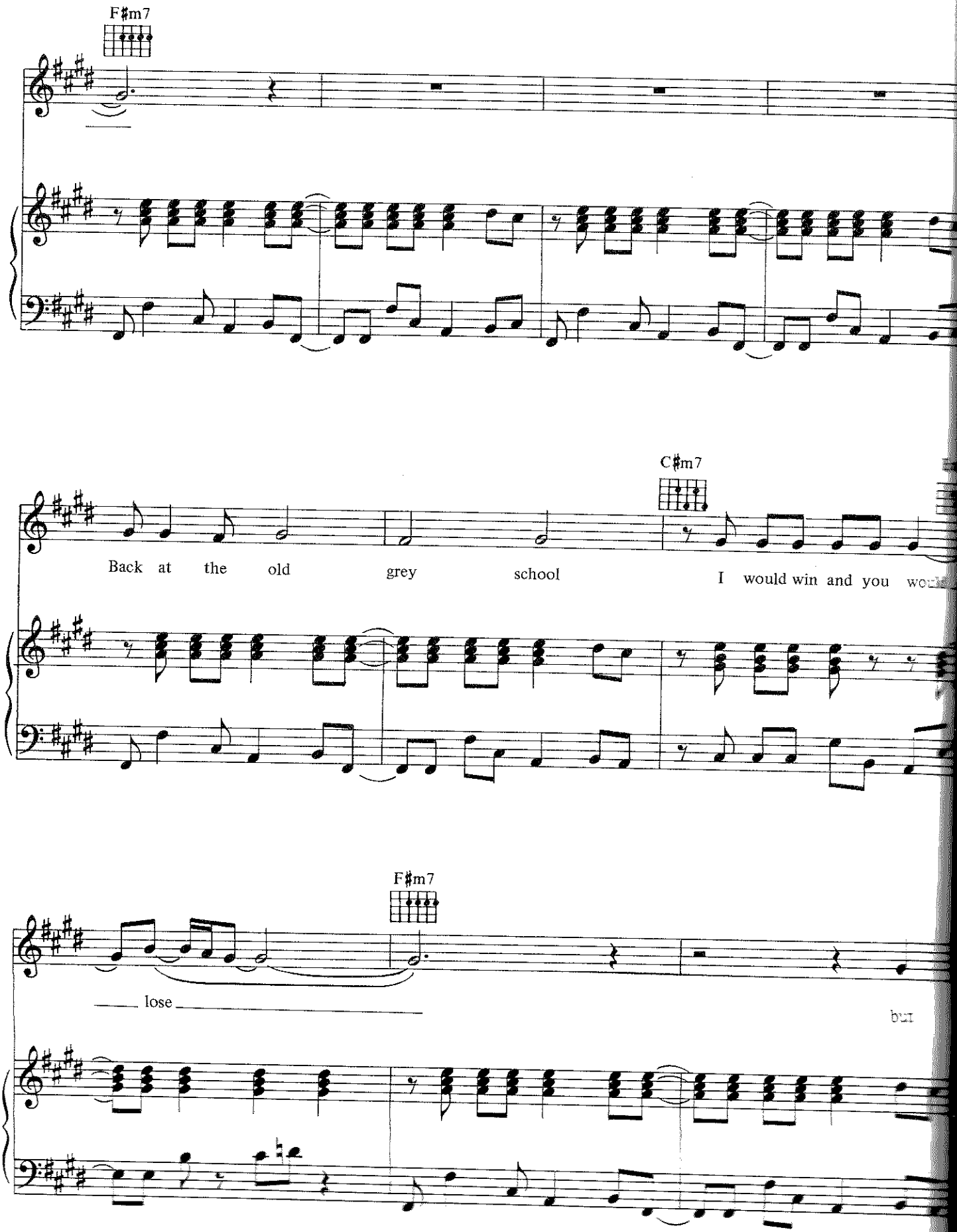
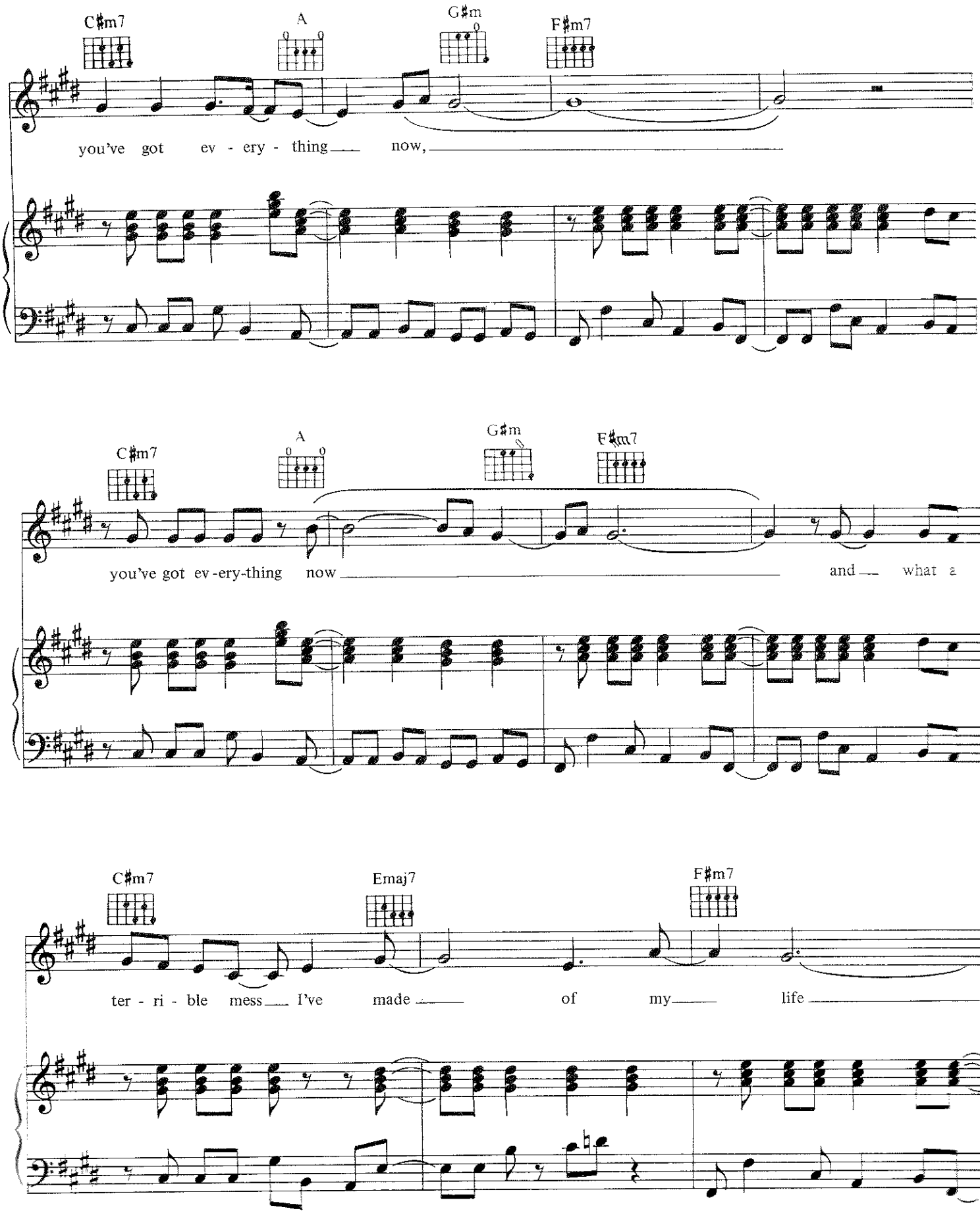
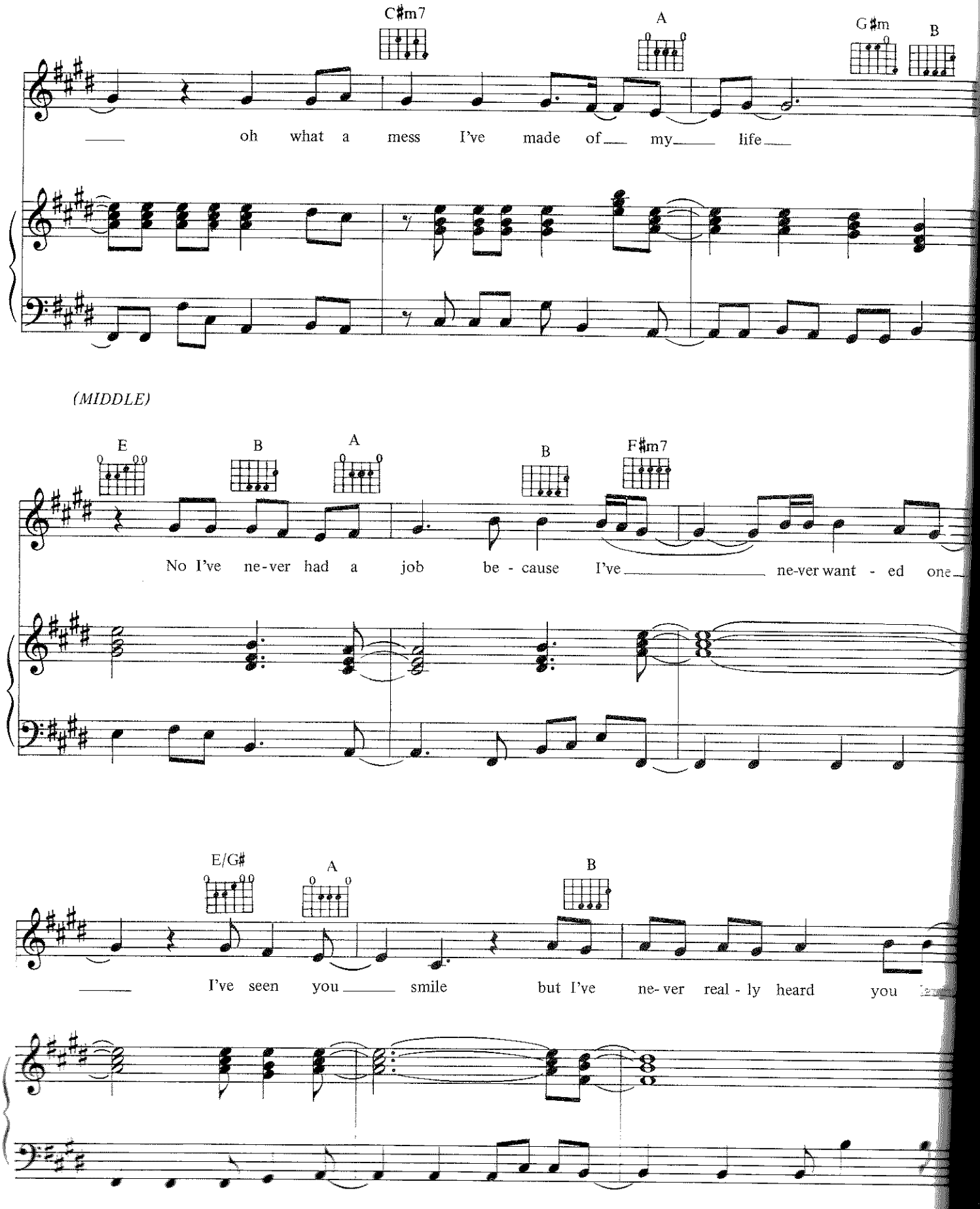
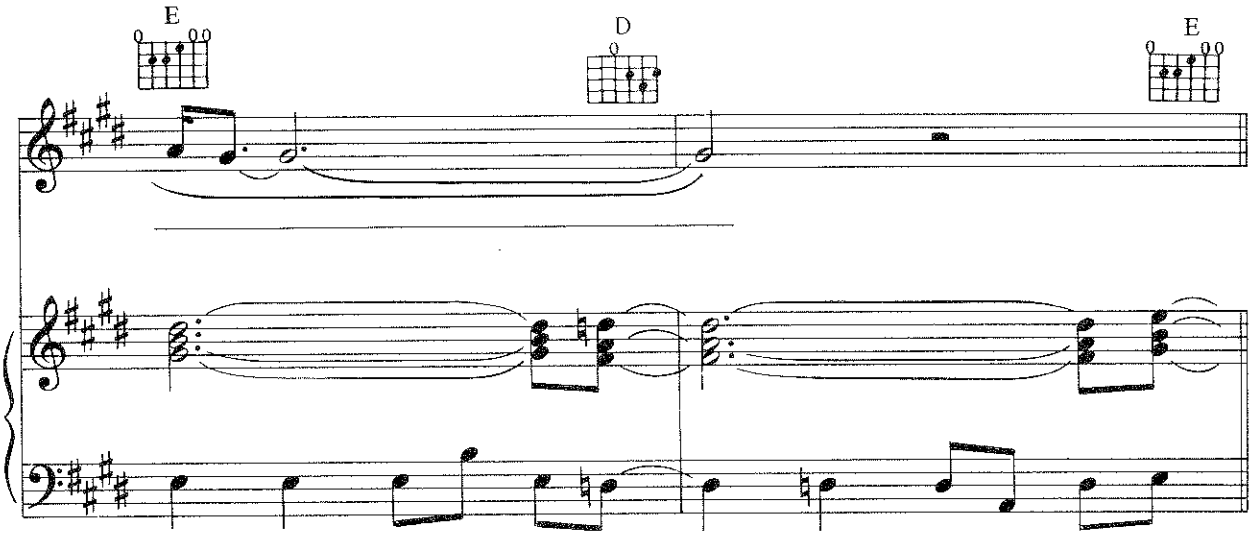

F♯m7
C♯m7
Back at the old grey school
I would win and you
F♯m7
lose
but

*(CHORUS)*


C♯m7
A
G♯m
F♯m7
you've got ev - ery - thing now,
C♯m7
A
G♯m
F♯m7
you've got ev-ery-thing now and what a
C♯m7
Emaj7
F♯m7
ter - ri - ble mess I've made of my life


C♯m7
A
G♯m
B
oh what a mess I've made of my life
(MIDDLE)
E
B
A
B
F♯m7
No I've ne-ver had a job be - cause I've ne-ver want - ed one
E/G♯
A
B
I've seen you smile but I've ne-ver real - ly heard you




*MIDDLE:* So who is rich and who is poor?
*(cont.)* I cannot say,

You are your mother's only son
And you're a desperate one

But I don't want a lover
I just want to be seen
In the back of your car
(C♯m7)

*VERSE 2:* A friendship sadly lost?
Well, this is true. . . . and yet, it's false

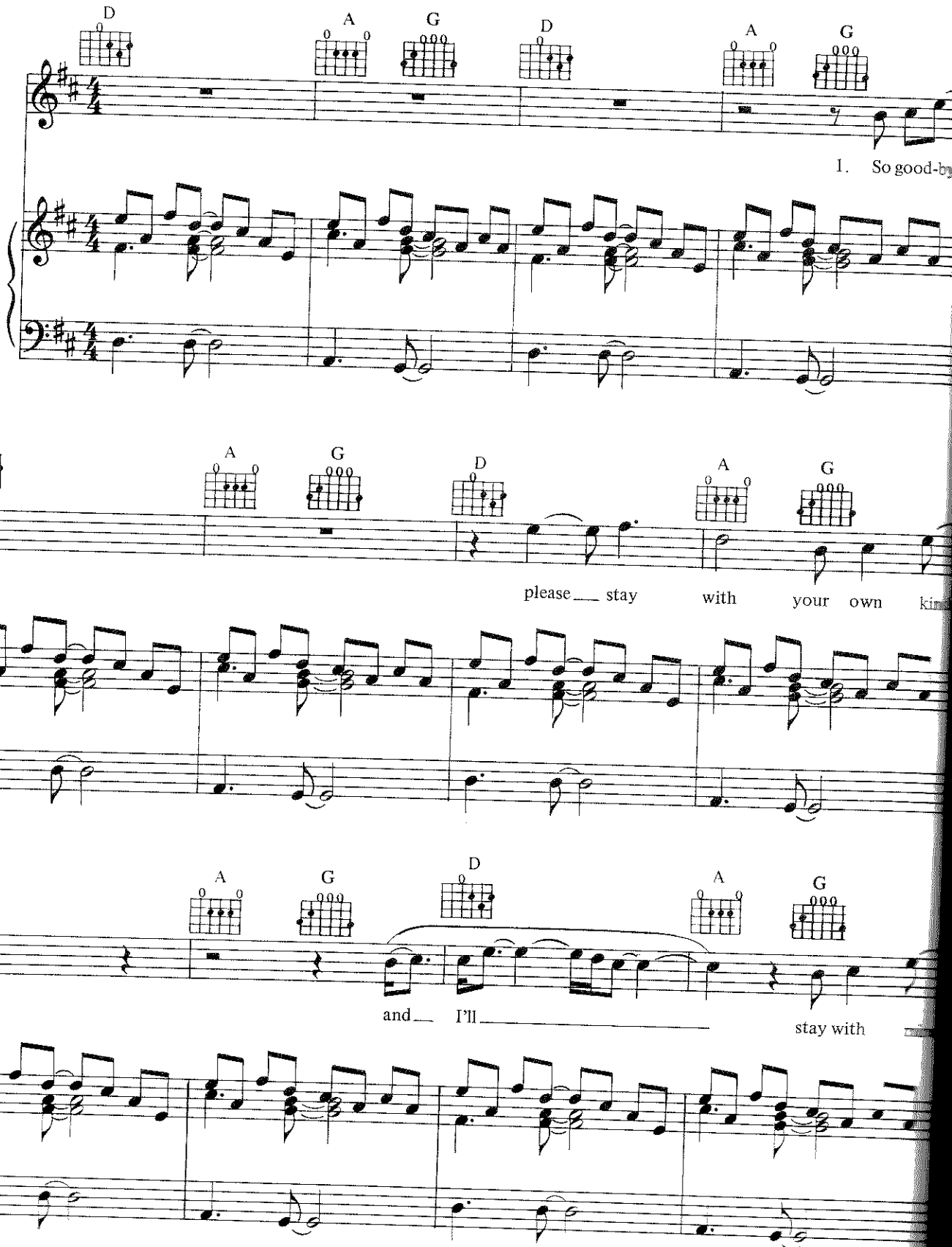
Did I ever tell you, by the way
I never did like your face

*CHORUS:* *(Repeat)*

*MIDDLE:* No, I've never had a job
Because I'm too shy
I've seen you smile
But I've never really heard you laugh
So who is rich and who is poor?
I cannot say
You are your mother's only son
And you're a desperate one
But I don't want a lover
I just want to be tied
To the back of your car.
*(fade on E / D / A / C / D)*

