

Instruction Manual

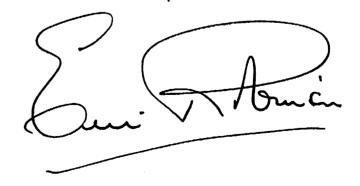
Introduction by Eric Robinson

I have spent the major part of my career pioneering music of every description through the medium of television, and it is because of this that I have great pleasure in introducing to you this brilliant new keyboard instrument—an instrument specially for the home.

All over the world there are countless people who have always wanted to play like a professional, yet either there was not the time to learn, or else those fingers would never quite go in the right places at the right time. So it happened that in many homes the piano became the stand for the photographs, and the family turned to the record player, the radio and television for their music.

Now even with only the slightest ear for music you can command your own orchestra with the new fabulous "Mellotron "—simply by using two fingers and a thumb—producing a wealth of orchestral sound never before obtainable from a single keyboard.

May I, therefore, wish you many happy hours of playing and listening to your new "Mellotron," which I regard as the greatest development in home entertainment since Television.



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"THE MELLOTRON"

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The "Mellotron"

This Manual of Instruction is not intended to teach you to read music. Rather it is designed to show you how much of today's music can be played through a combination of numbers which produces various rhythms.

To begin with, an orchestra is generally composed of three sections, i.e.:

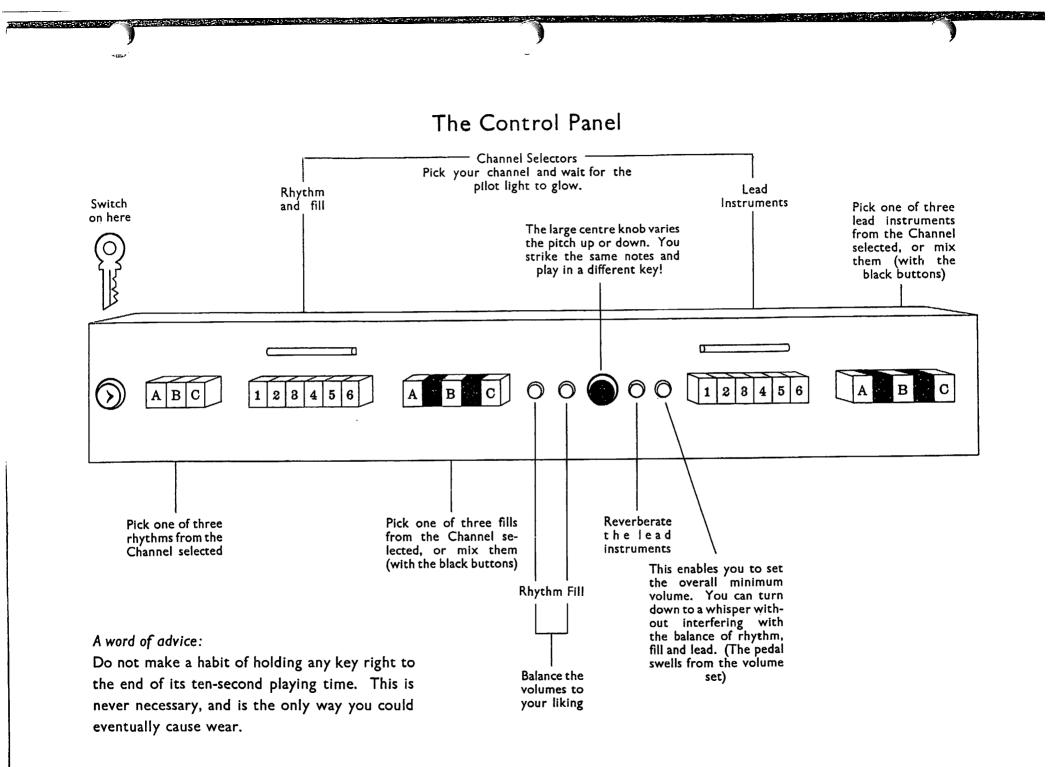
A Rhythm Section which carries the basic feeling of the music called tempo.

A Background or accompaniment Section, giving fulness or body to the melody, and a Lead Section or solo instrument, playing the melody.

The "Mellotron" is designed to play like an orchestra, apart from Channels C-2-C and A-4-A, which give you a reverberated organ and church organ register, and the three sections mentioned above can be put together with the use of only three fingers—two in the left hand playing only the octave, and one in the right playing the melody. This will give the sound of a five-piece combination.

If you can carry a tune in your head, or even whistle in key, you will be well on your way to controlling the orchestra ready and willing to play for you beneath your fingertips.

First examine the Control Panel (overleaf) which shows you how you can select your choice of rhythms; backgrounds and lead instruments.



Playing the Rhythm Section

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Now if you feel you are reasonably familiar with the Control Panel you can play the rhythm section with the left hand. To begin with, using the index finger of the left hand and starting on Channel 1 we find our first three rhythms, a Bosanova; a Viennese Waltz; and a Slow Waltz, which are selected by pushing the A, B or C button. Just to get the feel of the rhythm let us play each section on the keyboard one at a time. Press the A button in, and the rhythm section will produce a Bosanova rhythm when the numbered keys are depressed. Starting on the middle key marked 17, play each number for eight beats, and continue on down the keyboard until you reach Number 1.

Now push B button and the rhythm section becomes a Viennese Waltz. Starting on Number 17 let us do the same thing, only this time changing every six beats. And repeat the same process on the C button, which is a Slow Waltz, changing on every third beat.

Go through the entire rhythm register, i.e. the first seventeen keys in the left hand, and hear all the various rhythm patterns and starting on Channel 1 right through Channel 6 you will find 16 various rhythm progressions.

You will undoubtedly find yourself trying to put a melody to some of the rhythms as they bring certain pieces of music to mind. This we will do later. Let us go back to Channel 1 and introduce the background, or accompaniment section. As you will have already noticed, there are TWO keys marked 17, 16, 15, etc. etc., and by playing these together, using the full span of the left hand, i.e. little finger and thumb, you will find that, apart from the organ channels already mentioned where only two backgrounds are available you can add a choice of three backgrounds to each rhythm. Thus, if you set the controls at A-1-A you will discover that along with the Bosanova rhythm you have added strings. Try each background, i.e. A, B and C with the Bosanova, and see which one you would prefer. Strings most likely. Now change to B-1, A, B or C, and finally C-1, A, B or C. This now gives you some idea of the amount of variation that could be applied to any piece of music.

Using this as a guide, go through the entire 16 rhythm and background sections, i.e. left hand keyboard, playing the corresponding numbers simultaneously. The sound effects on Channel 5-C, and 6-C are Playing the Rhythm Section—Continued.

not for use as background with the rhythm sections—only the A track and the B track of Channels 5 and 6 can be used in the Accompaniment Section.

Sound Effects

Apart from all the fun you will get with the sound effects on Channels 5C and 6C of the Added Background section, you will find these are a great asset when making up your family home movies.

Duplicating What We Hear

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Most people when listening to music can pick out a sour note, should one appear. It may be "sharp" (above the note intended) or it may be "flat" (below the note intended). In our case we deal with four different types of chords; major, minor, diminished, or seventh. By listening to either the rhythm or the background and then duplicating the same notes in the right hand you can easily discover how the chord is built up—and you should easily hear if the chords do not match. By using Rhythm Key Number 17 as a guide you will always get the first note of the key in which you are playing.

On Channels 1 and 2 the first note is C. On Channel 3 the first note is A flat. On Channel 4 the first note is F. On Channel 5 the first note is E flat, and on Channel 6 the first note is B flat. The left hand always plays by system; this means that regardless of what the key may be, the major, minor, diminished or seventh chords are always in the same place on the keyboard.

For example:

In the key of C	the major chord is Number 17. the C 7th chord is Number 2. the C minor chord is Number 1.
In the key of A þ	the Ab major chord is Number 17. the Ab 7th chord is Number 2. the Ab minor chord is Number 1.
In the key of F	the F major chord is Number 17. the F 7th chord is Number 2. the F minor chord is Number 1.
In the key of Eþ	the Eb major chord is Number 17. the Eb 7th chord is Number 2. the Eb minor chord is Number 1.
In the key of Bb	the Bb major chord is Number 17. the Bb 7th chord is Number 2. the Bb minor chord is Number 1.

Duplicating What We Hear—Continued.

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Therefore, regardless of what key signature you are playing in, the harmonic chords will always be correct if the same pattern is played. The only difference is that the right hand will have to play in the chosen key. The left hand is system; the right hand plays normally.