# MISERABLE LIE

Words by MORRISSE
Music by JOHNNY MA

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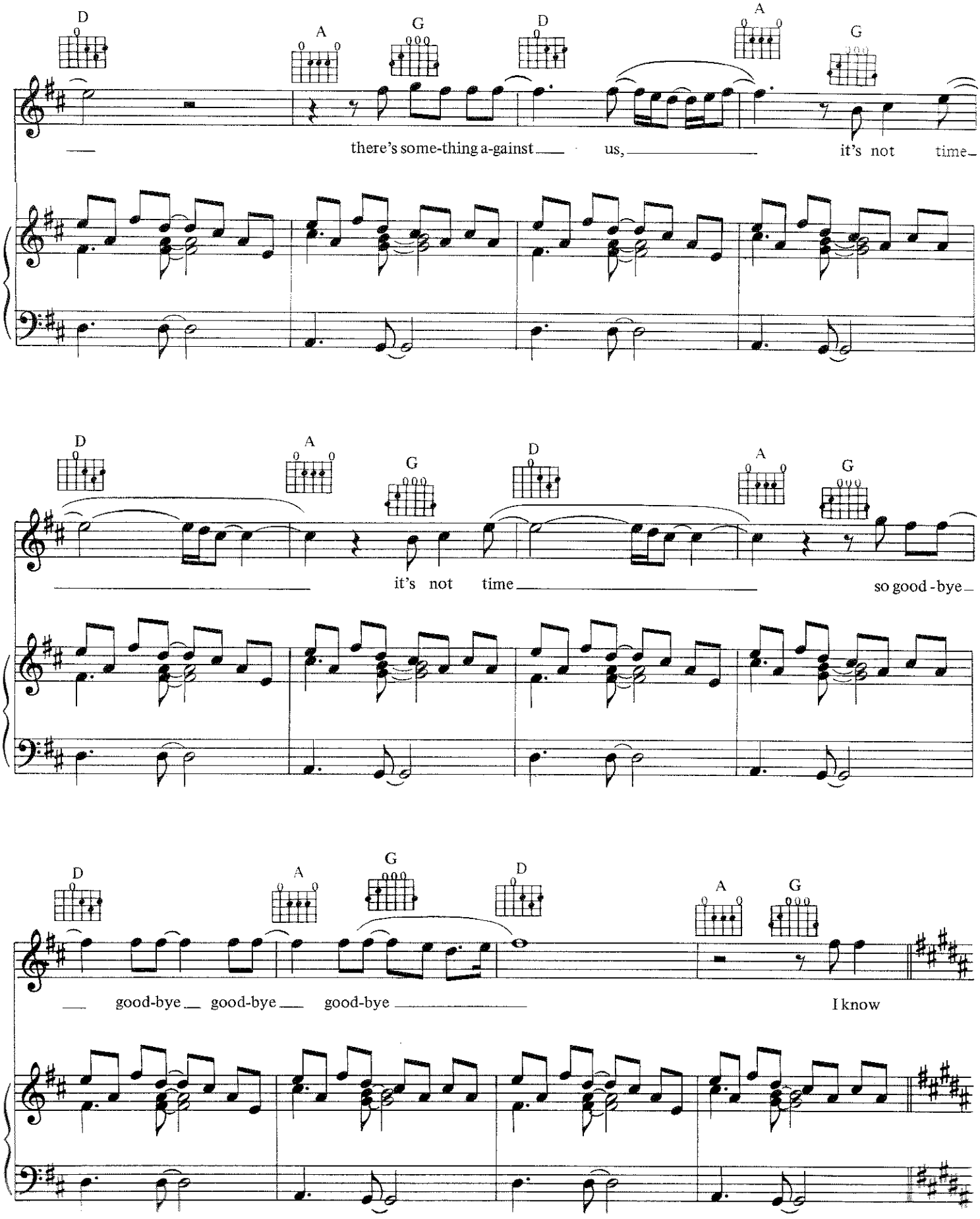
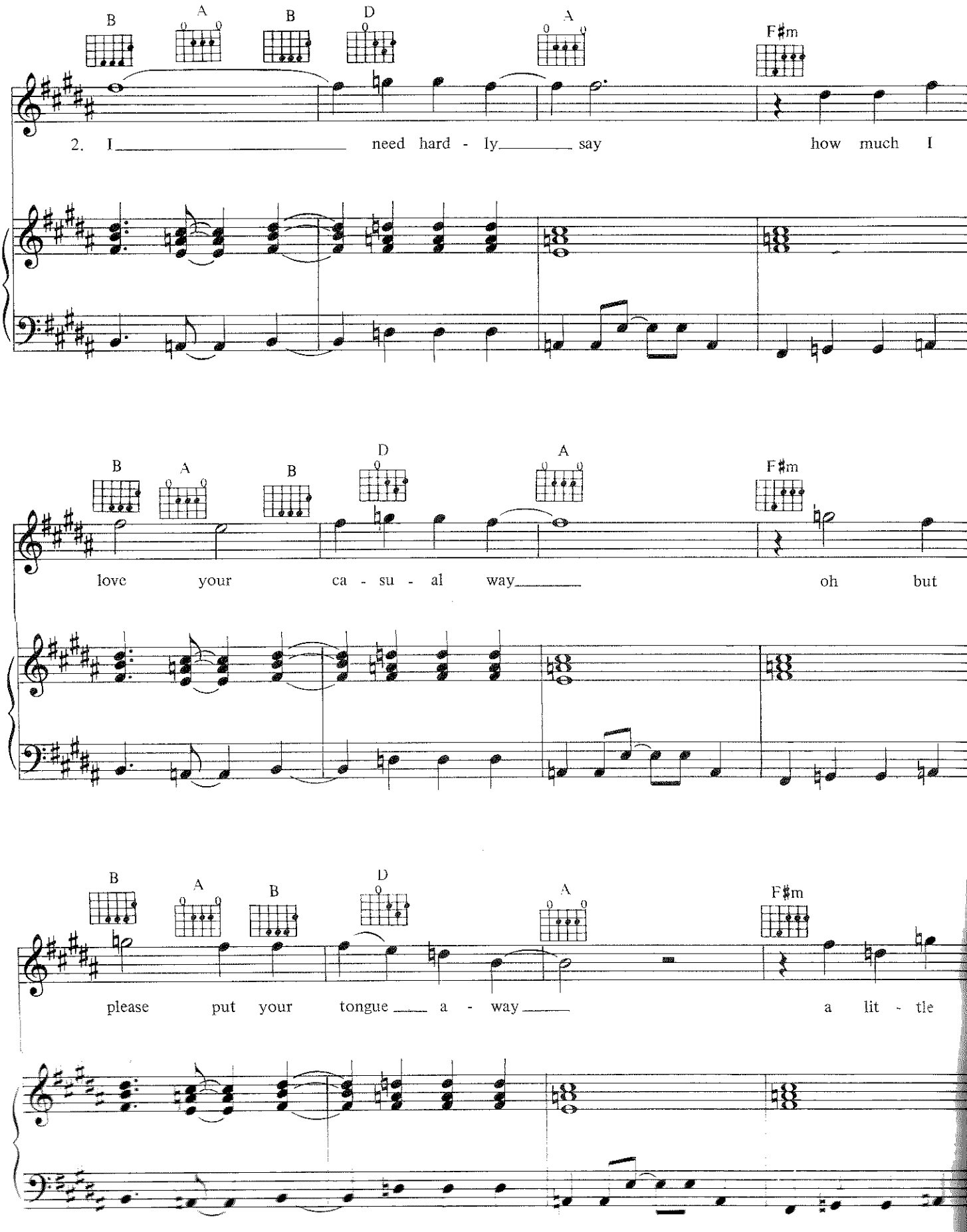
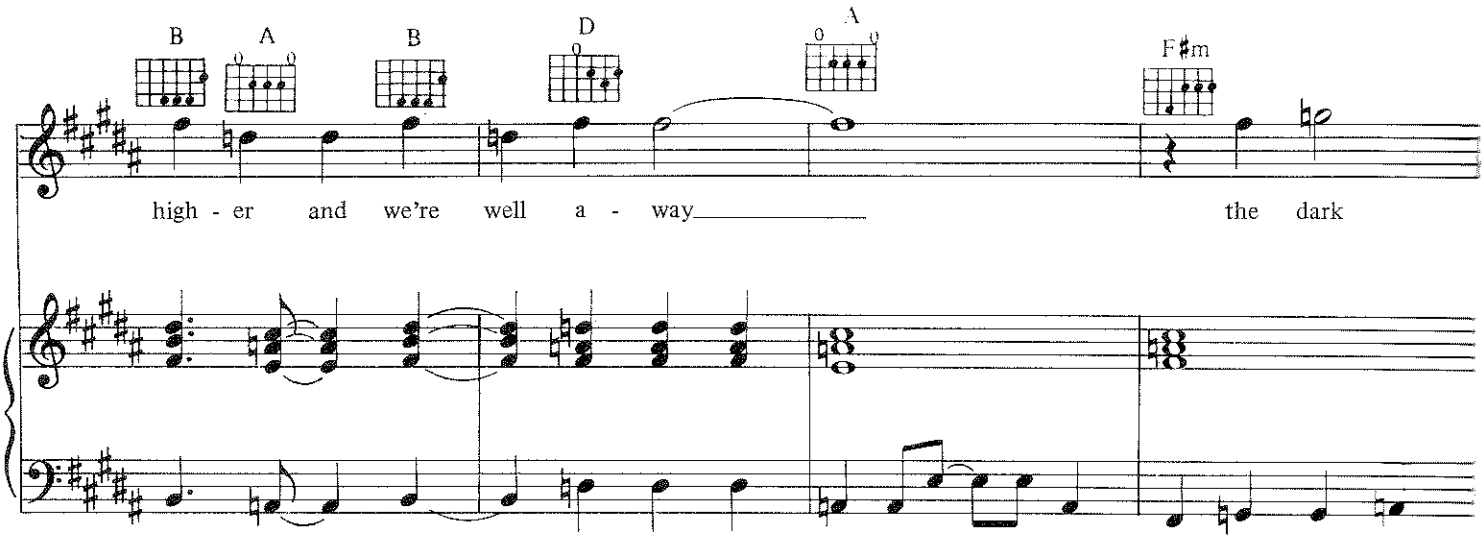
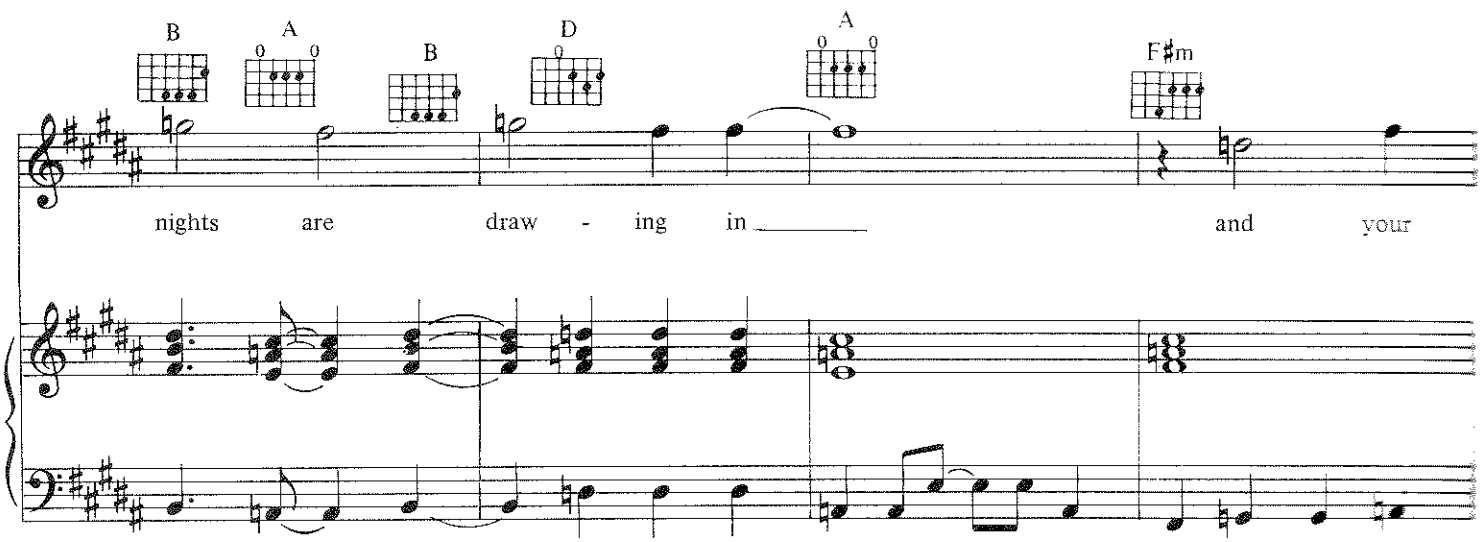
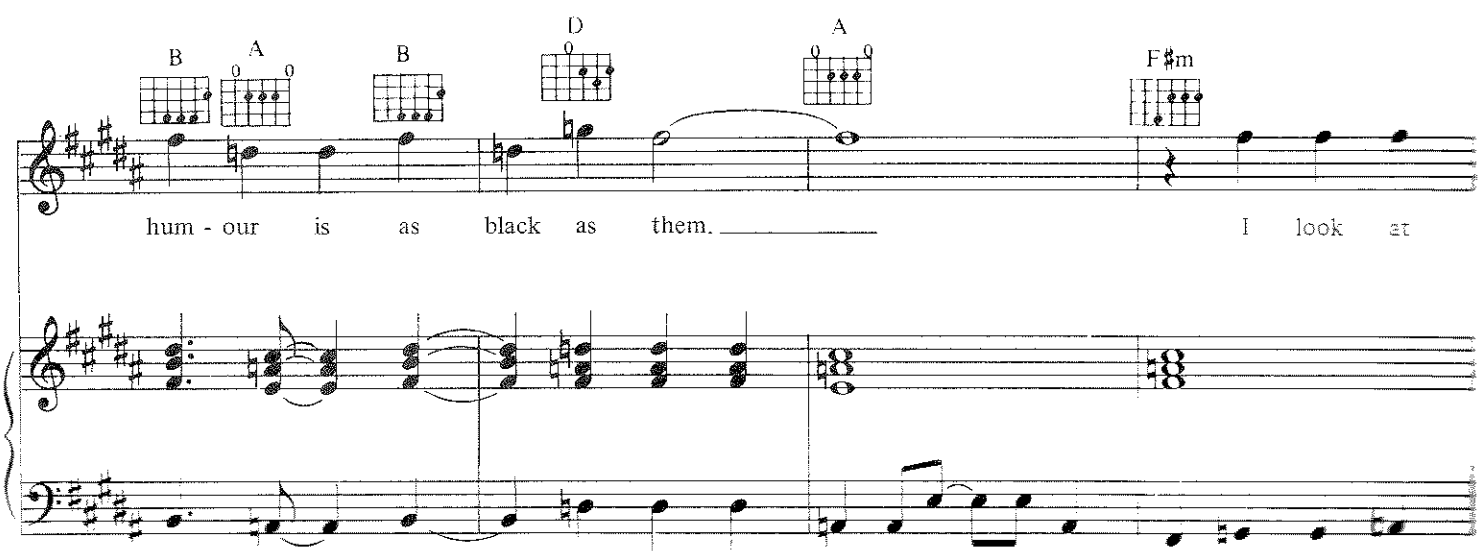
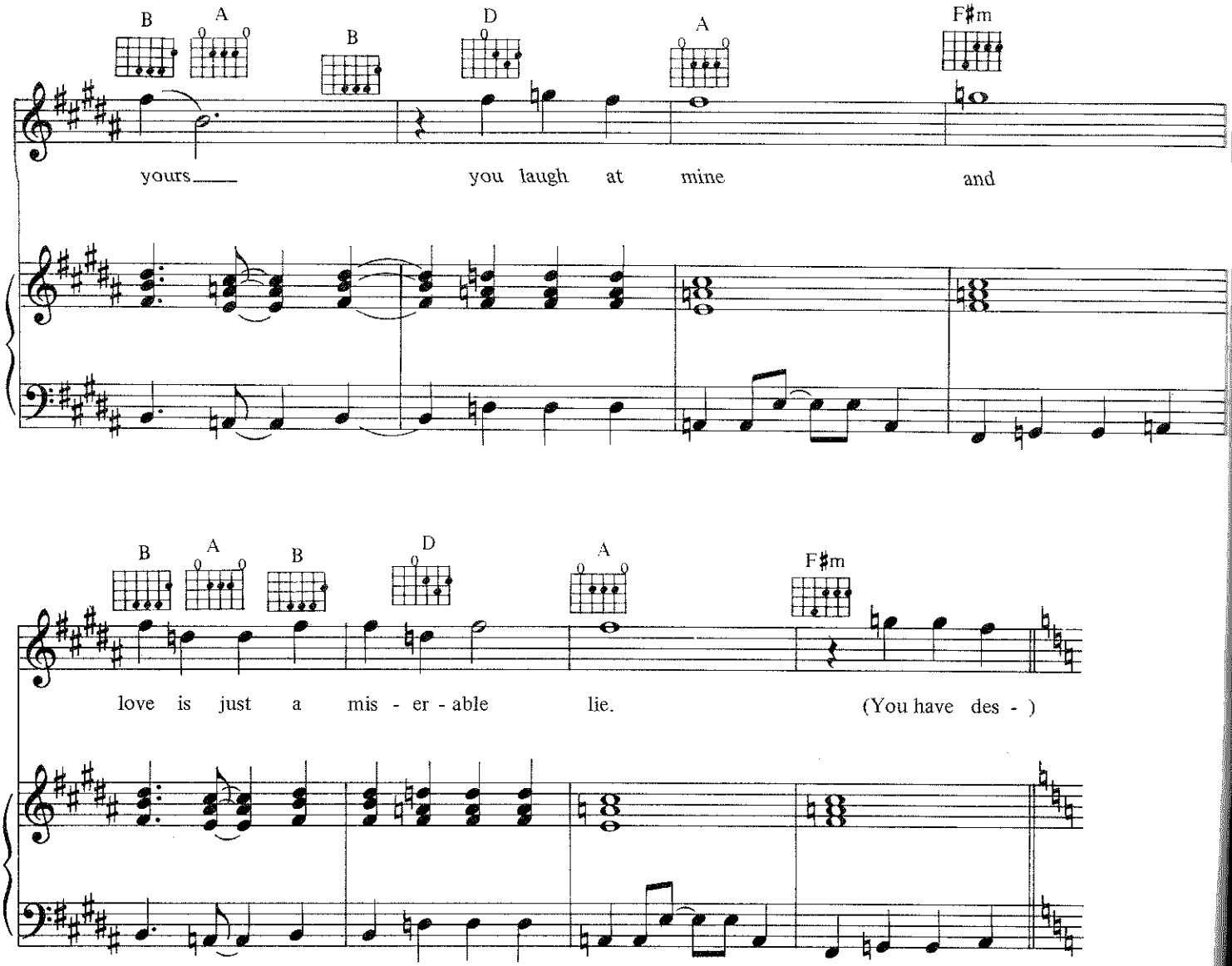

D
A
G
D
A
G
there's some-thing a-gainst us, it's not time
D
A
G
D
A
G
it's not time so good-bye
D
A
G
D
A
G
good-bye good-bye good-bye
I know


B
A
B
D
A
F♯m
2. I need hard - ly say how much I
B
A
B
D
A
F♯m
love your ca - su - al way oh but
B
A
B
D
A
F♯m
please put your tongue a - way a lit - tle


B
A
B
D
A
F♯m
high - er and we're well a - way
the dark


B
A
B
D
A
F♯m
nights are draw - ing in
and your


B
A
B
D
A
F♯m
hum - our is as black as them.
I look at




*VERSE 2:* You have destroyed my flower-like life
*(Cont.)* Not once – but twice
You have corrupt my innocent mind
Not once – but twice
I know the wind-swept mystical air
It means: I'd like to see your underwear
I recognise that mystical air
It means: I'd like to seize your underwear
What do we get for our trouble and pain?
Just a rented room in Whalley Range
Into the depths of the criminal world
I followed her. . . .

*(cont.)* I need advice, I need advice
Because nobody ever looks at me twice

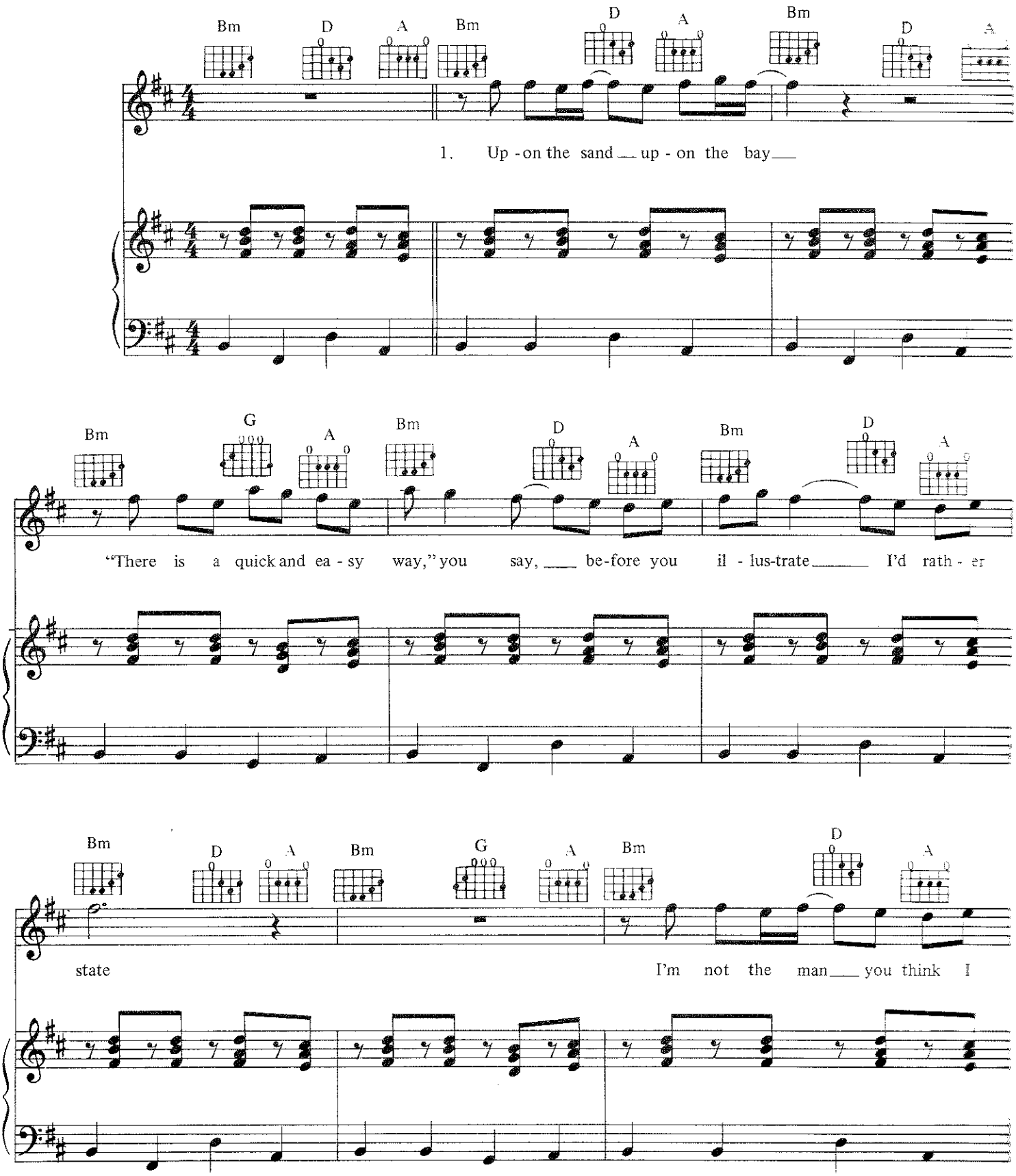
I'm just a country-mile behind
The world

I'm just a country-mile behind
The whole world

So take me when you go.

# PRETTY GIRLS MAKE GRAVES

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

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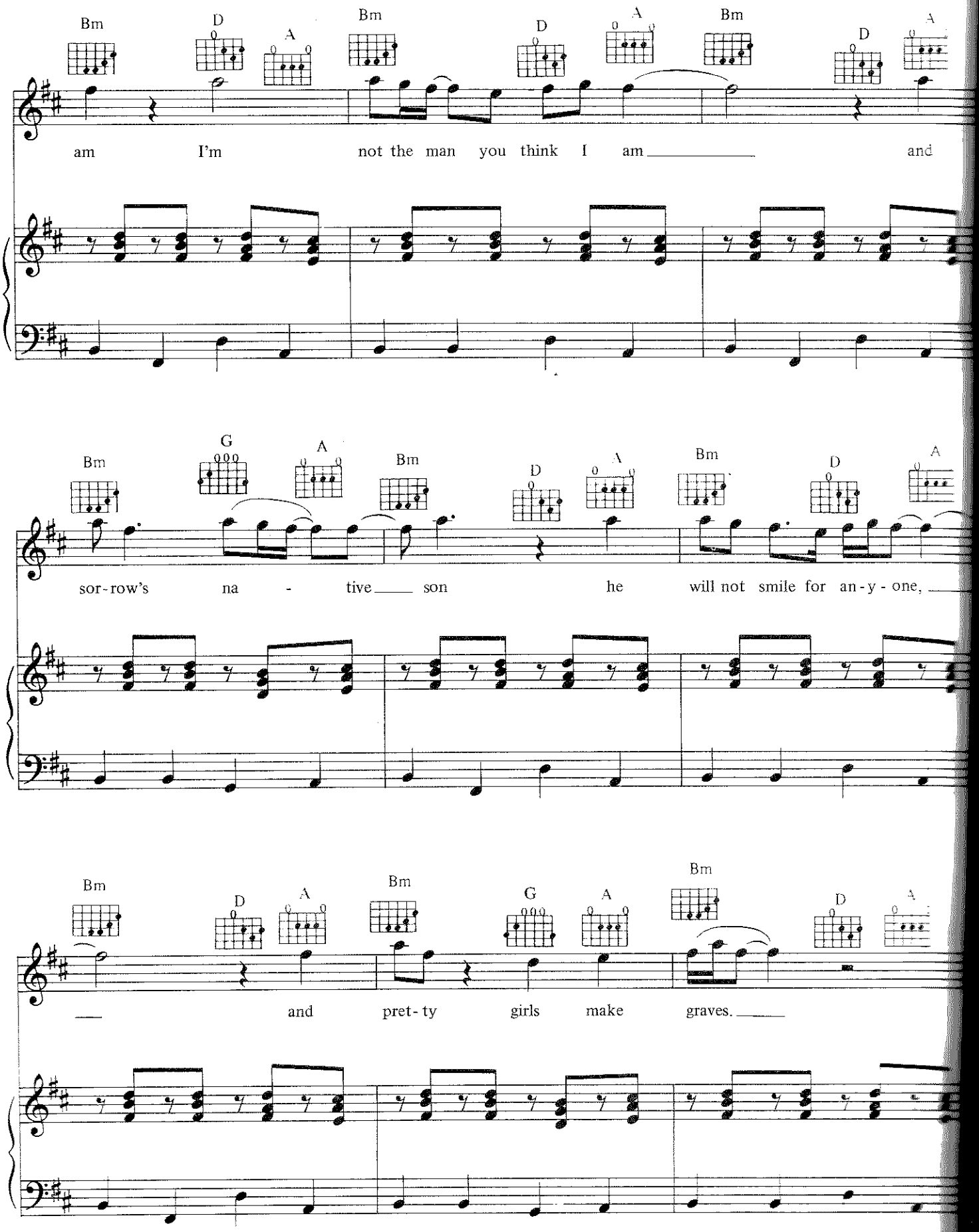
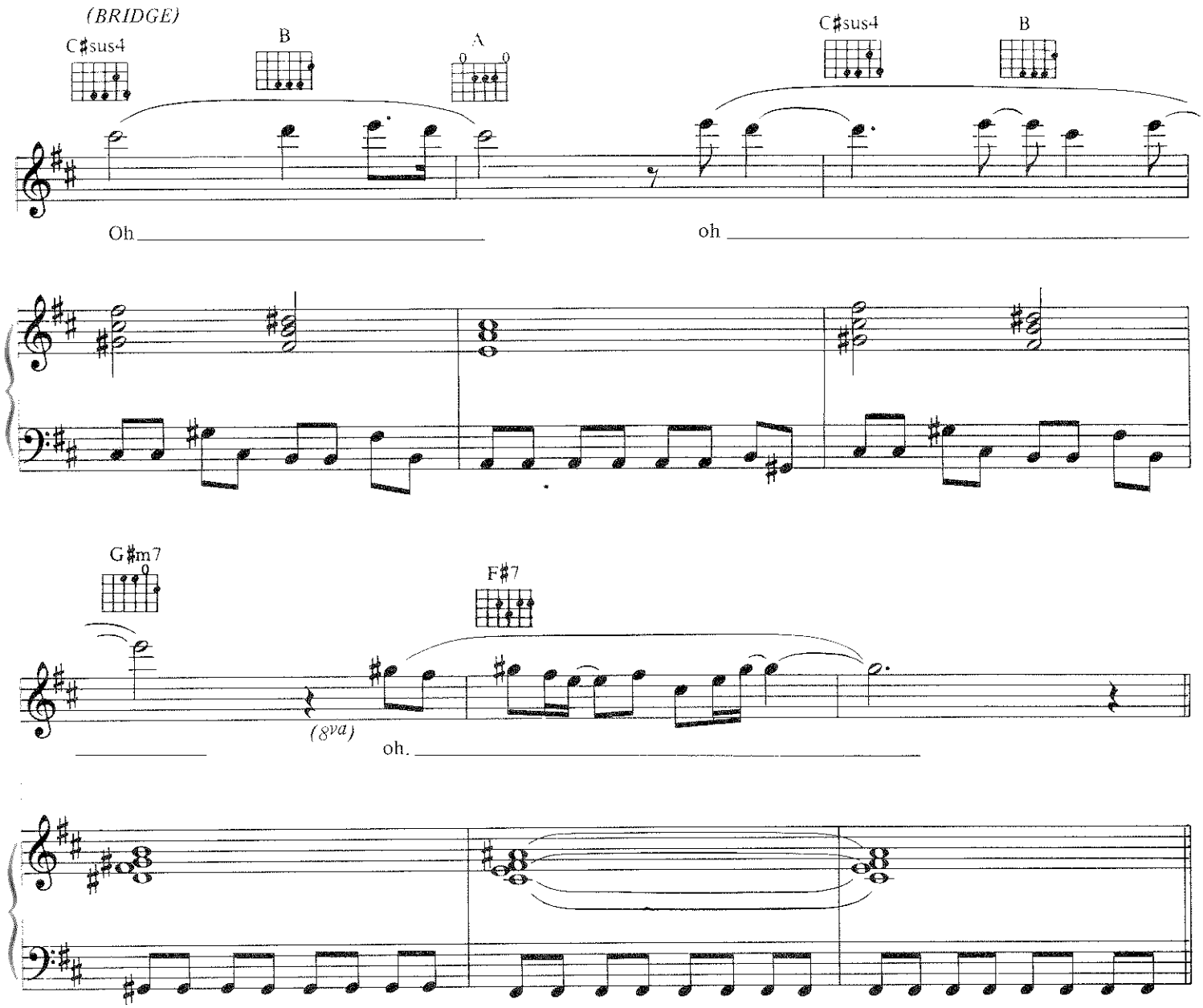

Bm D A Bm D A Bm D A
am I'm not the man you think I am and
Bm G A Bm D A Bm D A
sor-row's na - tive son he will not smile for an-y-one,
Bm D A Bm G A Bm D A
and pret-ty girls make graves.




*VERSE 2:* End of the pier, end of the bay
You tug my arm and say: "Give in to lust,
Give up to lust, oh heaven knows we'll
Soon be dust. . . ."

"I'm not the man you think I am
I'm not the man you think I am."

And Sorrow's native son
He will not rise for anyone

And pretty girls make graves.

*BRIDGE:* *(Repeat)*

*VERSE 3:* I could have been wild and I could have been free
But Nature played this trick on me

She wants it Now
And she will not wait
But she's too rough
And I'm too delicate

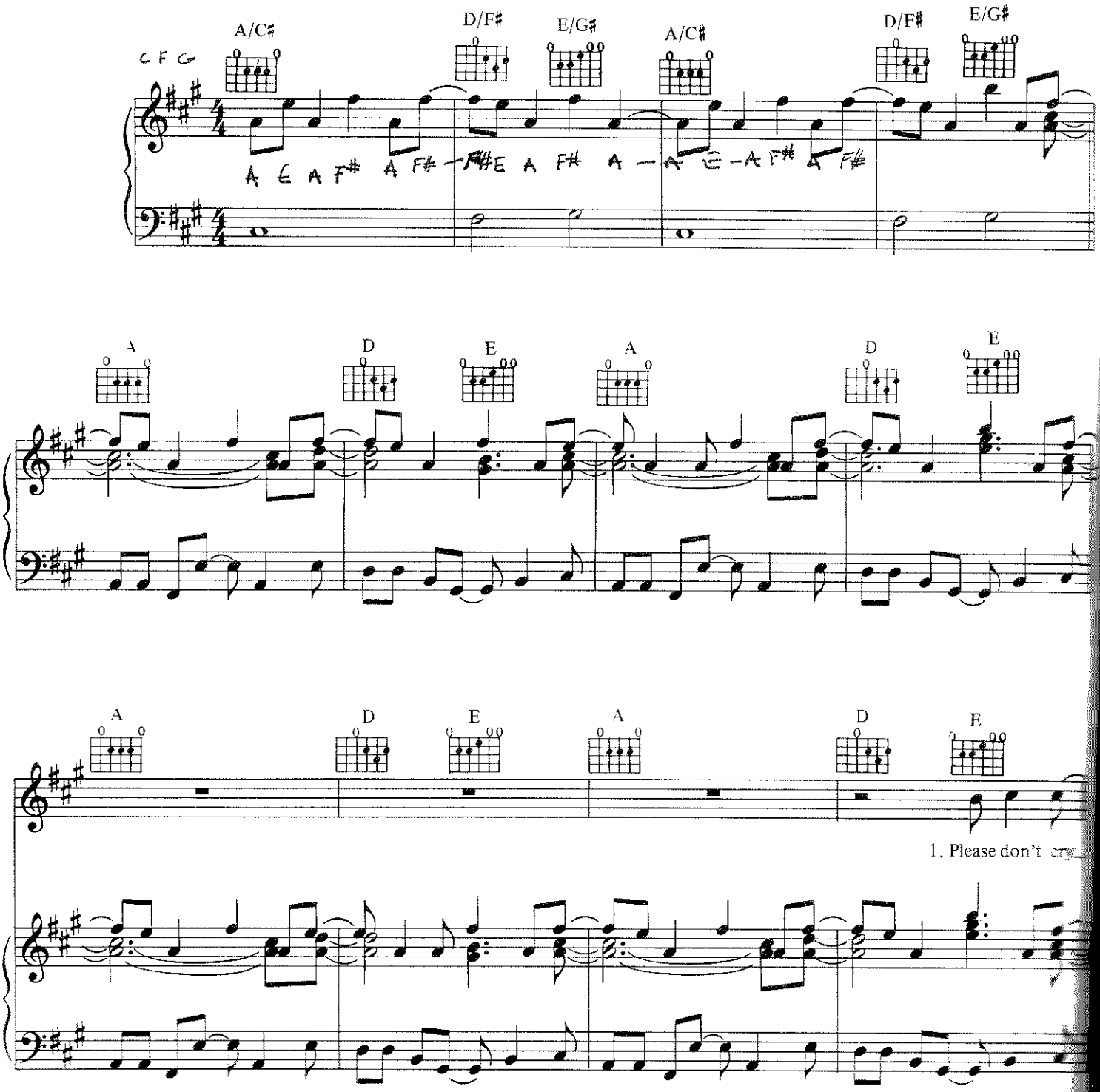
Then, on the sand
Another man, he takes her hand
A smile lights up her stupid face
(And well, it would)

I lost my faith in Womanhood
I lost my faith in Womanhood
I lost my faith

*BRIDGE:* *(Repeat)* + Ad Lib Vox on F♯7
(*fade*: F♯m / D
F♯

# THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

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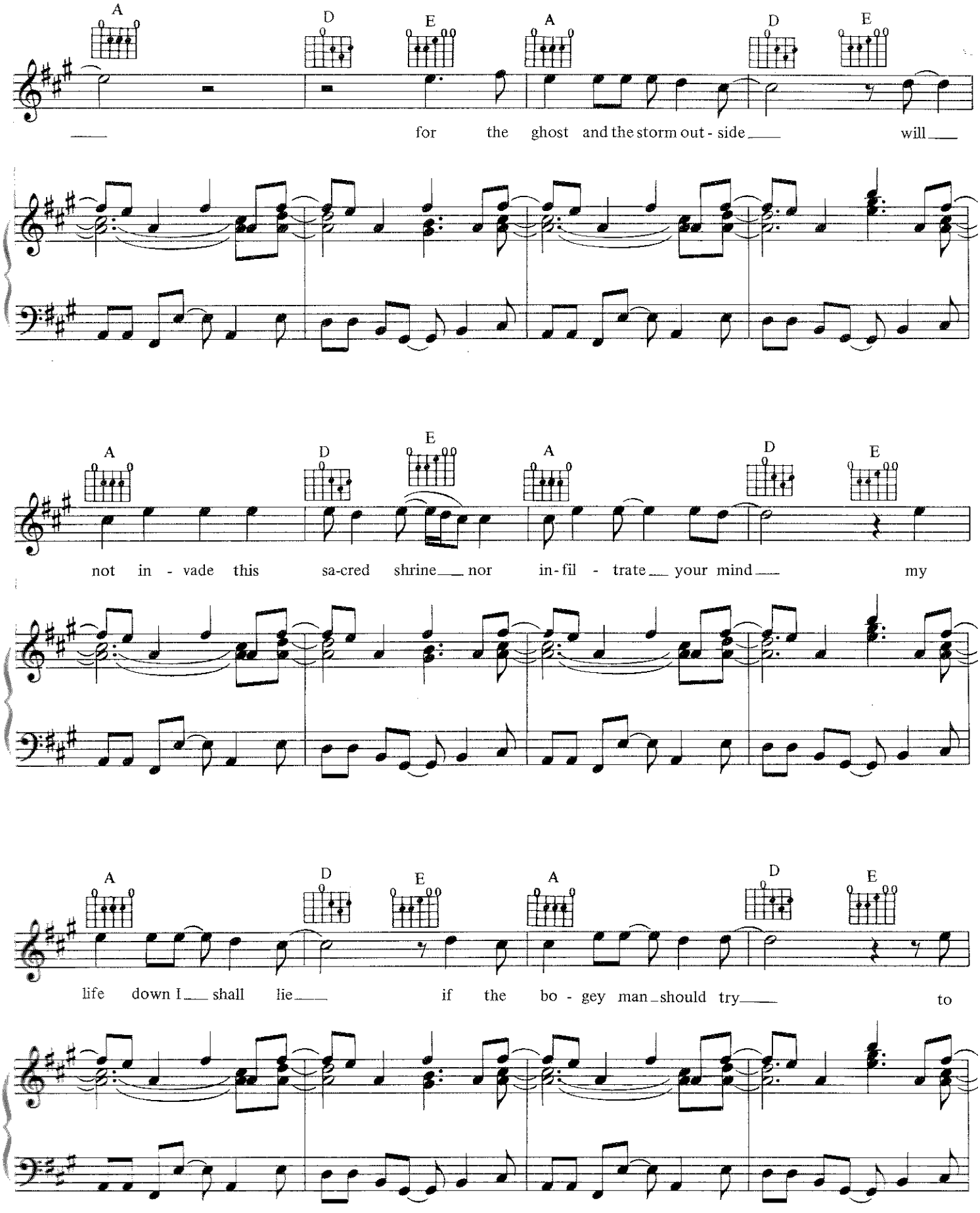
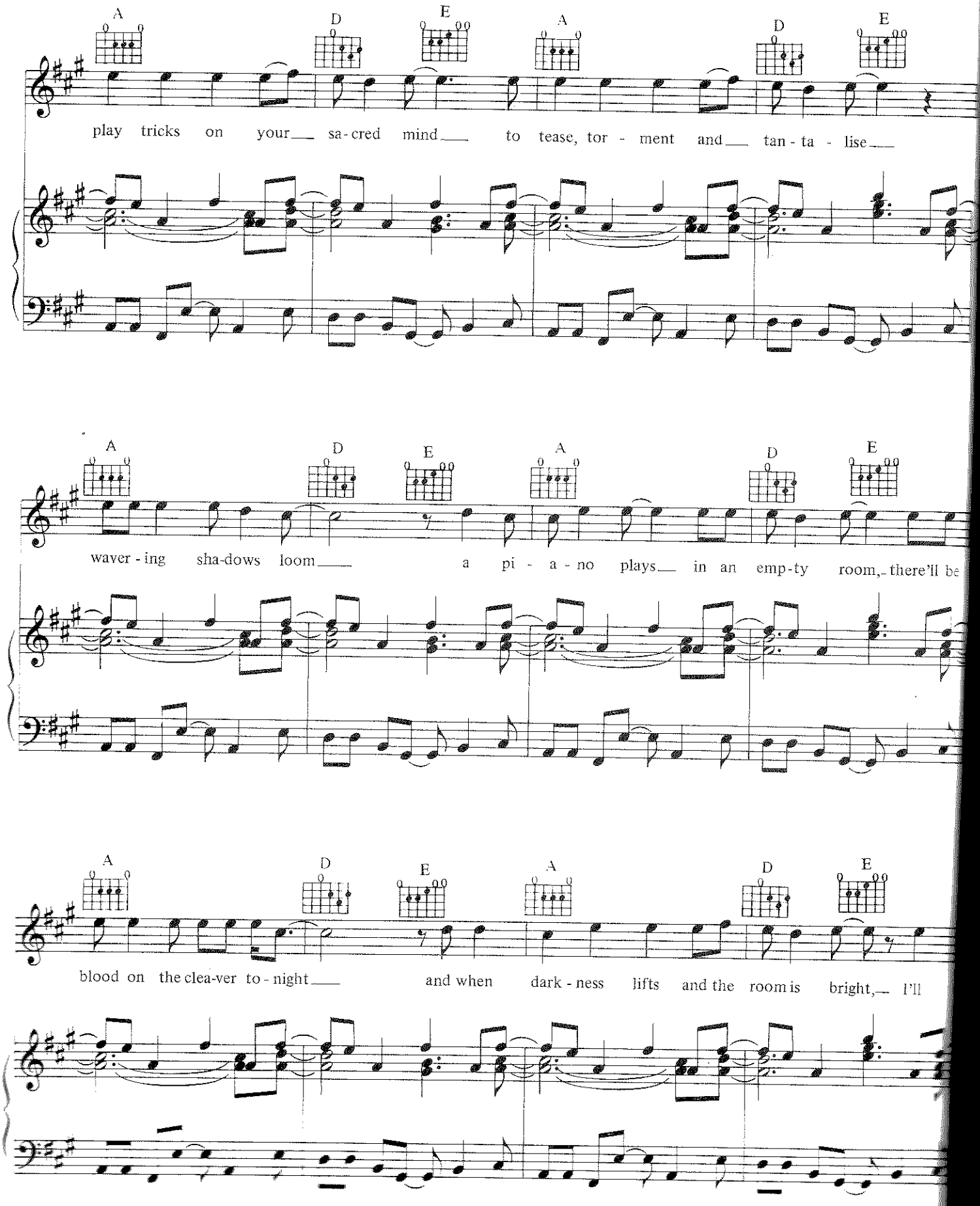
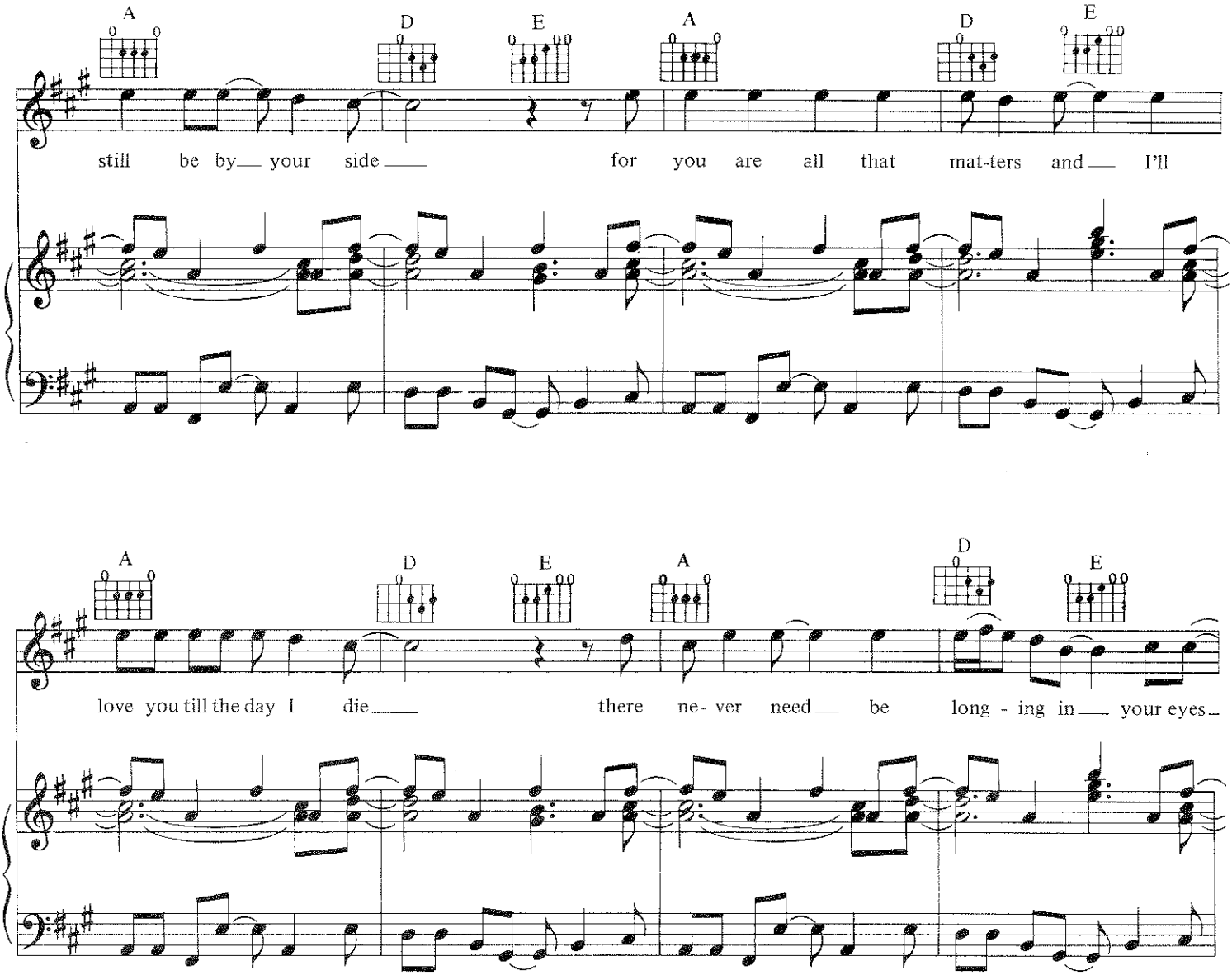
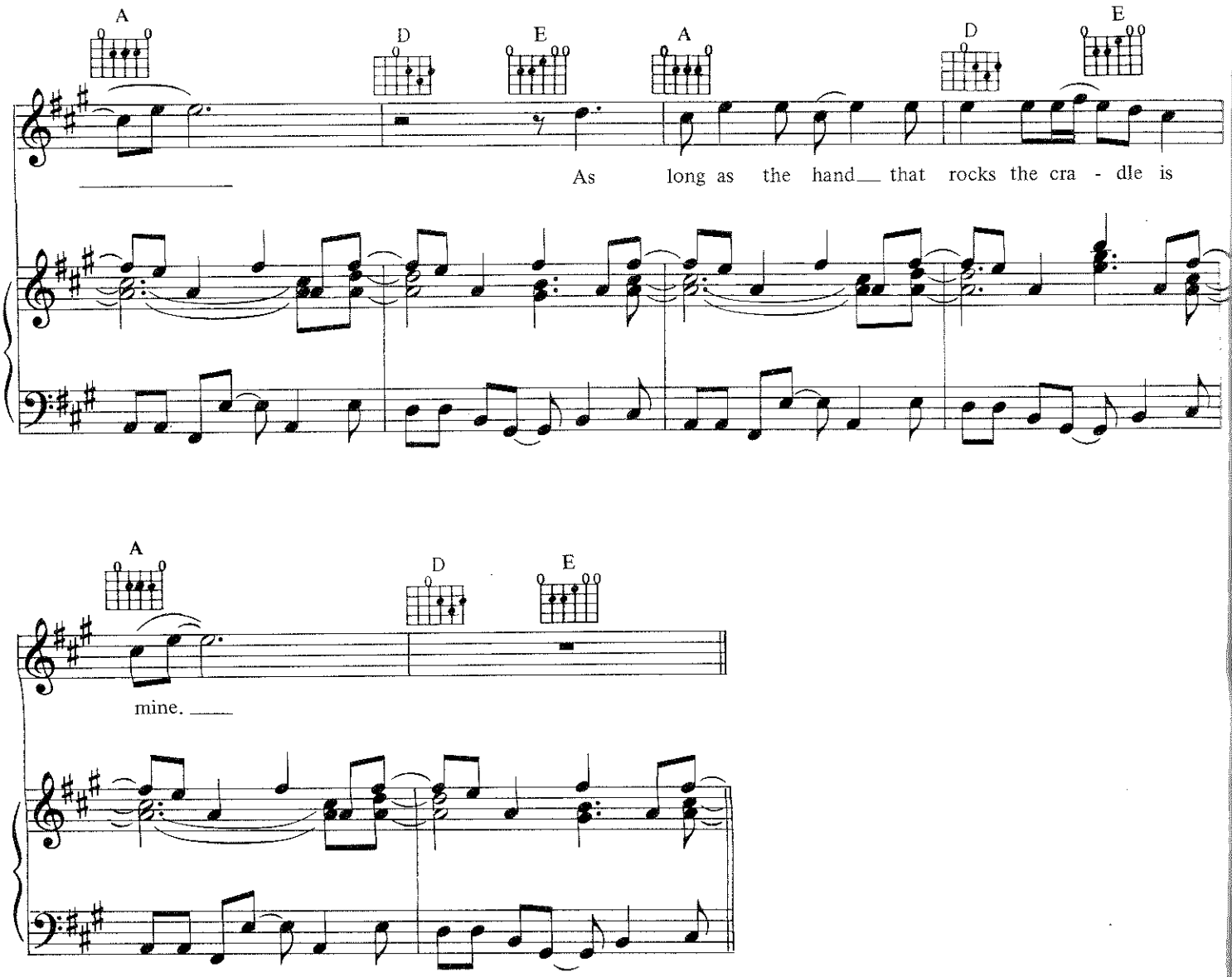