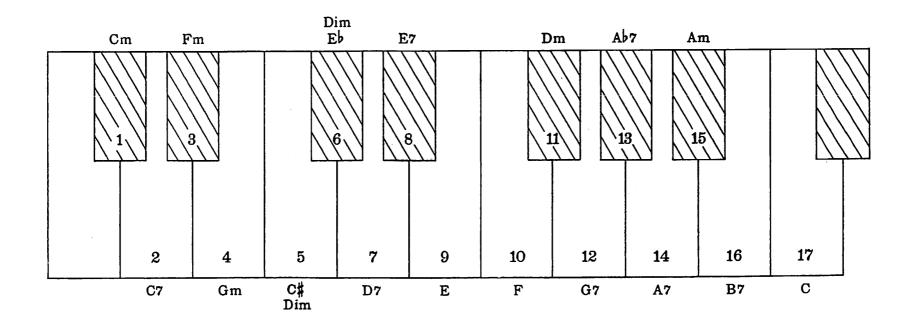
Starting to learn

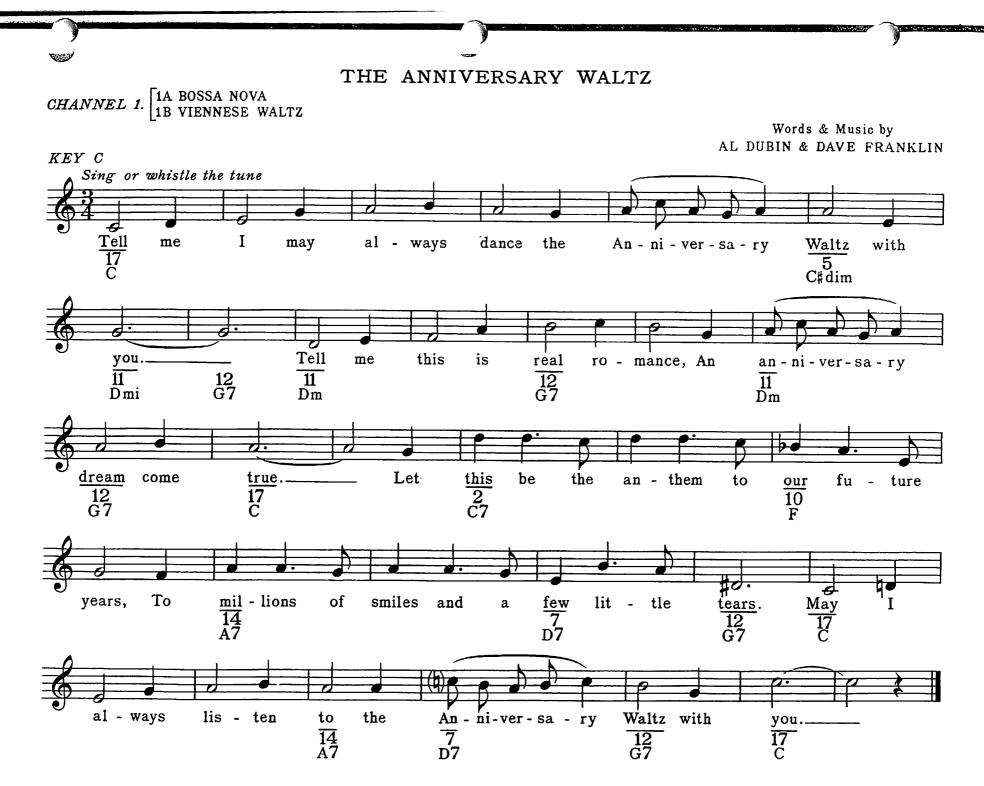
One of the easiest ways of learning to play your instrument is to sing along with it, without trying to use your right hand, which would normally be playing the melody you are singing. This will help you get used to the fact that, regardless of what the tune may be, it is composed of various chords. Once you have the correct chords to a piece of music, all you have to do is change them at the appropriate time. Obviously if you finish singing before you have used all your chords, you have not changed them at the correct time. I am sure you will hear the mistake as soon as you go wrong. If you finish singing after you have used all the chords being called for, it simply means you held one or more chords too long. The transposition chart will make it possible for you to transpose—regardless of key—most of the music that has been popular for the past 50 years. It is just a matter of transposing musical chord signatures into numbers. You will find that many popular pieces of music contain as few as three or four chords. As soon as you have the correct chord sequence written as numbers, you can immediately play over 100 variations of it simply by changing the rhythm and background, and by being able to play the lead section, the amount of variation goes into the thousands.

First Practical Steps

So here we go. Let us start on Tune Number 1. I expect you know the tune, so sing or whistle this, at the same time depressing the key bearing the number indicated under the various words. Just try and you will soon find how easy it is. Some of the Tempos are slower than generally played but this is deliberately done to give you more time to find your way about.

RHYTHM	CHANNEL	ADDED BACKGROUND
A. Bossa Nova	1.	A. Cello & Violin Moving Chords
B. Viennese Waltz		B. Marimba
C. Slow Waltz	KEY C	C. Celeste



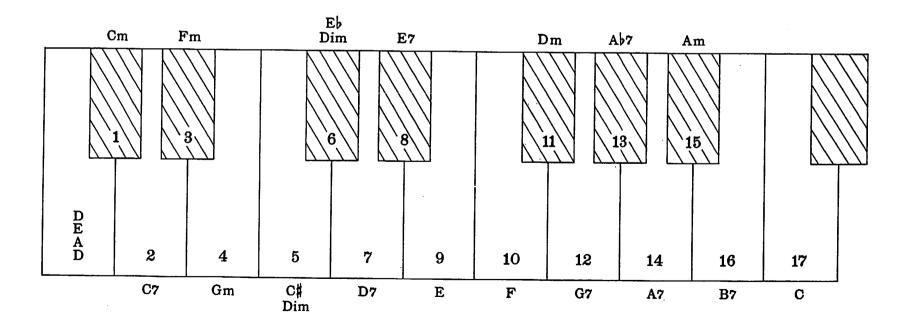


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RНҮТНМ	CHANNEL	ADDED BACKGROUND
A. Rhumba	2.	A. Guitar
B. Afro-Cuban		B. Afro-Cuban
C. Reverberated Organ (Single Notes)	KEY C	C. Reverberated Organ (Single Notes)



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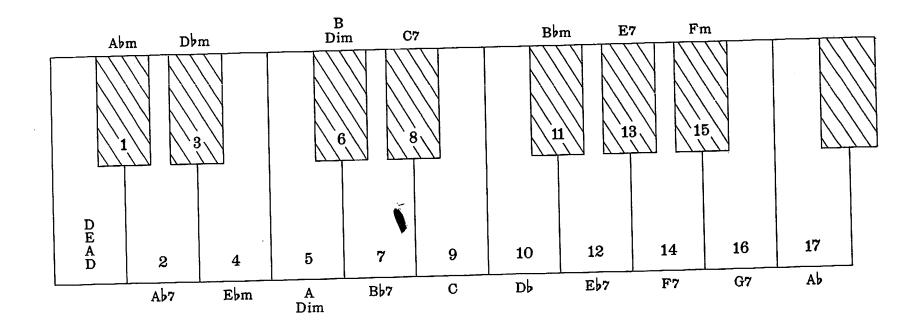
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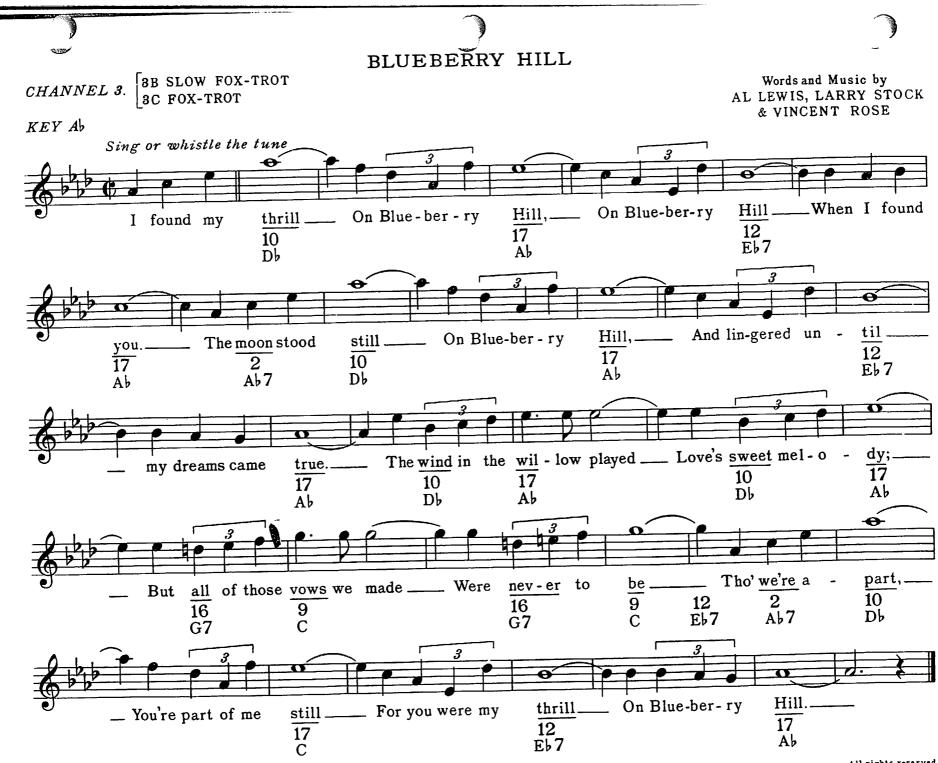
RHYTHM	CHANNEL	ADDED BACKGROUND
A. Dixie Land B. Slow Foxtrot	3.	A. Trombone B. Clarinet, Alto, Tenor
B. Slow Foxtrot C. Foxtrot	кеу АЬ	C. Woodwind