A D E A D E
for the ghost and the storm out - side will
A D E A D E
not in - vade this sa-cred shrine nor in-fil - trate your mind my
A D E A D E
life down I shall lie if the bo - gey man should try to


A D E A D E
play tricks on your sa-cred mind to tease, tor - ment and tan - ta - lise
A D E A D E
waver - ing sha-dows loom a pi - a - no plays in an emp-ty room, there'll be
A D E A D E
blood on the clea-ver to - night and when dark - ness lifts and the room is bright, I'll


A
D
E
A
D
E
still be by your side for you are all that mat-ters and I'll
A
D
E
A
D
E
love you till the day I die there ne- ver need be long - ing in your eyes




*VERSE 2:* Ceiling shadows shimmy by
And when the wardrobe towers like a beast of prey
There's sadness in your beautiful eyes
Your untouched, unsoiled, wonderous eyes
My life down I shall lie
Should restless spirits try
To play tricks on your sacred mind
I once had a child, it saved my life.
But whom I never even gave a name
I just looked into his wonderous eyes
And said, "Never never never again."
All too soon I did return
Just like a moth to a flame

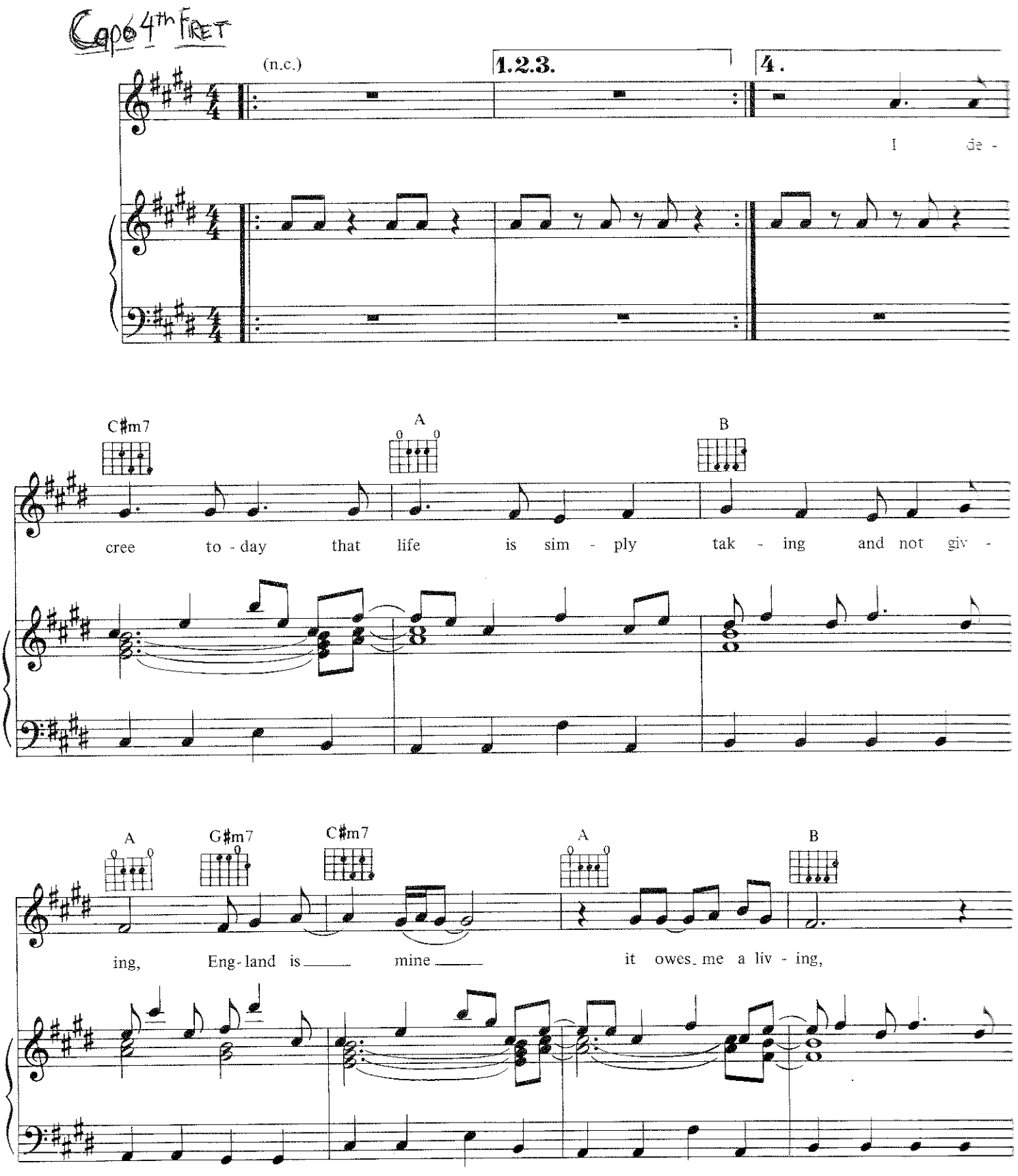
*(cont.)*

So rattle my bones all over the stones
Because I'm only a beggar-man whom nobody owns
See how words as old as sin
Fit me like a glove
I'm here and here I'll stay
Together we lie, together we pray
There never need be longing in your eyes
As long as the hand that rocks the cradle is mine.

\+ Climb upon my knee sonny boy
Although you're only three sonny boy
*(etc Ad Lib Vox to fade)*

# STILL ILL

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

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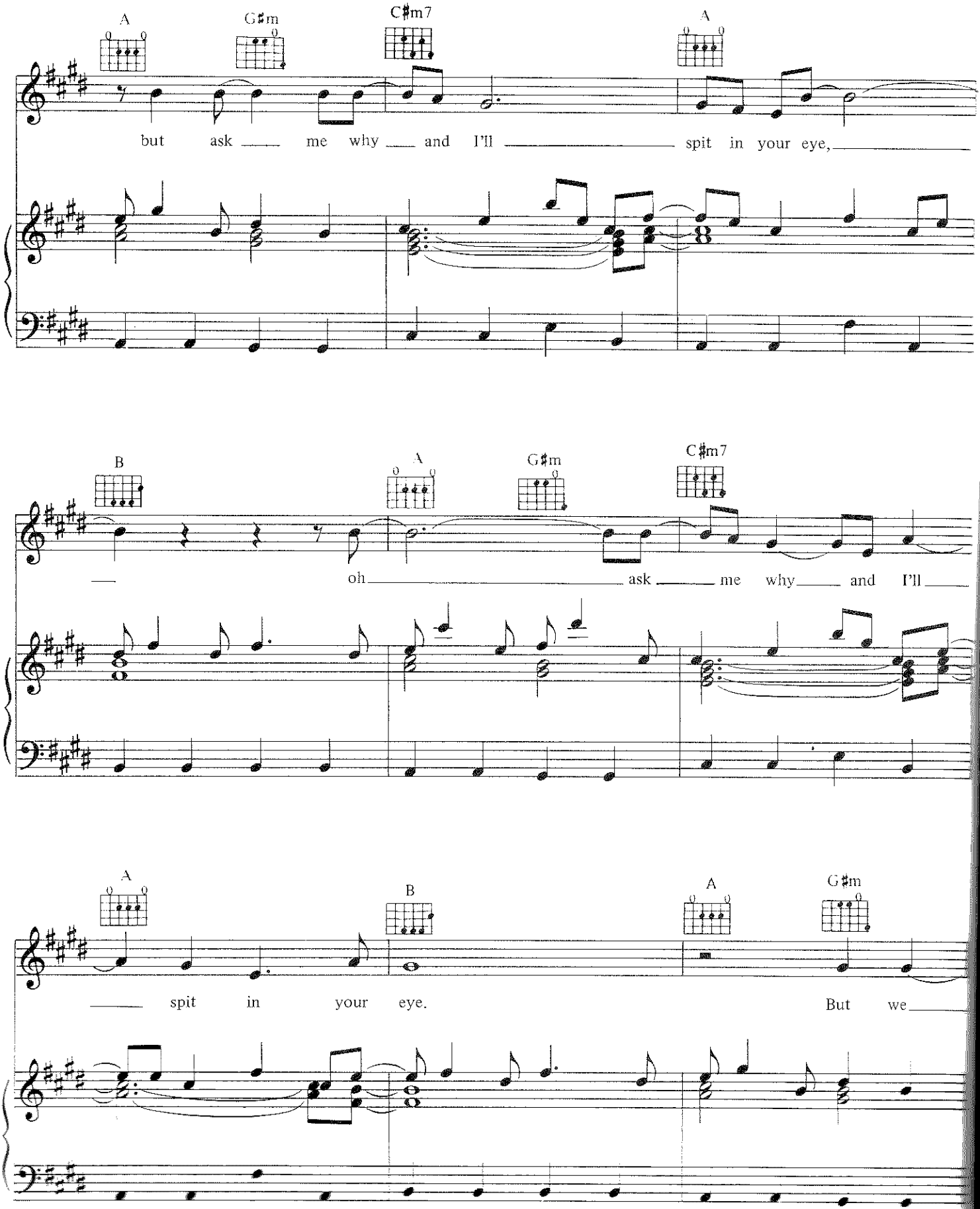
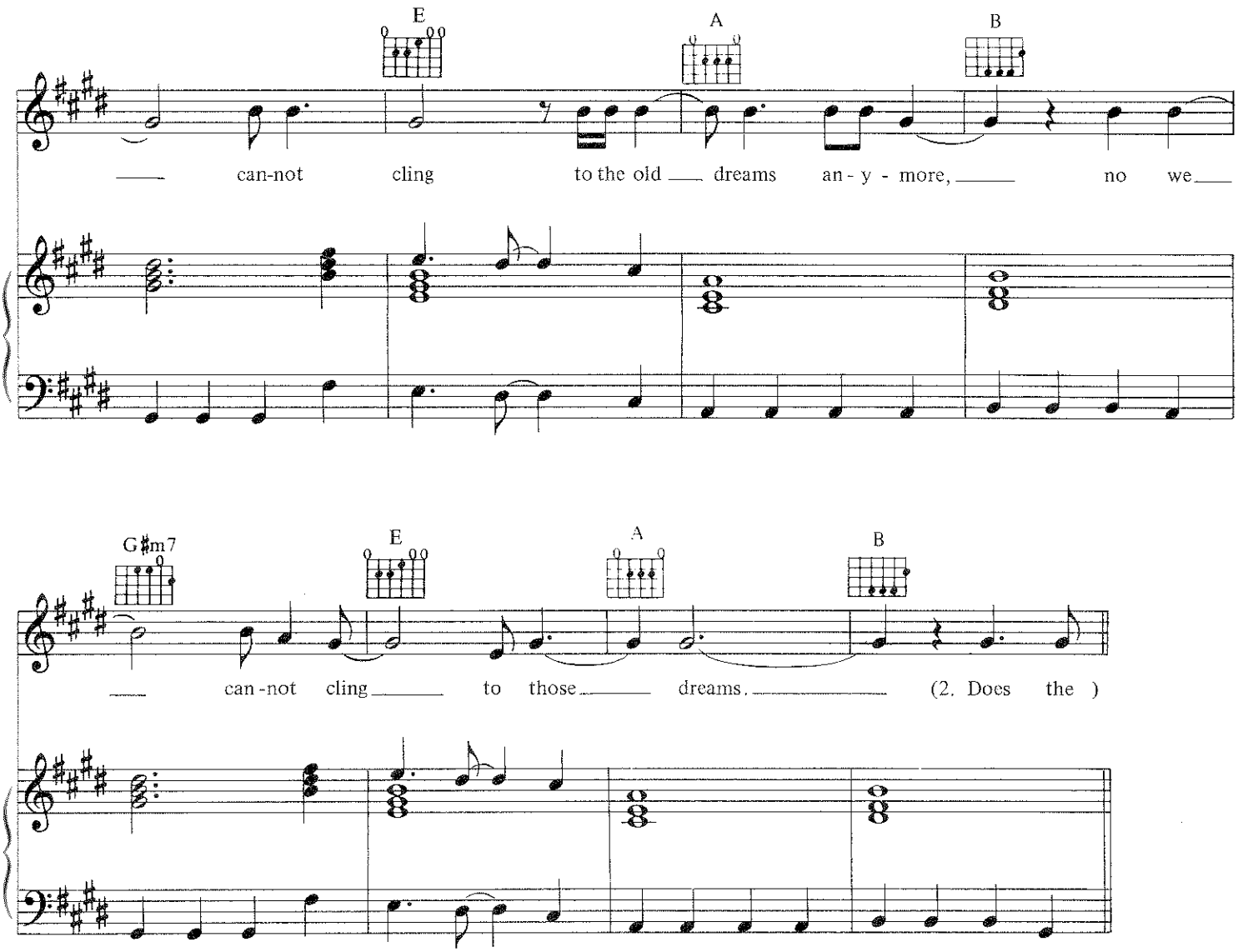

A
G♯m
C♯m7
A
but ask me why and I'll spit in your eye,
B
A
G♯m
C♯m7
oh ask me why and I'll
A
B
A
G♯m
spit in your eye.
But we




*VERSE 2:* Does the body rule the mind
Or does the mind rule the body?
I dunno. . . .

Under the iron bridge we kissed
And although I ended up with sore lips
It just wasn't like the old days anymore
No, it wasn't like those days
Am I still ill?

*VERSE 3:* Does the body rule the mind
Or does the mind rule the body?
I dunno. . . .

Ask me why, and I'll die
Ask me why, and I'll die
And if you must go to work tomorrow
Well, if I were you I wouldn't bother.

*VERSE 4:* For there are brighter sides to life
And I should know because I've seen them
But not very often. . . .
Under the iron bridge we kissed
And although I ended up with sore lips
It just wasn't like the old days anymore
No, it wasn't like those days
Am I still ill?

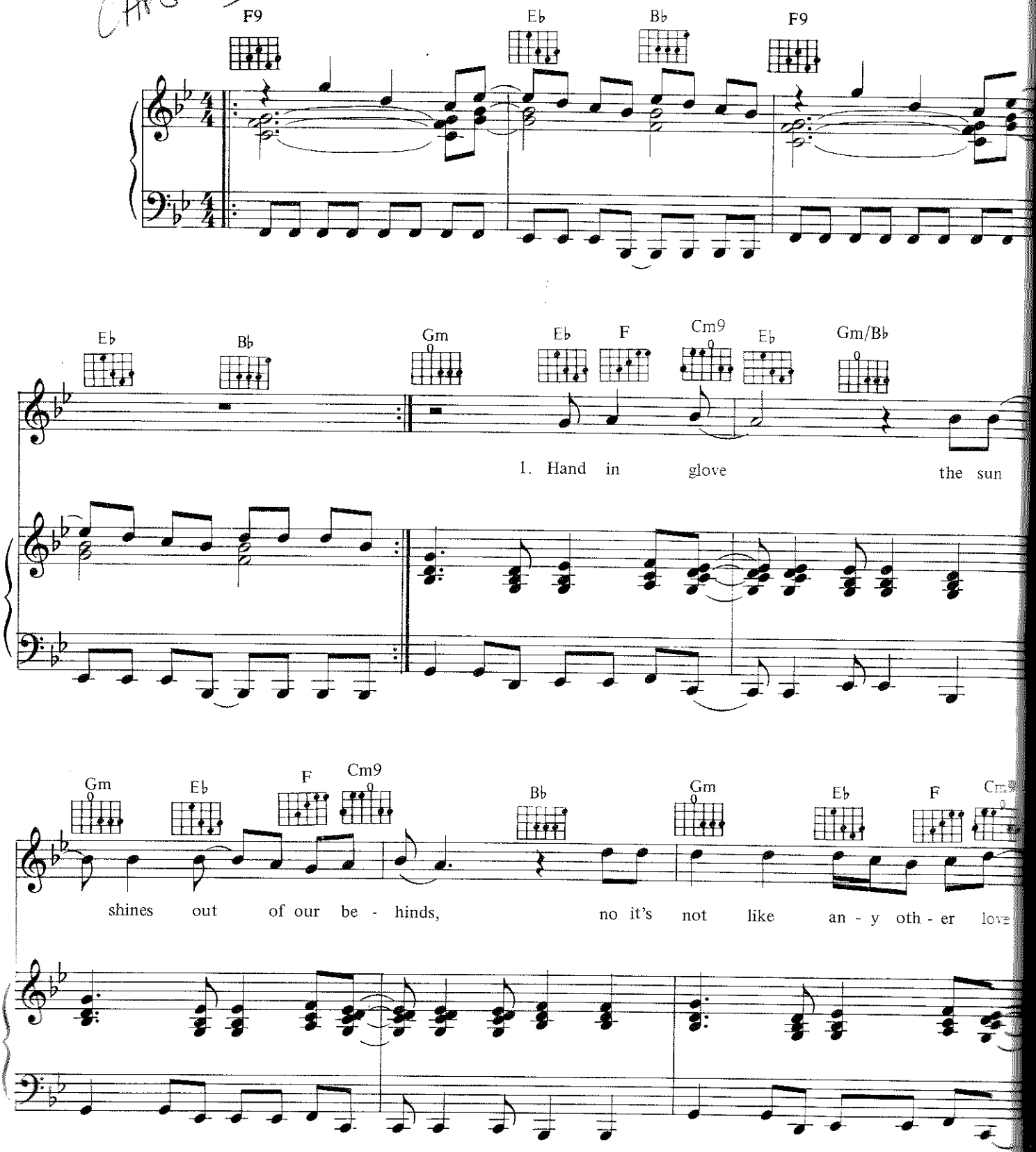
*BRIDGE:* E / A / B / G♯m / E / A / B
+ Oh am I still ill?