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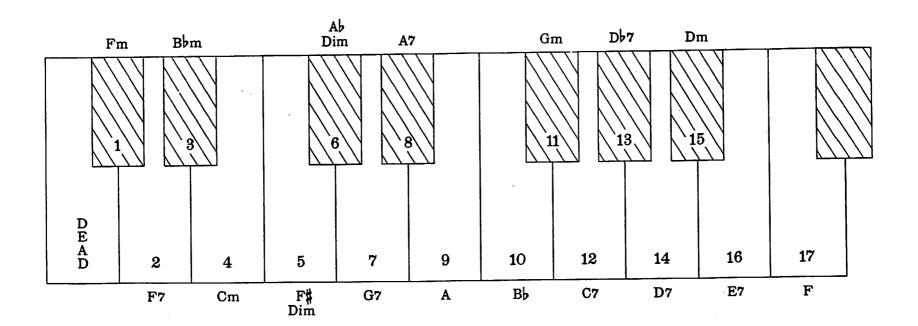
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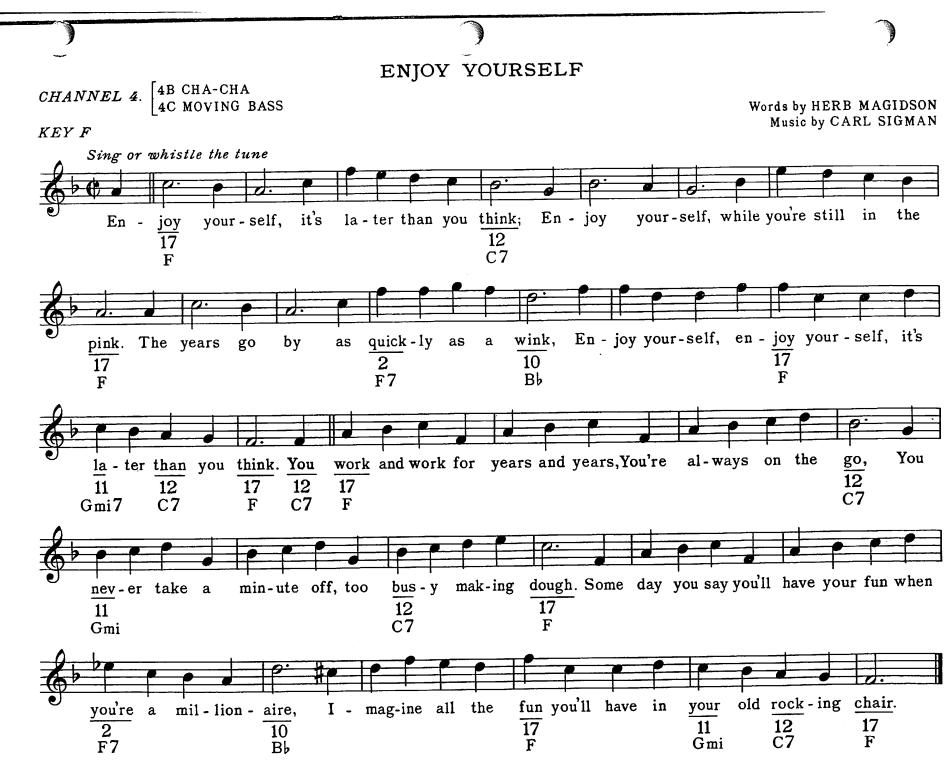
RHYTHM	CHANNEL	ADDED BACKGROUND
A. Church Organ (Single Notes)	4.	A. Church Organ (Single Notes) B. Swinging Flutes
B. Cha-Cha	<u> </u>	D. Swinging Fideo
C. Moving Bass	KEY F	C. Cello & Violin Chords