*INTRO:* *(Repeat) – END* on C♯m7

# HAND IN GLOVE

Capo 3rd FRET

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

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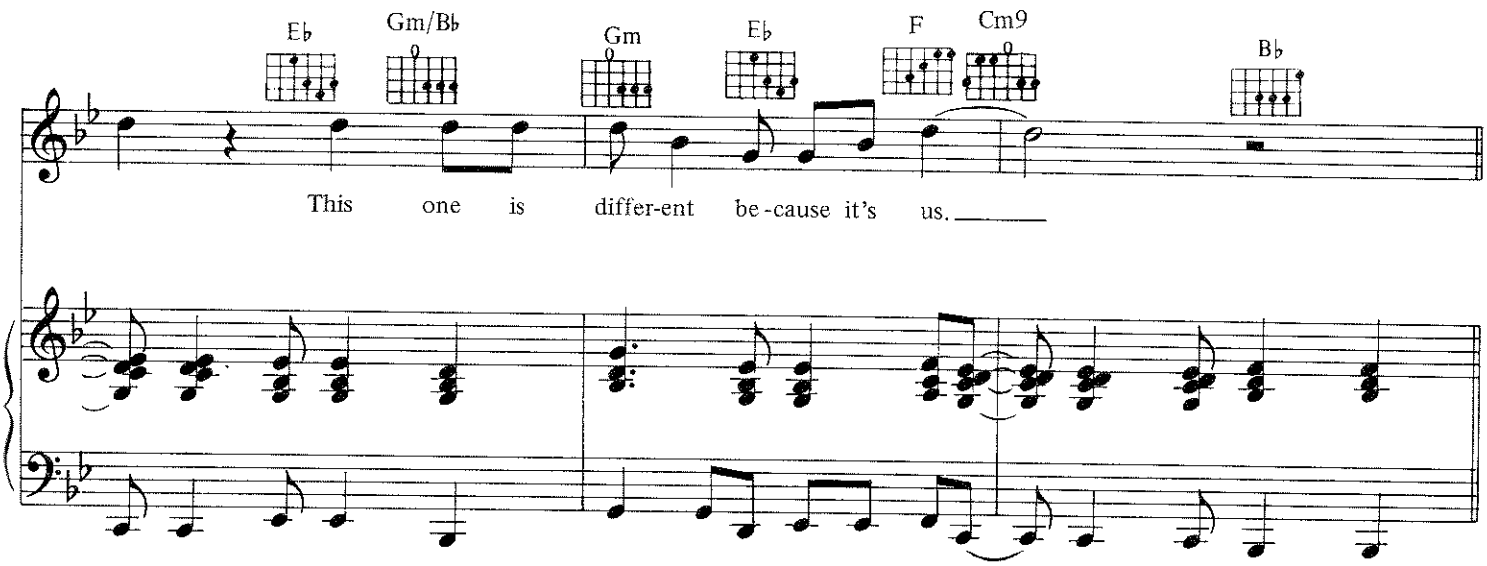



*VERSE 2:* Hand in glove
We can go wherever we please
And everything depends upon
How near you stand to me

*VERSE 3:* And if the people stare
Then the people stare
I really don't know and I really don't care

*INTRO:* *(Repeat)*

*VERSE 4:* Hand in glove
The Good People laugh
Yes, we may be hidden by rags
But we have something they'll never have

*VERSE 5:* Hand in glove
The sun shines out of our behinds
Yes we may be hidden by rags
But we've something they'll never have

*VERSE 3 + INTRO: (Repeat)*

*VERSE 6:* So, hand in glove I stake my claim
I'll fight to the last breath

If they dare touch a hair on your head
I'll fight to the last breath

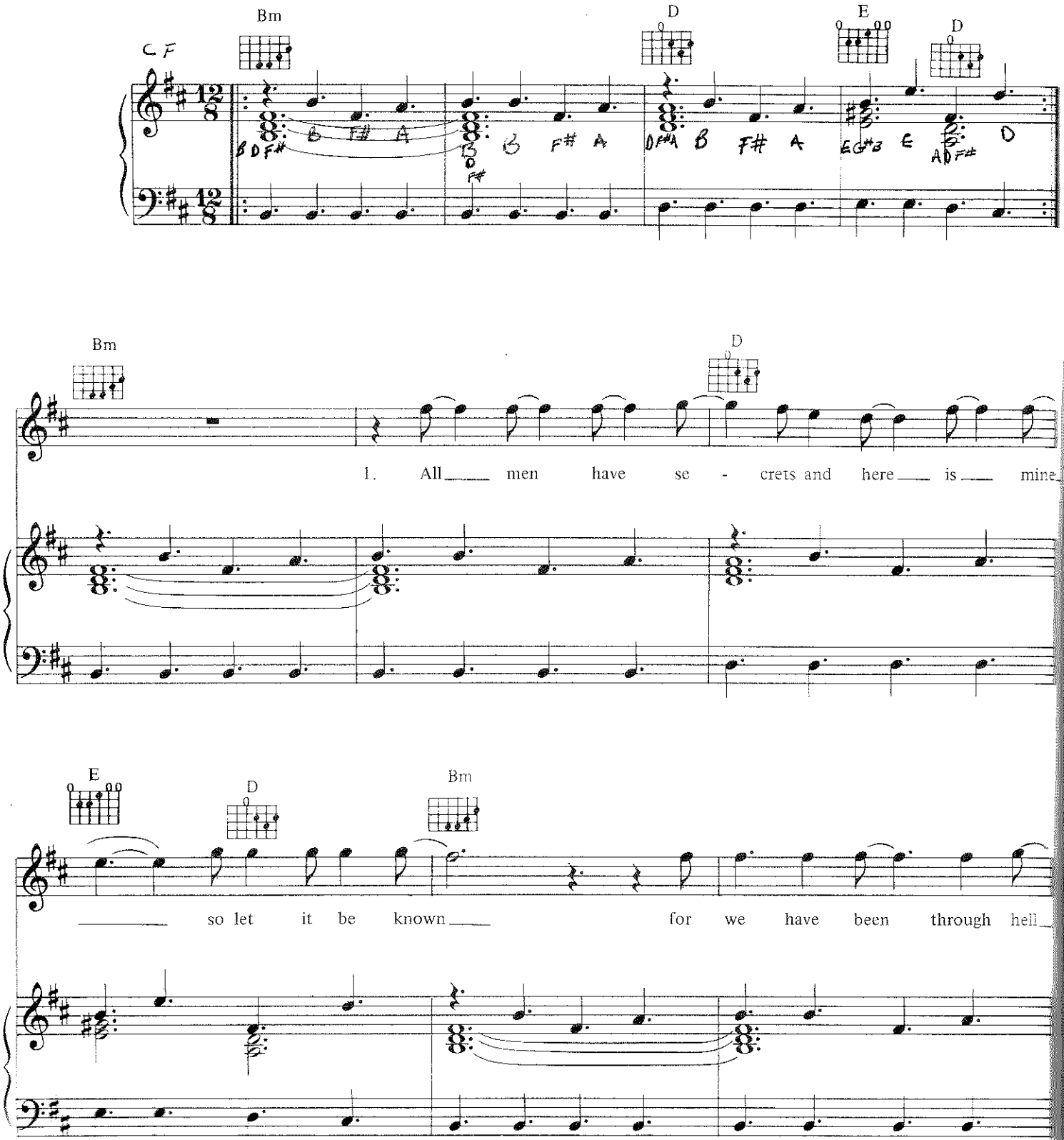
*VERSE 7:* The Good Life is out there, somewhere
So stay on my arm, you little charmer

But I know my luck too well
And I'll probably never see you again.

*INTRO:* *(Repeat) to END* on Gm7(sus4)

# WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

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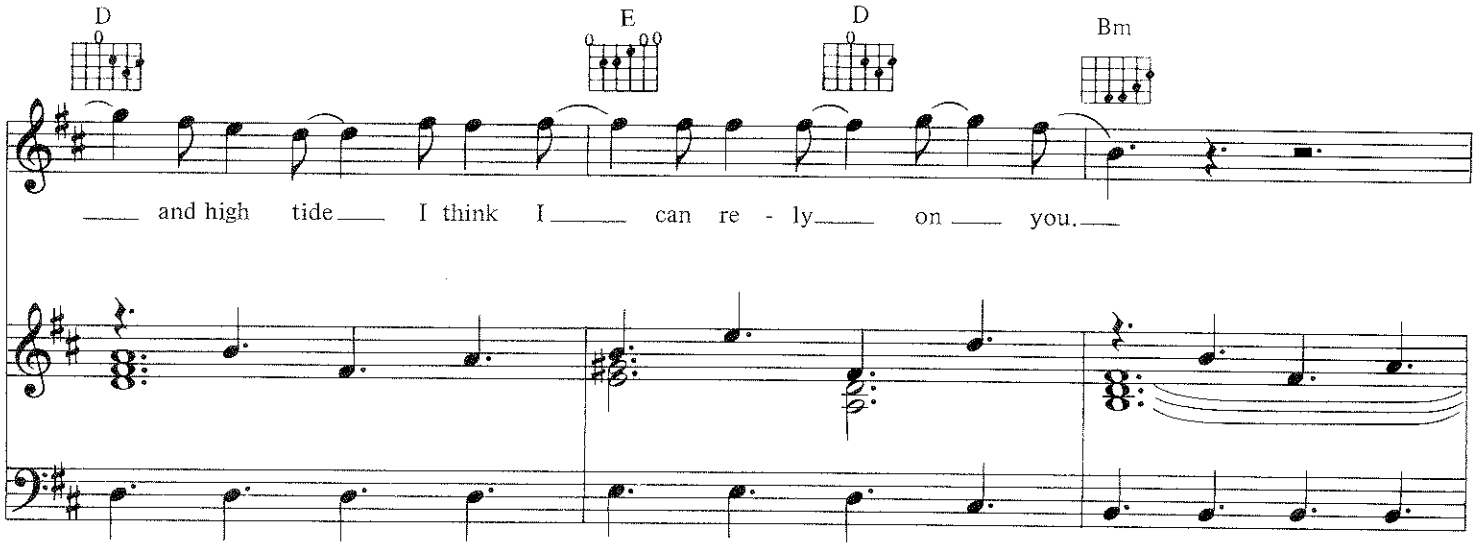
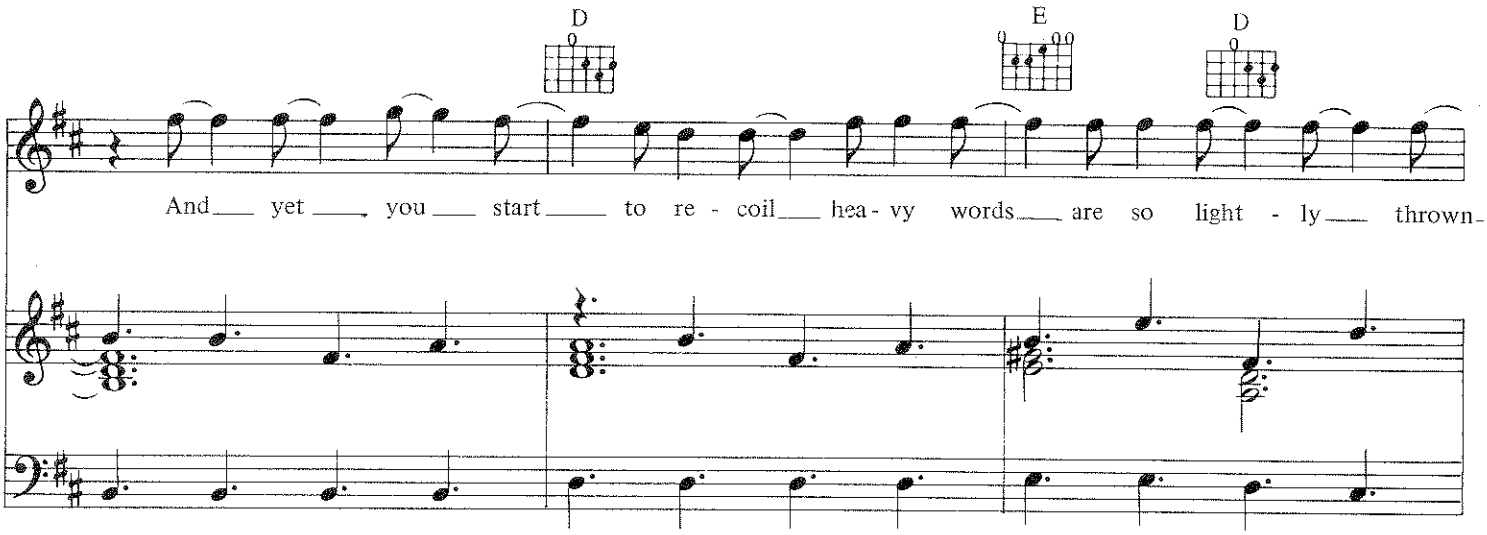
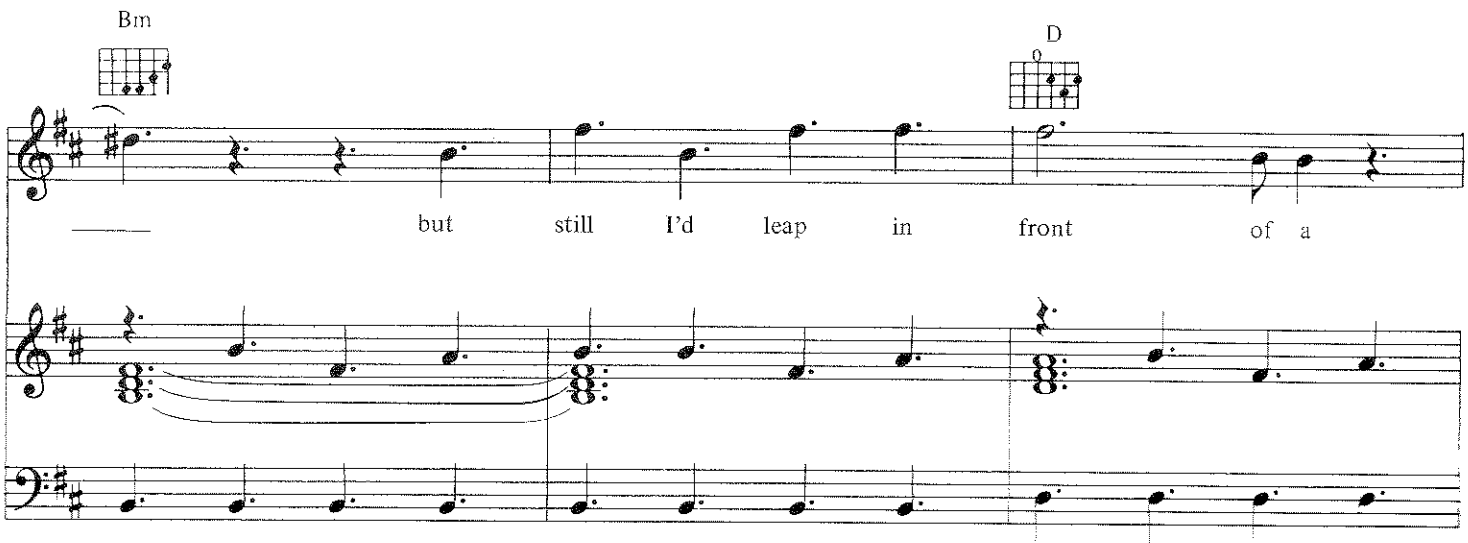
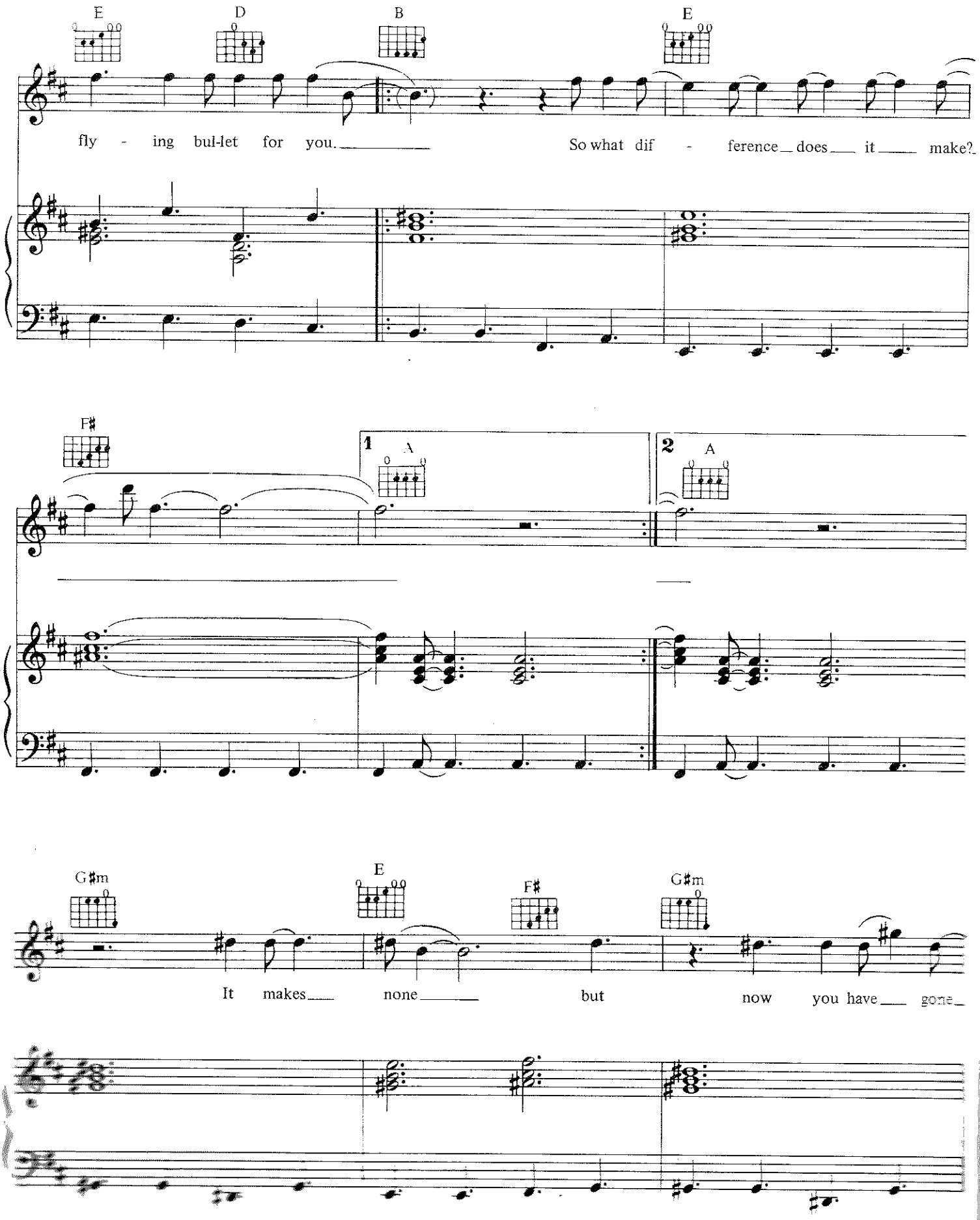
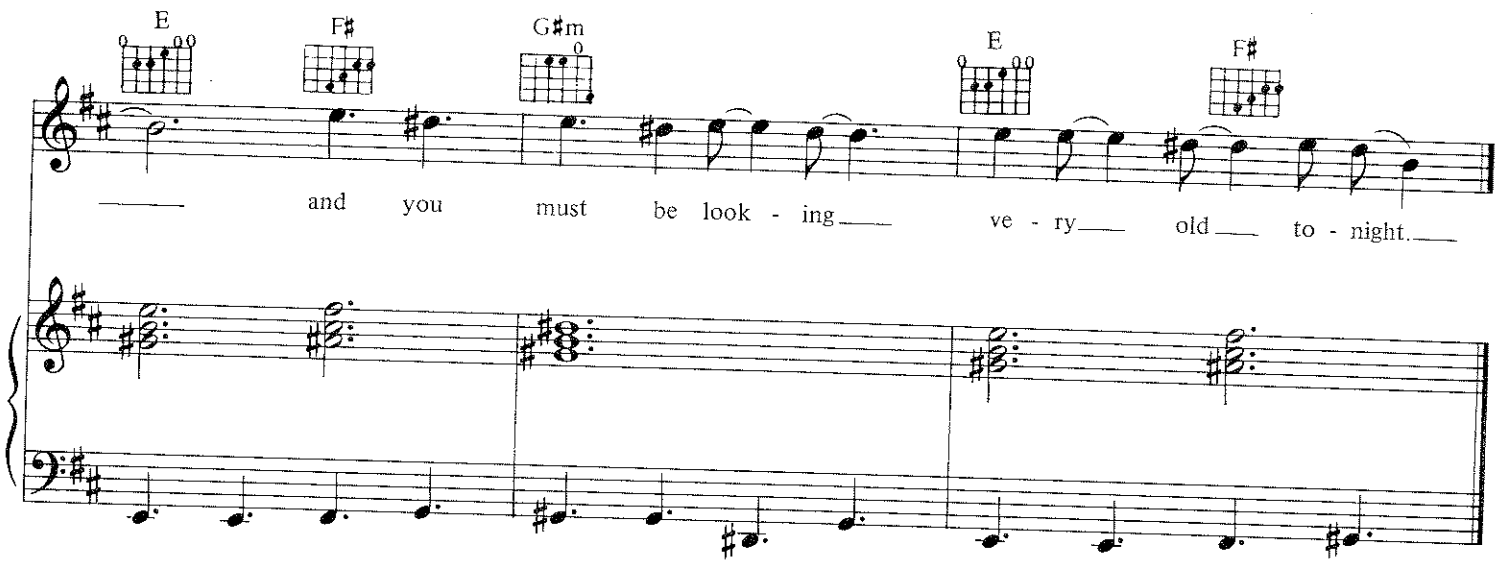

D
E
D
Bm
and high tide I think I can re - ly on you.


D
E
D
And yet you start to re - coil hea - vy words are so light - ly thrown


Bm
D
but still I'd leap in front of a

(CHORUS)


E
D
B
E
fly - ing bul-let for you.
So what dif - ference does it make?
F♯
1
A
2
A
G♯m
E
F♯
G♯m
It makes none but now you have gone




*VERSE 2:* The devil will find work for idle hands to do
I stole and I lied, and why? Because you asked me to
Now you make me feel so ashamed because I've only got two hands
Well I'm still fond of you.

*CHORUS:* So what difference does it make?
So what difference does it make?
It makes none
But you have gone
And your prejudice won't keep you warm tonight.

*VERSE 3:* The devil will find work. . . . me to
But now you know the truth about me
You won't see me anymore
Well I'm still fond of you, oh, oh, oh.

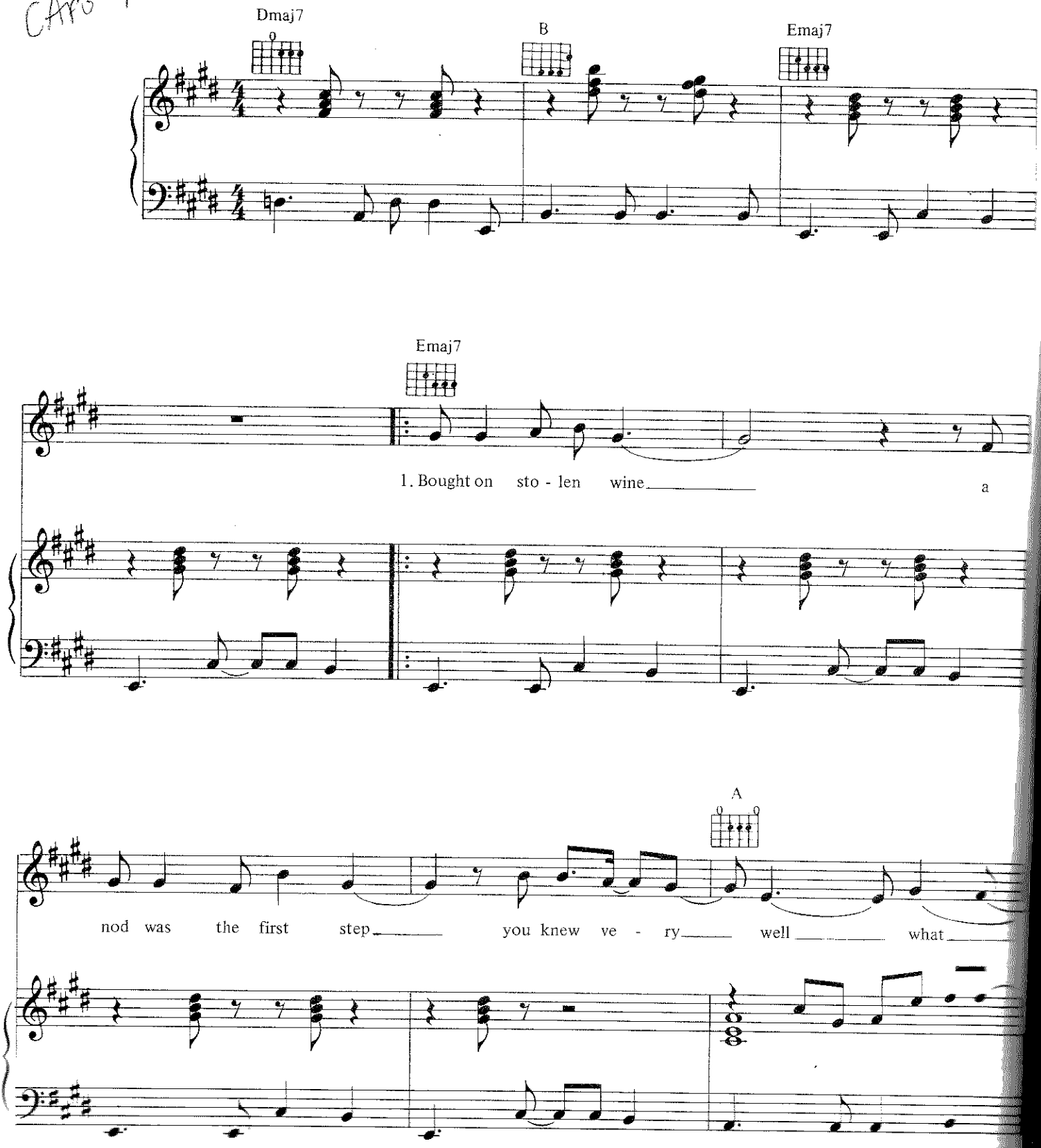
*CHORUS:* But no more apologies
No, no more apologies
I'm too tired
I'm so sick and tired
And I'm feeling very sick and ill today

But I'm still fond of you, oh, oh.

# I DON'T OWE YOU ANYTHING

Capo 4th Fret

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

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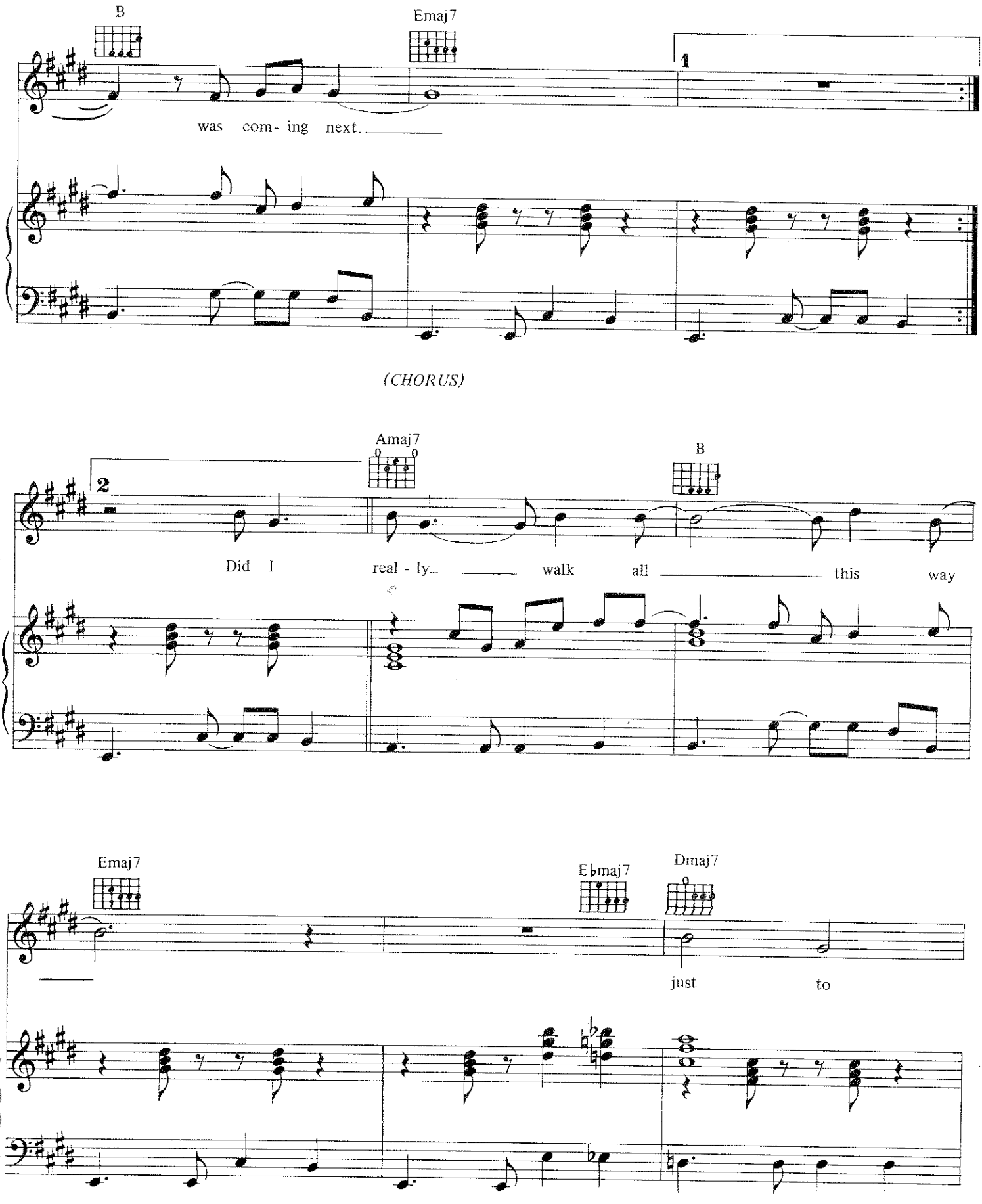
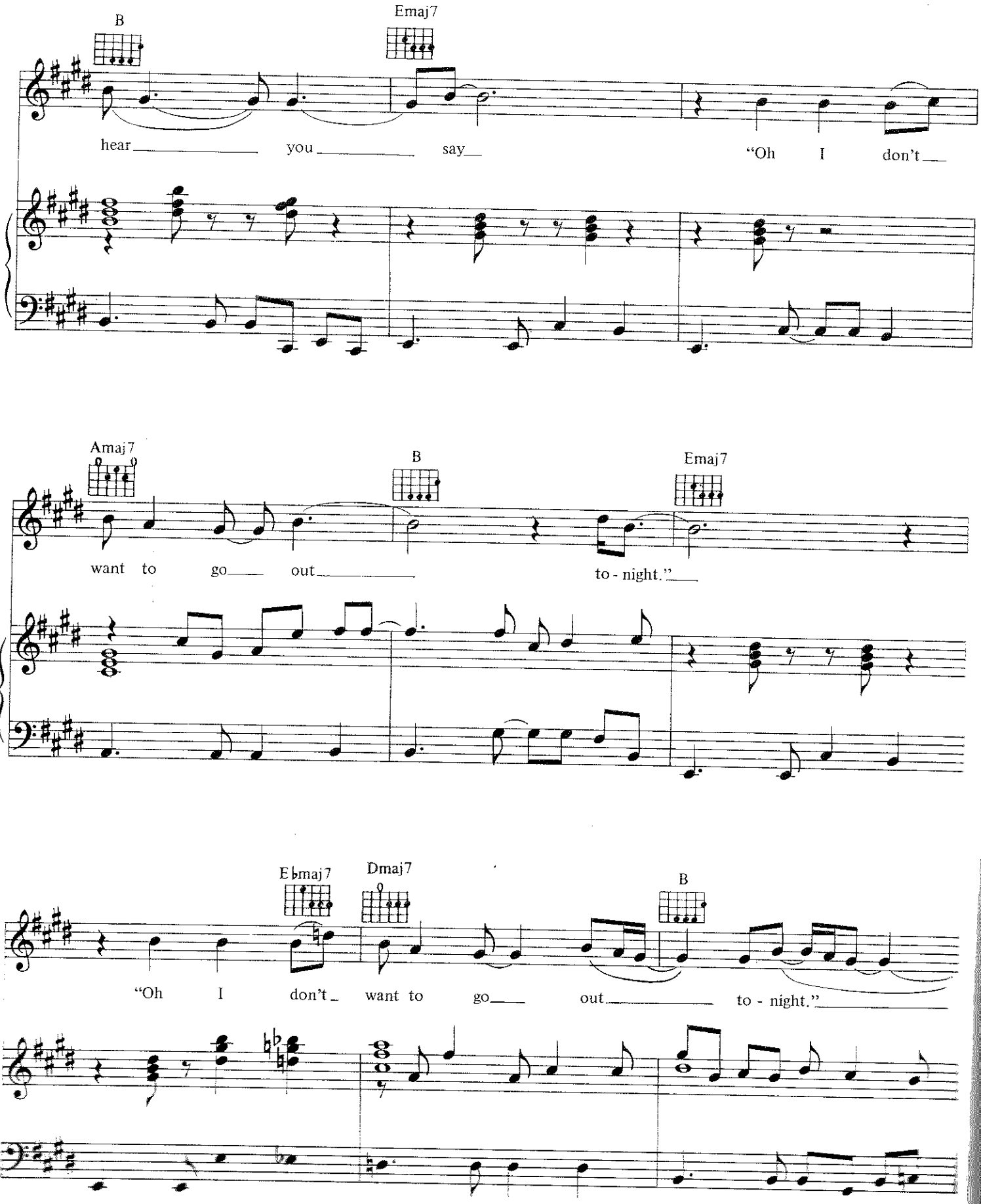
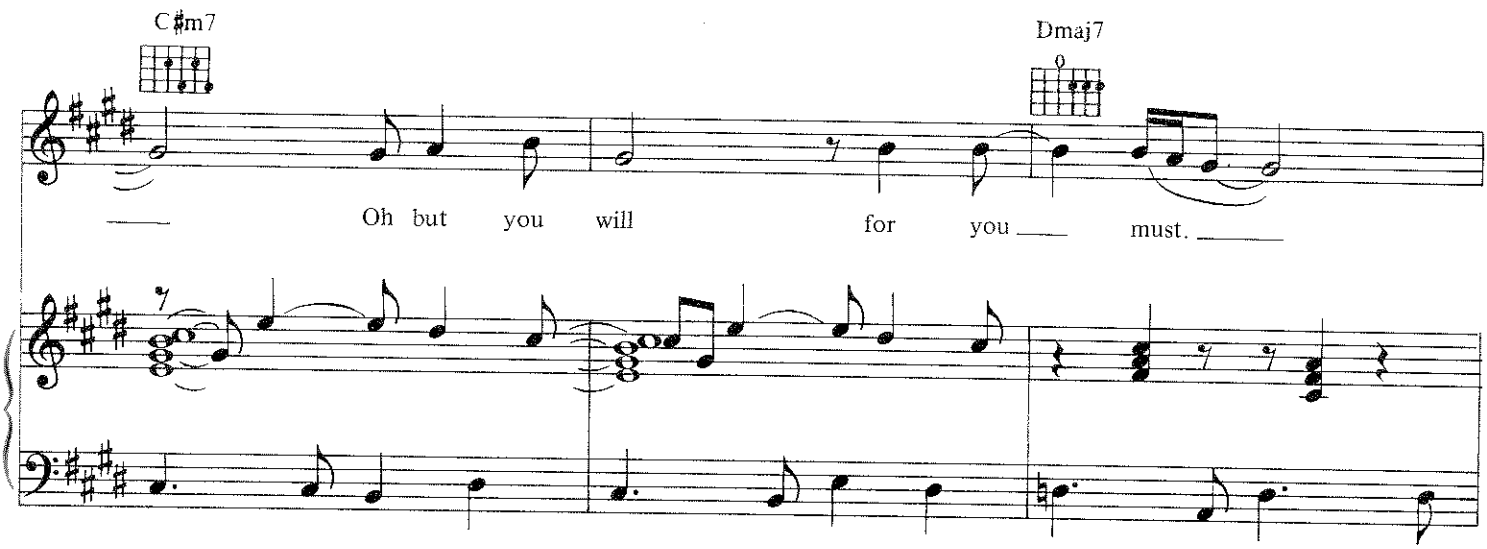
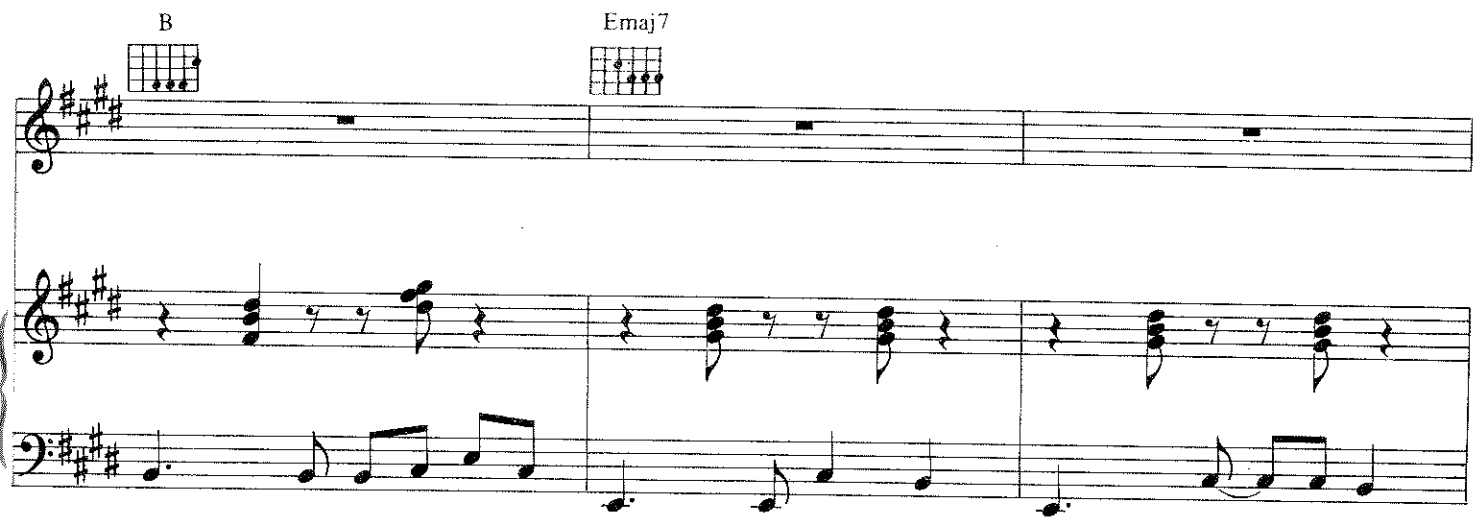
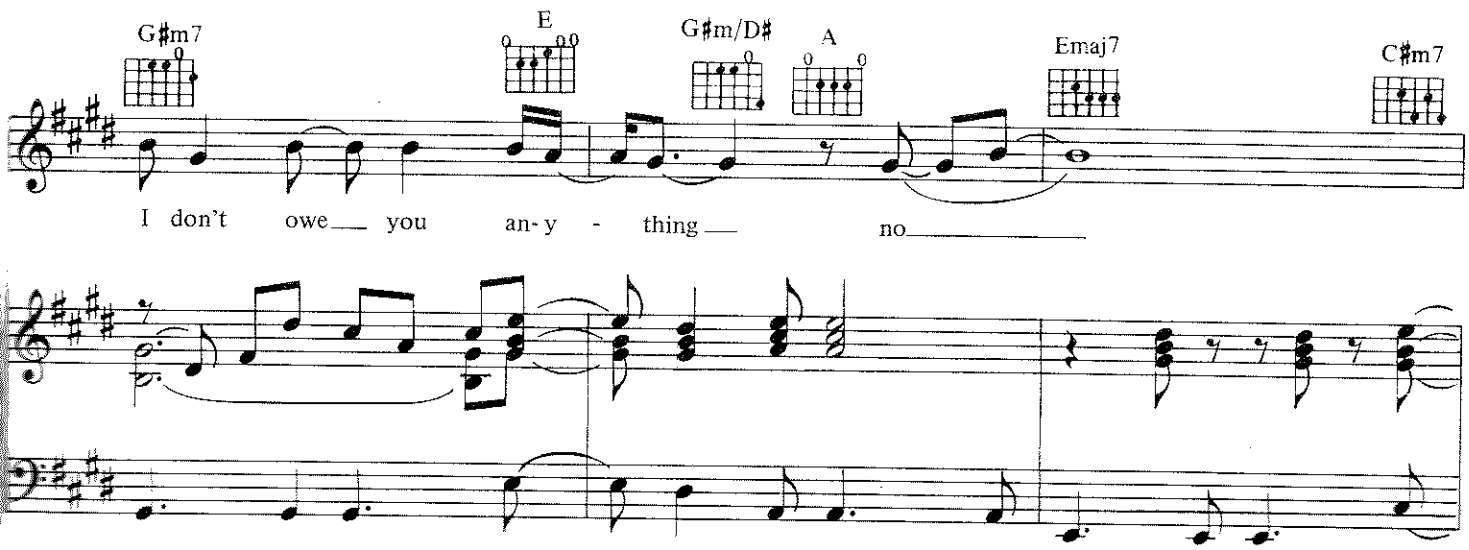
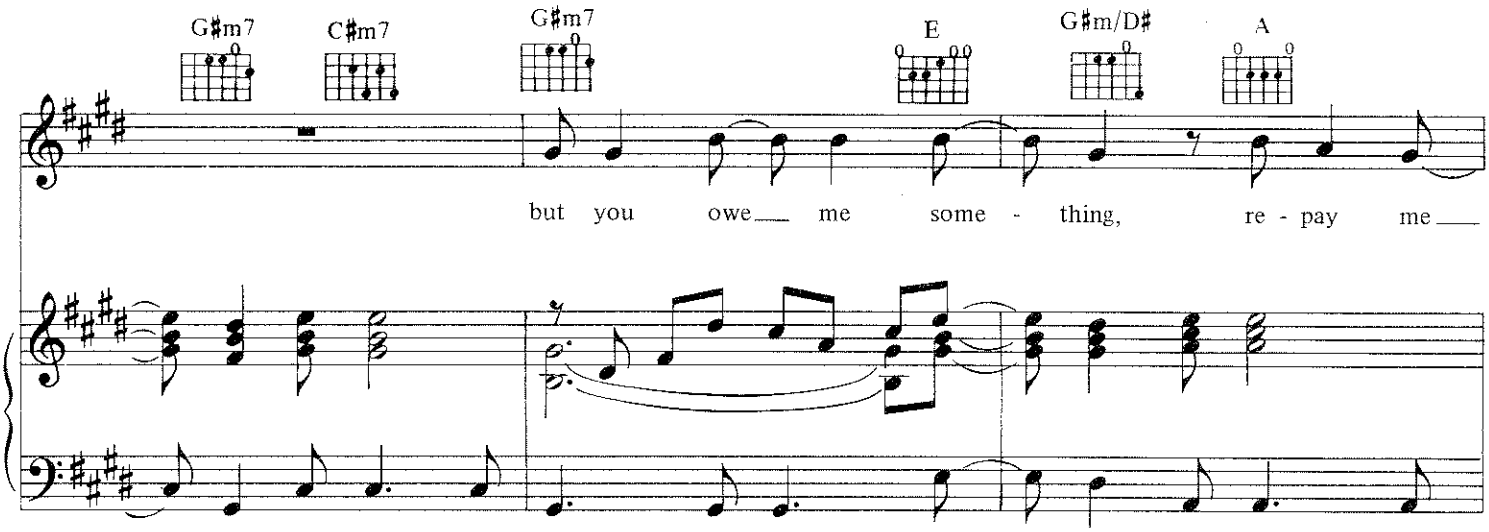

B
Emaj7
1
was com- ing next.
(CHORUS)
Amaj7
B
2
Did I real - ly walk all this way
Emaj7
Ebmaj7
Dmaj7
just to

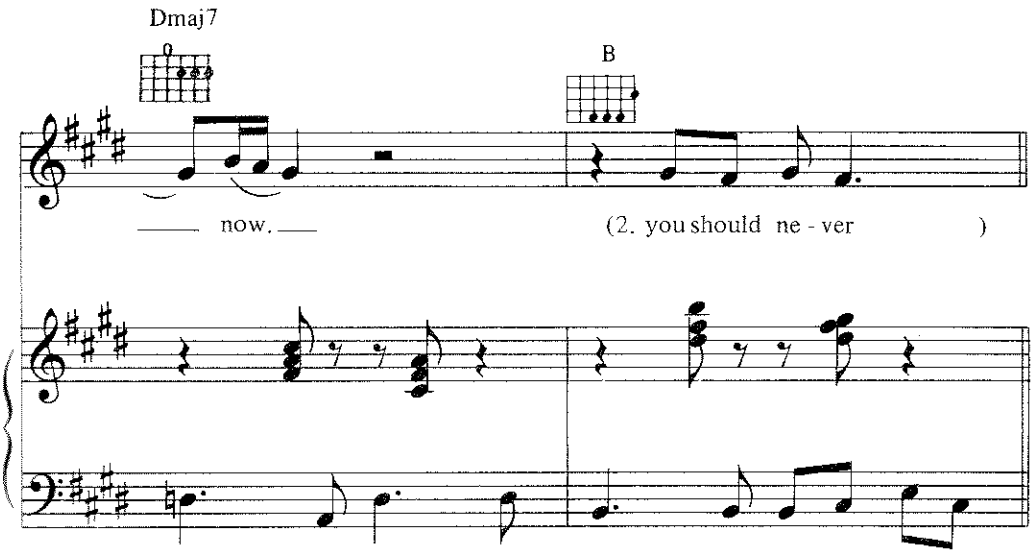

B
Emaj7
hear you say "Oh I don't
Amaj7
B
Emaj7
want to go out to - night."
E♭maj7
Dmaj7
B
"Oh I don't want to go out to - night."


C♯m7
Dmaj7
Oh but you will for you must.