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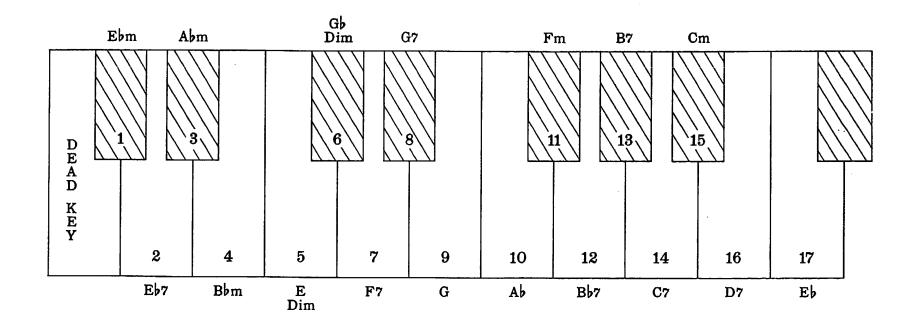
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RНYТНМ	CHANNEL	ADDED BACKGROUND
A. Foxtrot	5.	A. Piano Chords Moving
B. Bolero		B. 3 Clarinets
C. Tango	КЕҮ Еþ	C. Sound Effects

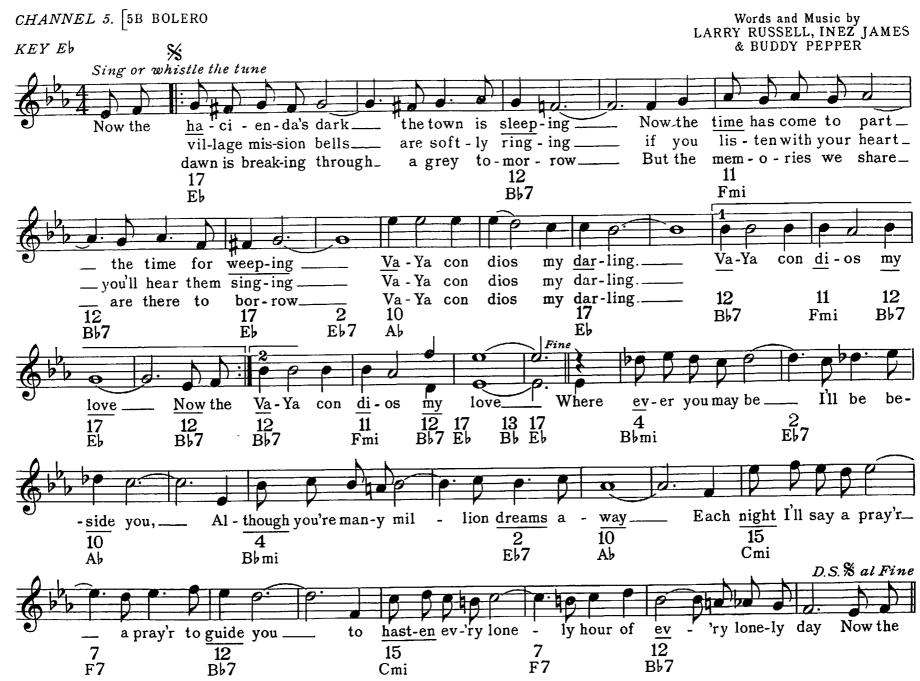
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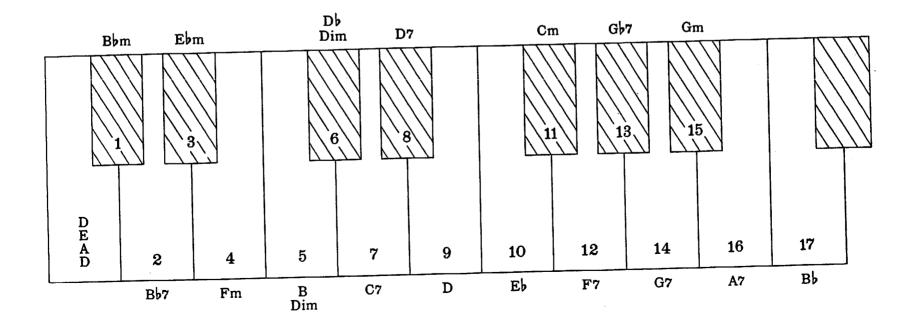
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RHYTHM	CHANNEL	ADDED BACKGROUND
A. Jazz Foxtrot B. Samba	6.	A. Piano Chords B. Electronic Organ Chords
C. Fast Jazz Bass	КЕҮ Вþ	C. Sound Effects