B
Emaj7


G♯m7
E
G♯m/D♯
A
Emaj7
C♯m7
I don't owe you an-y - thing no




*VERSE 2:* You should never go to them
Let them come to you
Just like I do

You should not go to them
Let them come to you
Just like I do

*CHORUS:* *(Repeat)*

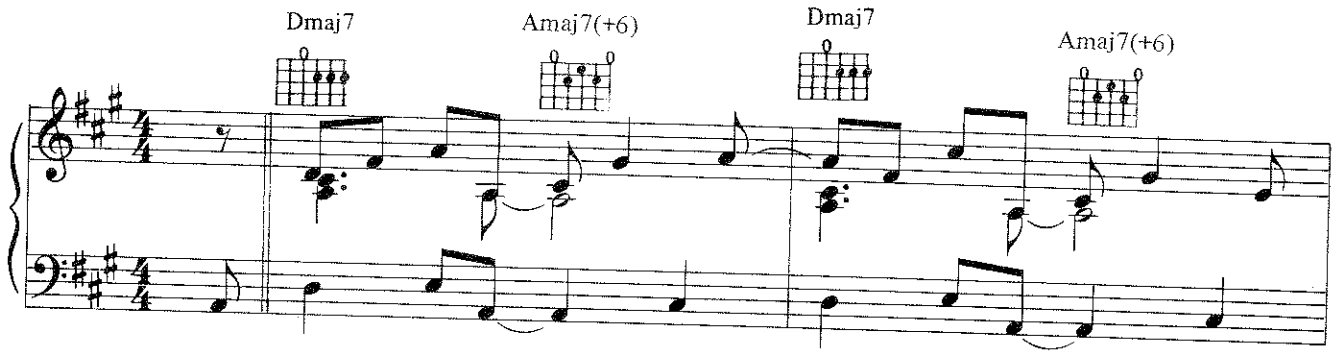
*VERSE 3:* Too freely on your lips
Words prematurely sad
Oh but I know what will make you smile tonight.

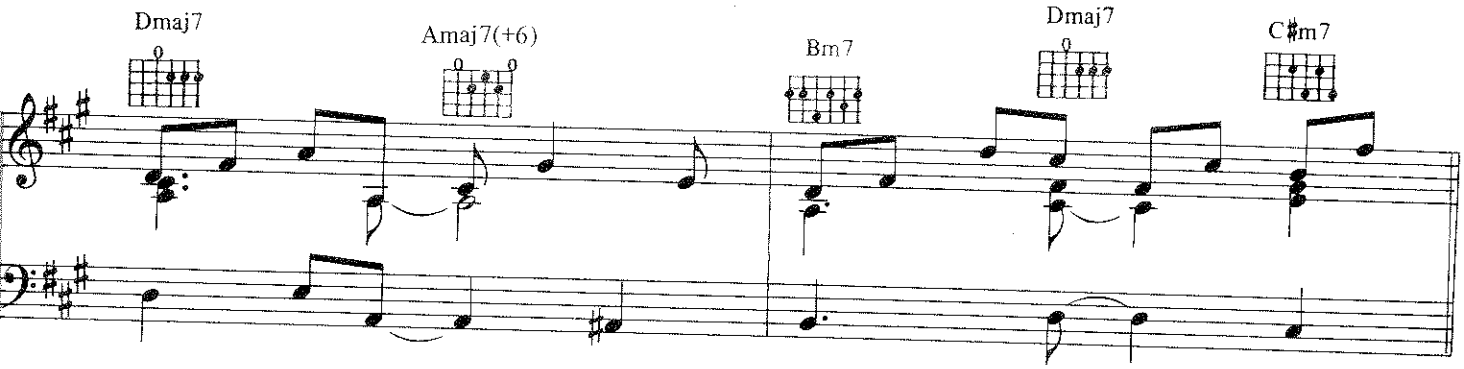
Life is never kind
Life is never kind
Oh but I know what will make you smile tonight.

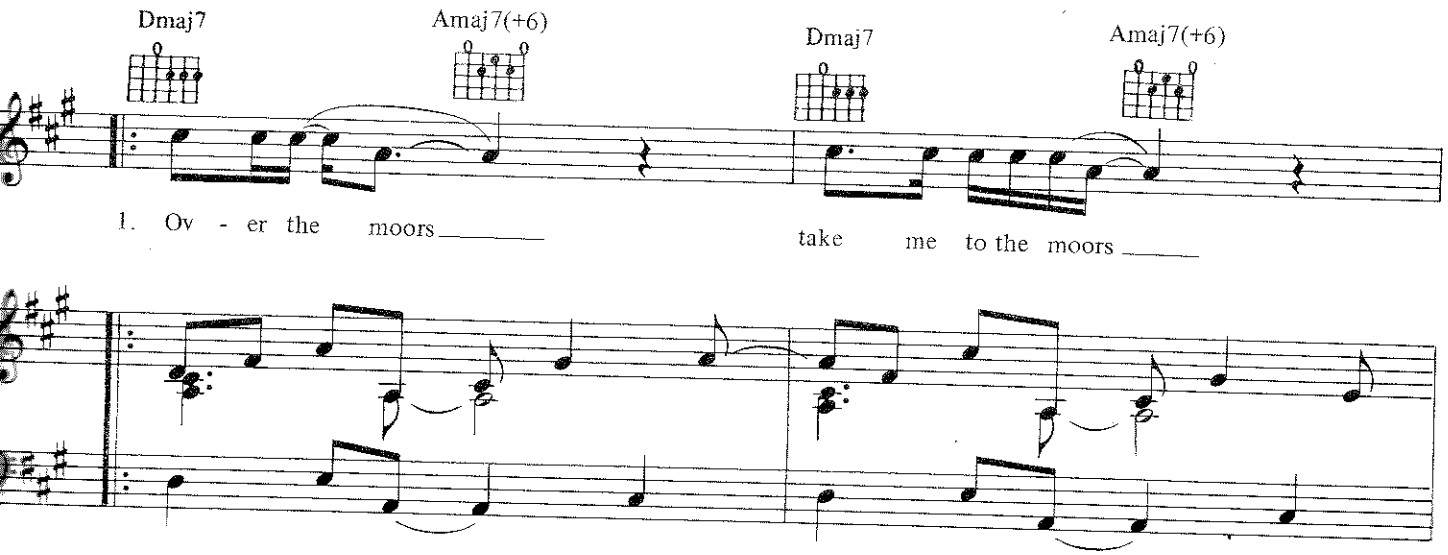
*END:* Emaj7 / E♭maj7 / Dmaj7 / B / Emaj7

# SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

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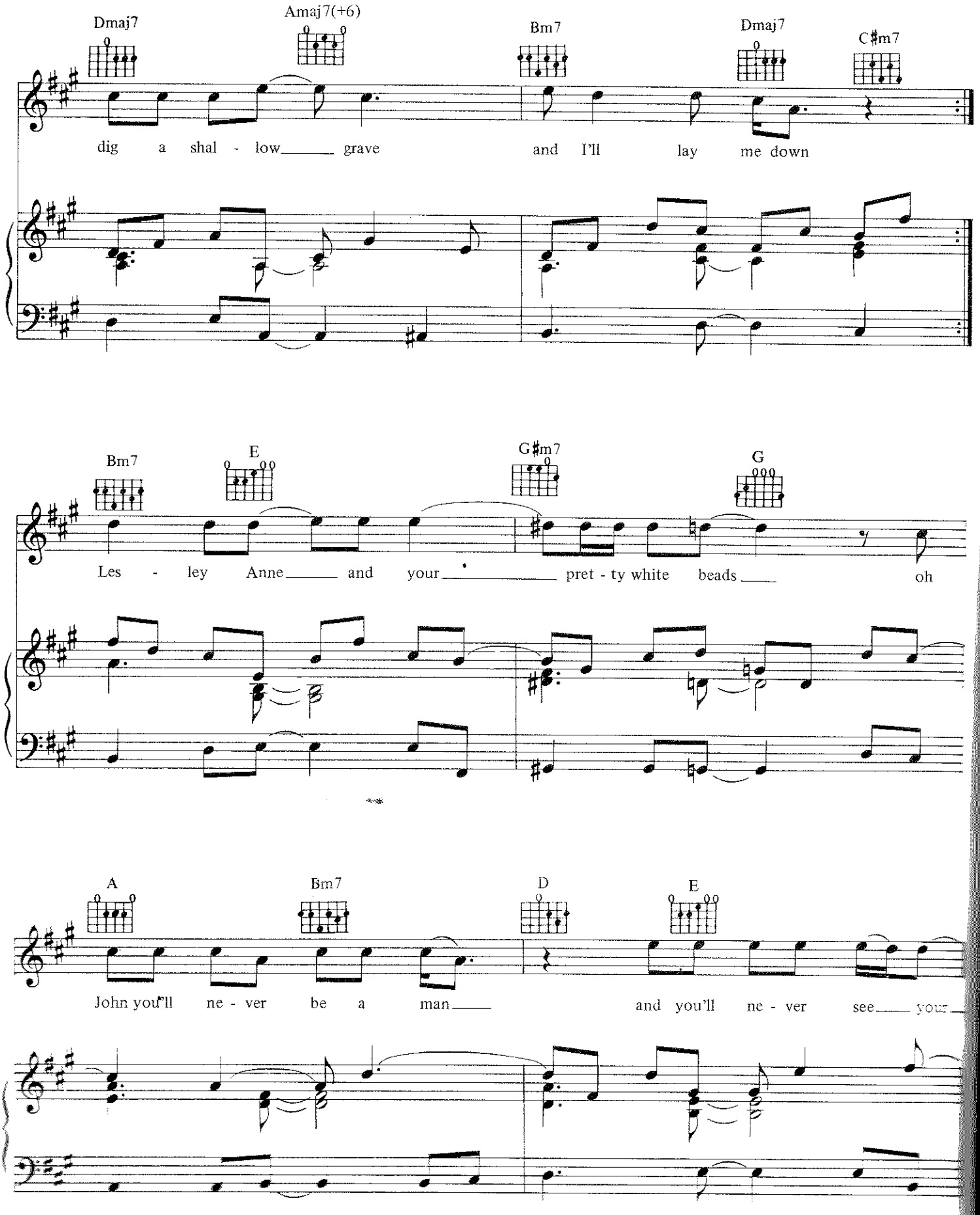
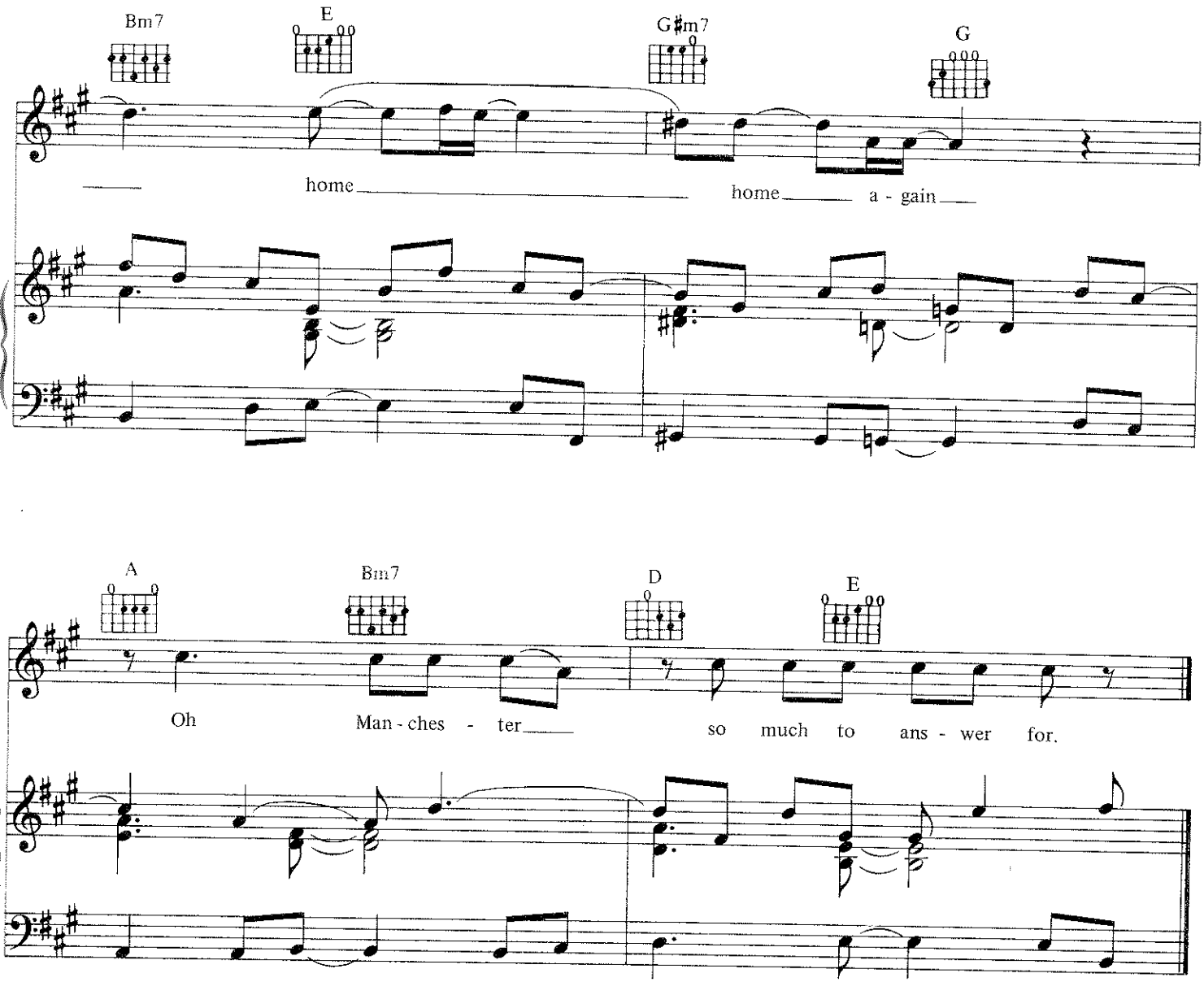

Dmaj7
Amaj7(+6)
Bm7
Dmaj7
C♯m7
dig a shal - low grave and I'll lay me down
Bm7
E
G♯m7
G
Les - ley Anne and your pret - ty white beads oh
A
Bm7
D
E
John you'll ne - ver be a man and you'll ne - ver see your




*VERSE 2:* Edward, see those alluring lights?
Tonight will be your very last night.

A woman said, "I know my son is dead
I'll never rest my hands on his sacred head."

Hindley wakes and Hindley says:
"Wherever he has gone, I have gone."

*VERSE 3:* But fresh lilaced moorland fields
Cannot hide the stolid stench of death

Hindley wakes and Hindley says:
"Whatever he has done, I have done."

*VERSE 4:* But this is no easy ride
For a child cries:

"Oh find me. . . . find me, nothing more
We're on a sullen misty moor
We may be dead and we may be gone
But we will be right by your side
Until the day you die
This is no easy ride."

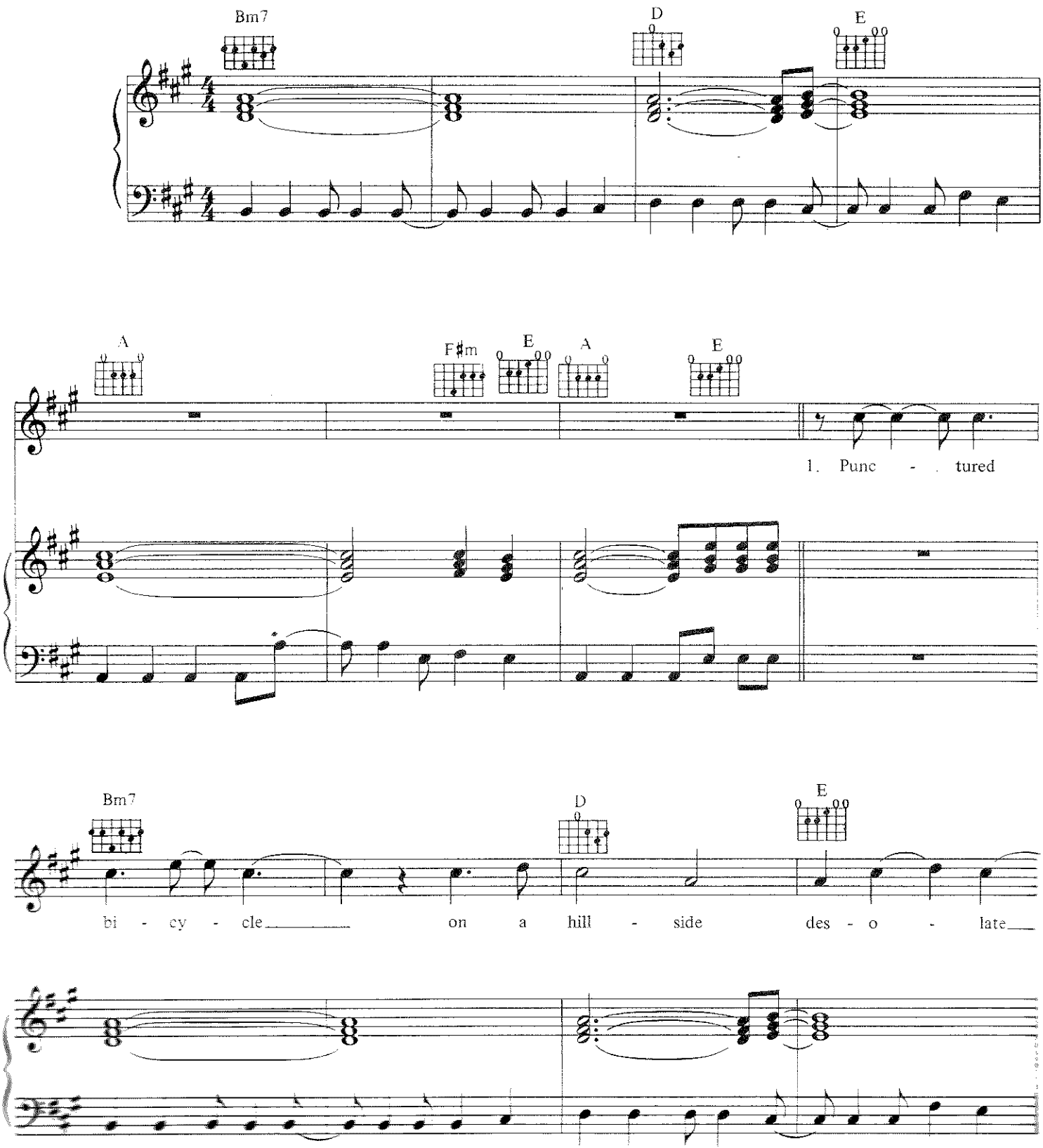
*VERSE 5:* We will haunt you when you laugh
Yes, you could say we're a team
You might sleep
BUT YOU WILL NEVER DREAM!

*VERSE 6:* Oh Manchester, so much to answer for
Oh Manchester, so much to answer for
Over the moor, I'm on the moor
The child is on the moor.

*(etc +* Ad lib Vox + Gtr Solo*) – Fade*

# THIS CHARMING MAN

Words by MORRISSEY
Music by JOHNNY MARR

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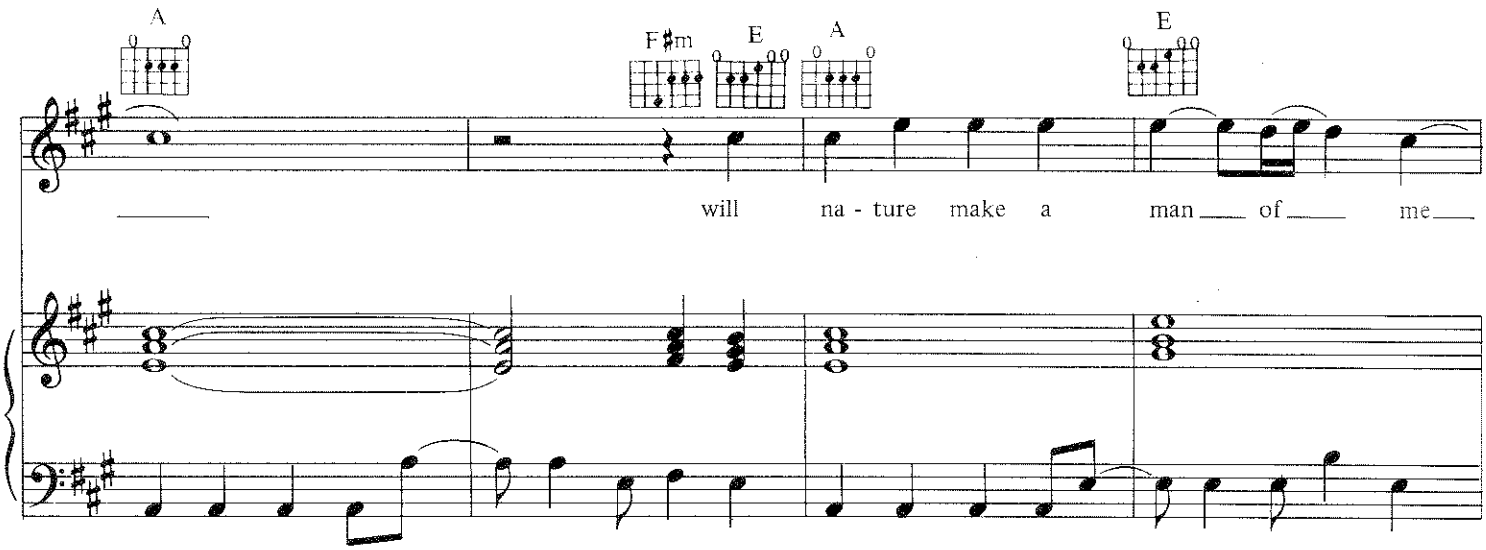
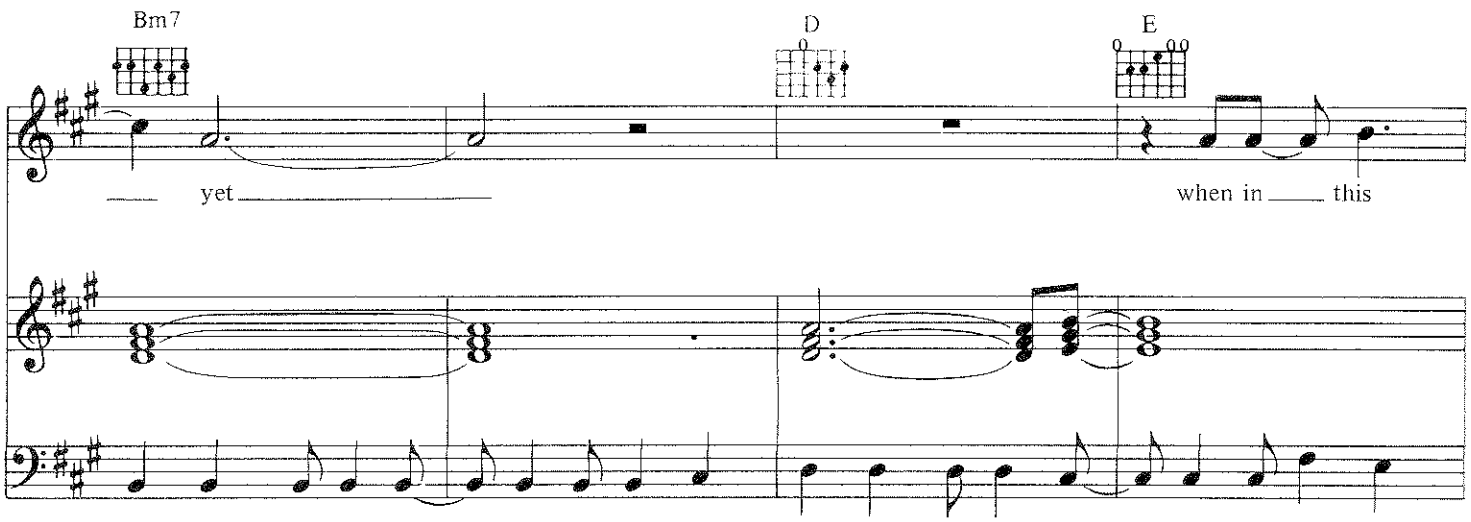
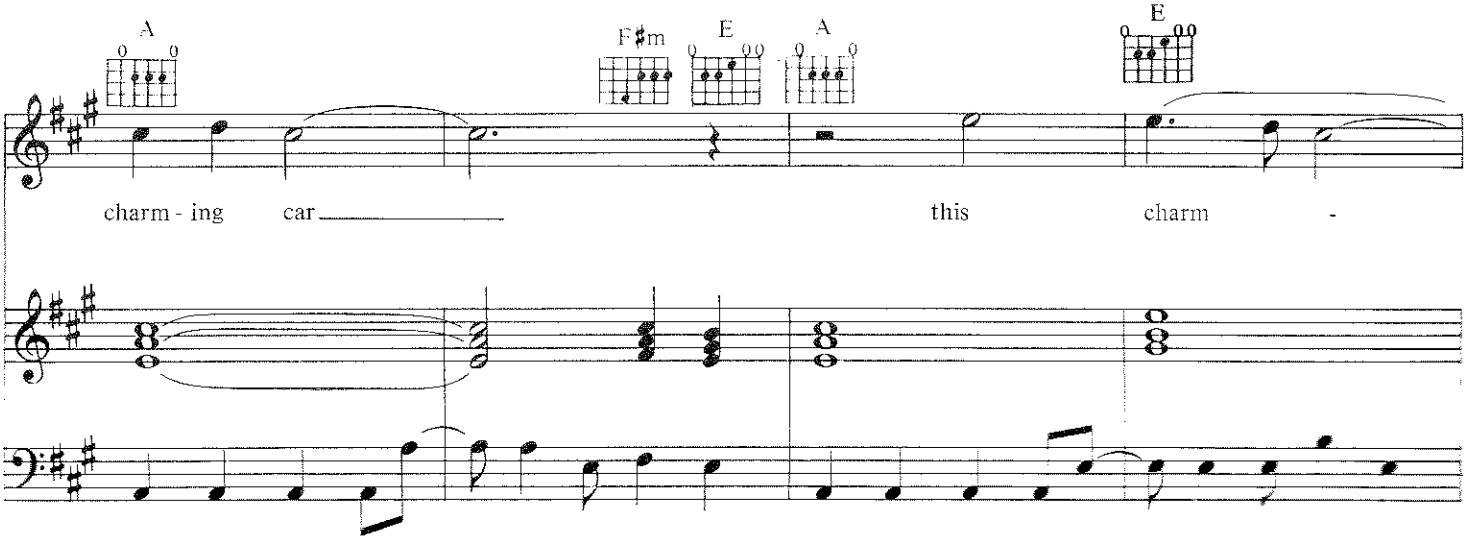
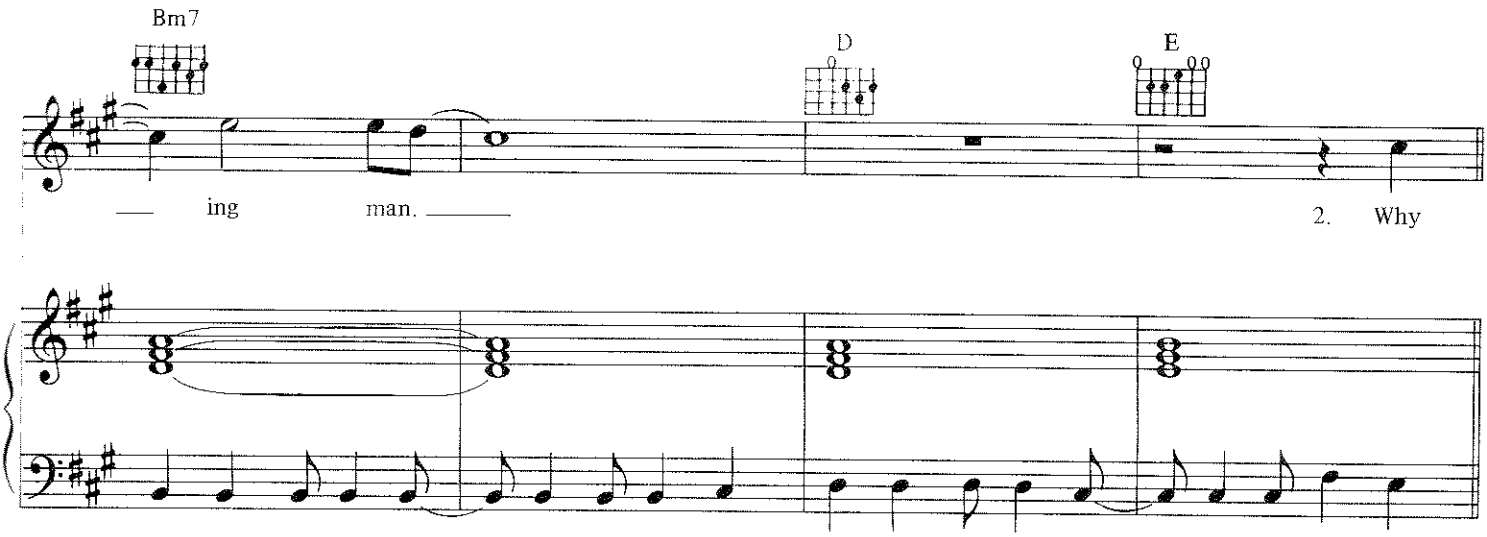
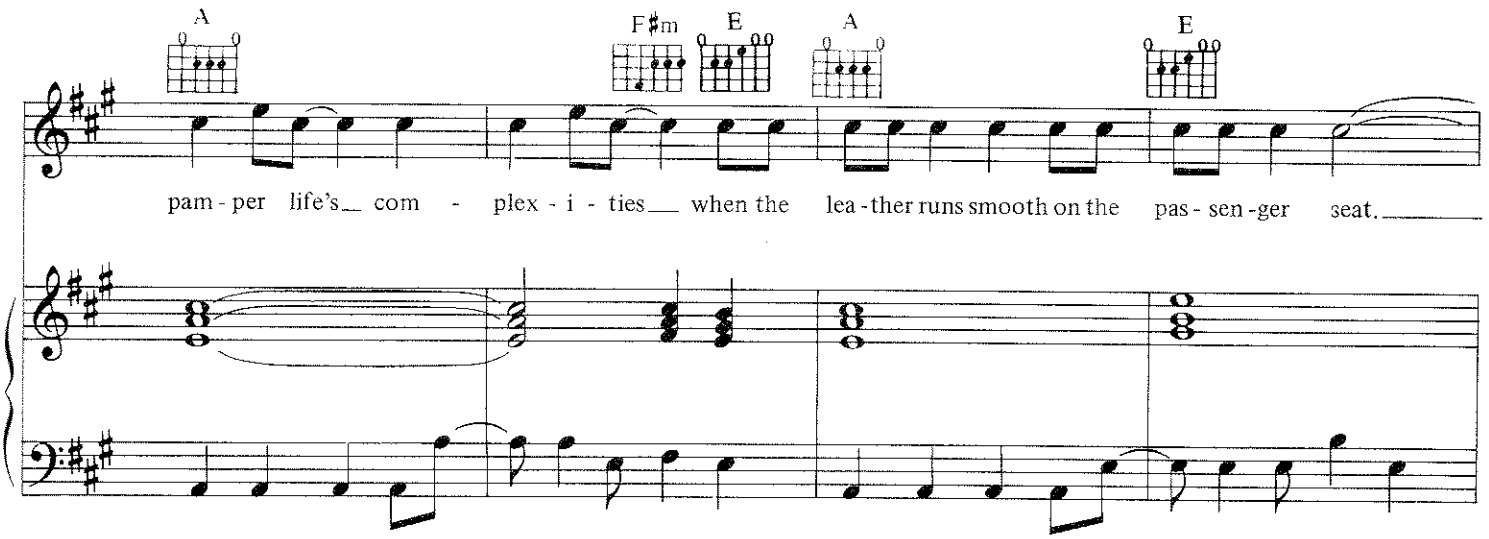
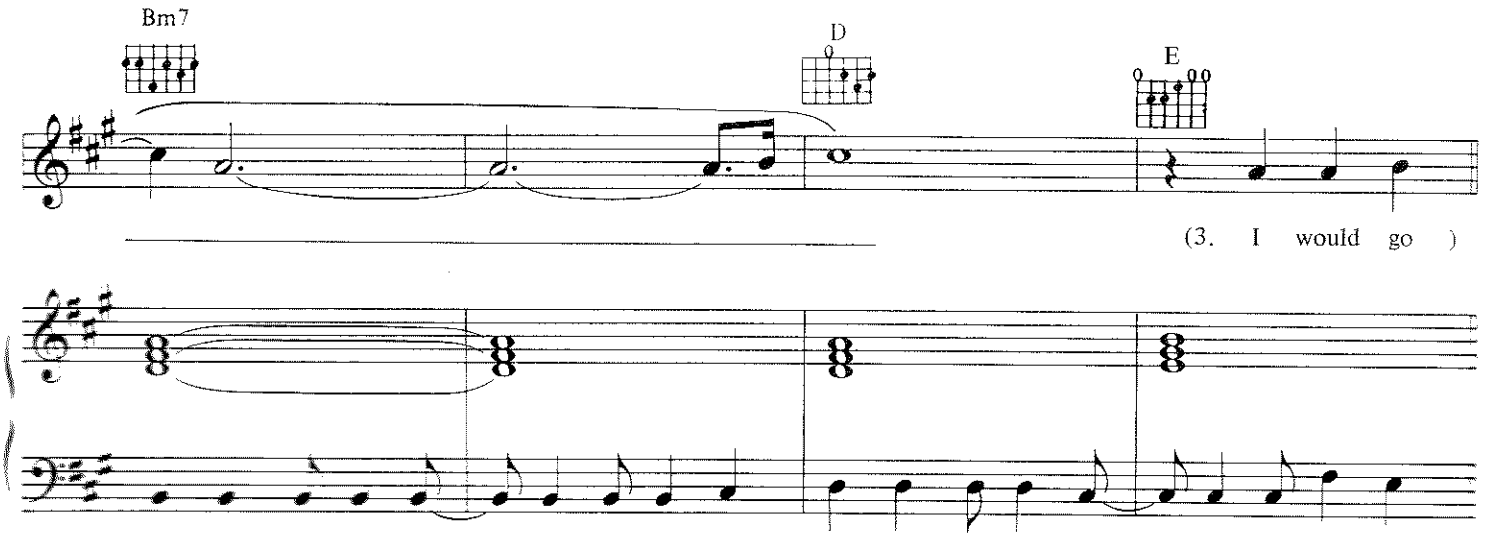

A
F♯m
E
A
E
will na - ture make a man of me


Bm7
D
E
yet
when in this


A
F♯m
E
A
E
charm - ing car
this charm -

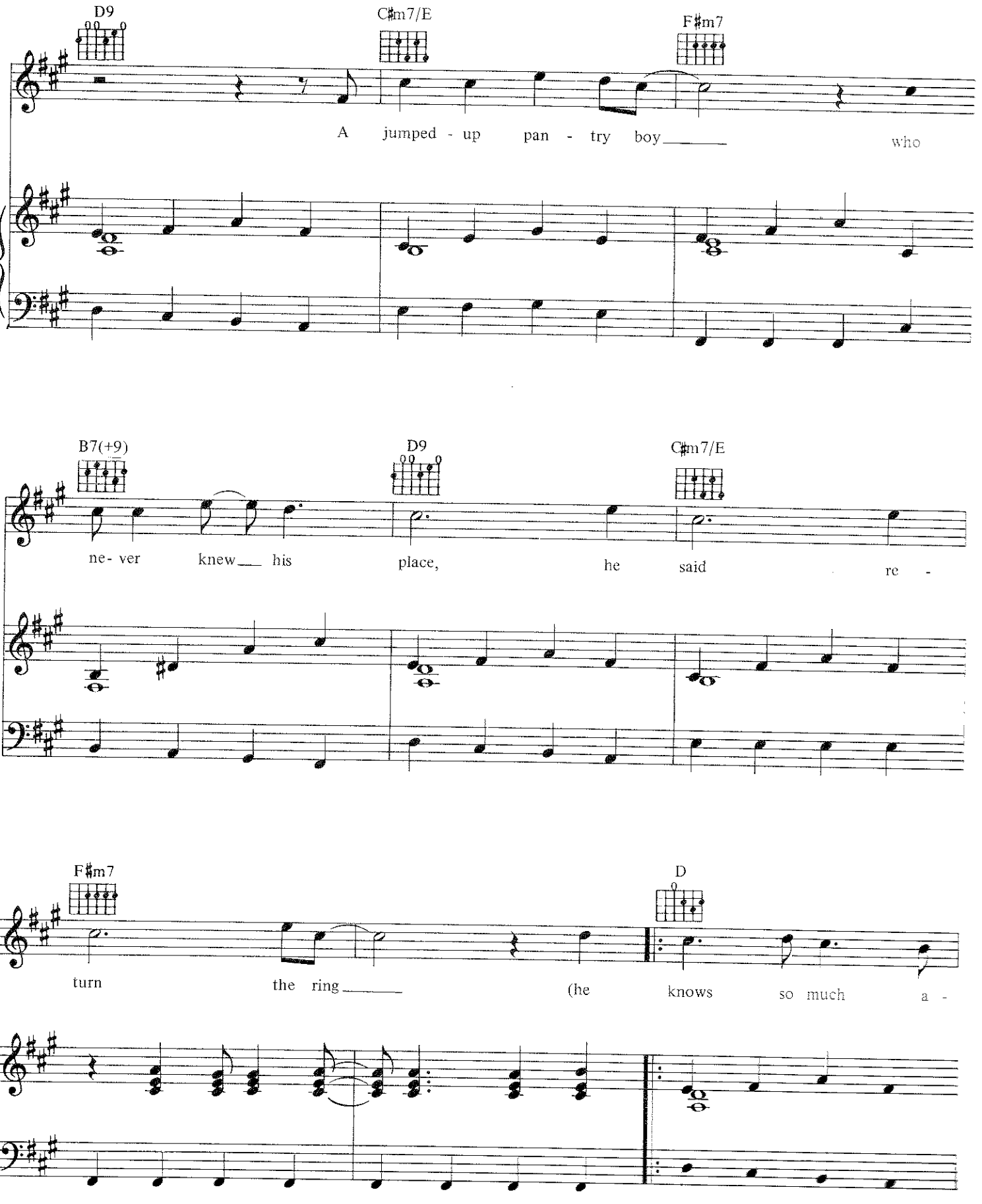


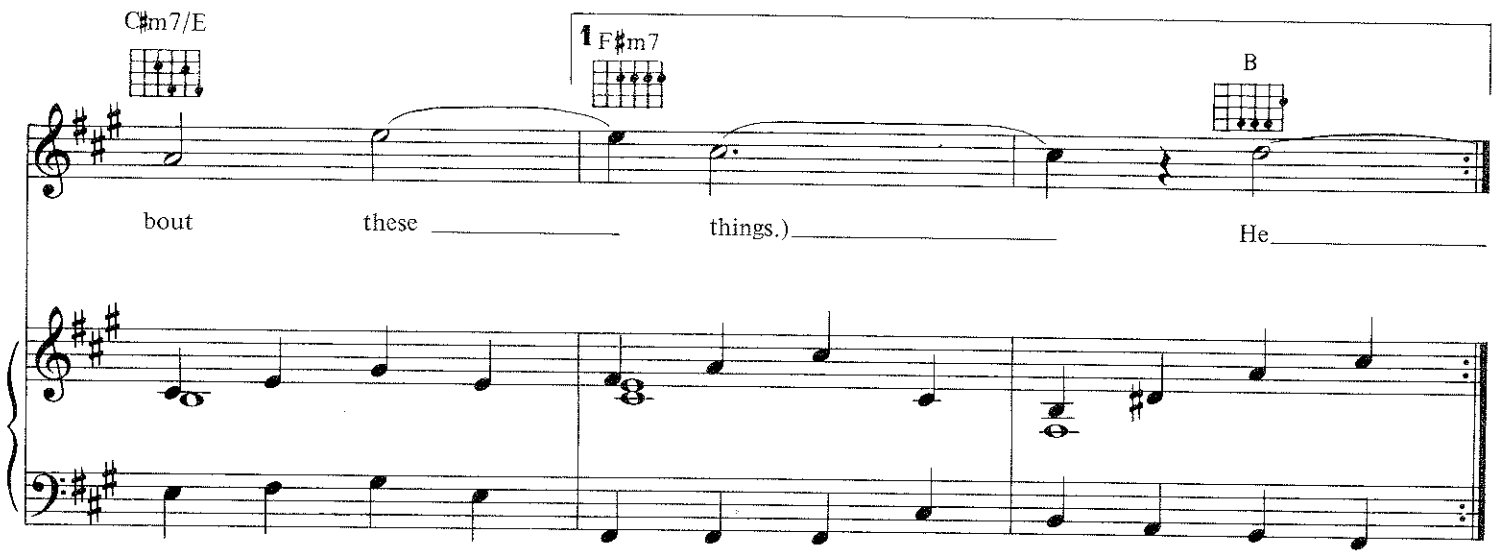



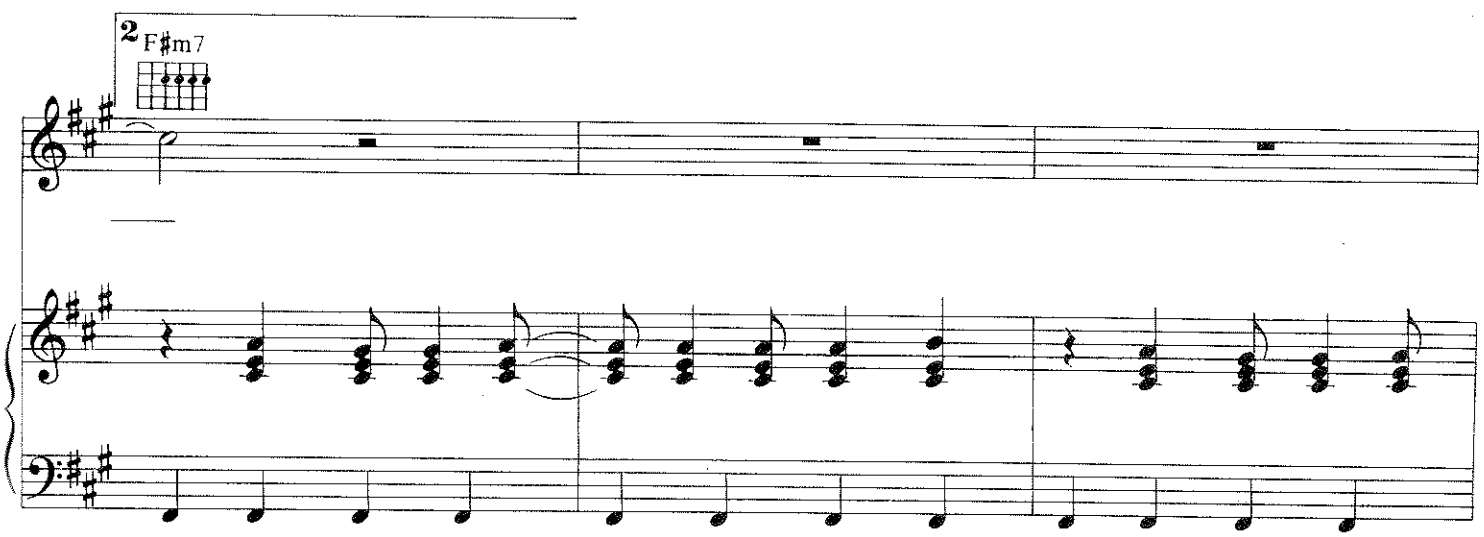



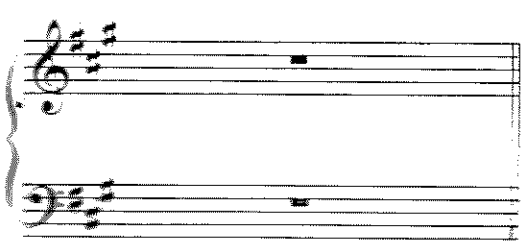

*VERSE 3:* I would go out tonight
*(As V. 2)* But I haven't got a stitch to wear
This man said "It's gruesome
That someone so handsome should care."

*(MIDDLE)*


D9
C♯m7/E
F♯m7
A jumped - up pan - try boy who
B7(+9)
D9
C♯m7/E
ne- ver knew his place, he said re -
F♯m7
D
turn the ring (he knows so much a -





*VERSE 3:* *(Repeat)* + This charming man. . .

*MIDDLE:* *(Repeat)* + Instr.

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