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LOVER 6B SAMBA CHANNEL 6. Words by LORENZ HART 6C JAZZ BASS Music by RICHARD RODGERS KEY Bb 🖇 Sing or whistle the tune Soft - ly_ Lov - er, ___ when I'm near you___ And hear you____speak my name Ι Till loves Lov - er, ____ when we're danc - ing ____ Keep on glanc - ing ____ in eyes. my Lov - er, ___please be ten - der ___ When you're ten - der ___ fears de -Lov - er___ part 13 4 14 16 17 Gb7 G7 A7 Fmi Bb Last time to Coda + 1st & 2nd time 🕁 Coda (Last time) Fine you __ breathe a flame. in my ear en - tranc - ing ____ mu - sic dies.. own heart.__ sur - ren - der ____ to T my 12 F7 17 17 12 F7 11 Cmi Bb Bb You're ev -'rv Ι de sign plan of my fu - ture in A11 is you 9 D 16 9 16 Ā7 D A7 D.S. S al 🕈 Coda Ο σ mine. Prom - ise you'll al-ways con - tin be to ue_ 12 12 11 7 15 E7 F7Cmi **C7** Gmi

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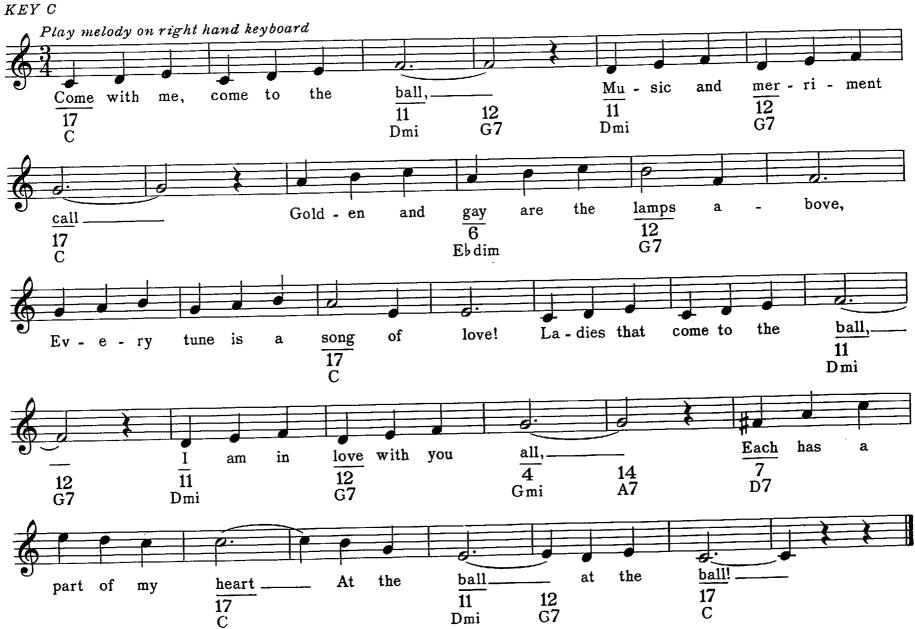
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COME TO THE BALL

CHANNEL 1. [1B VIENNESE WALTZ

THE CONTRACT OF CONTRACTOR

Words by ADRIAN ROSS Music by LIONEL MONCKTON



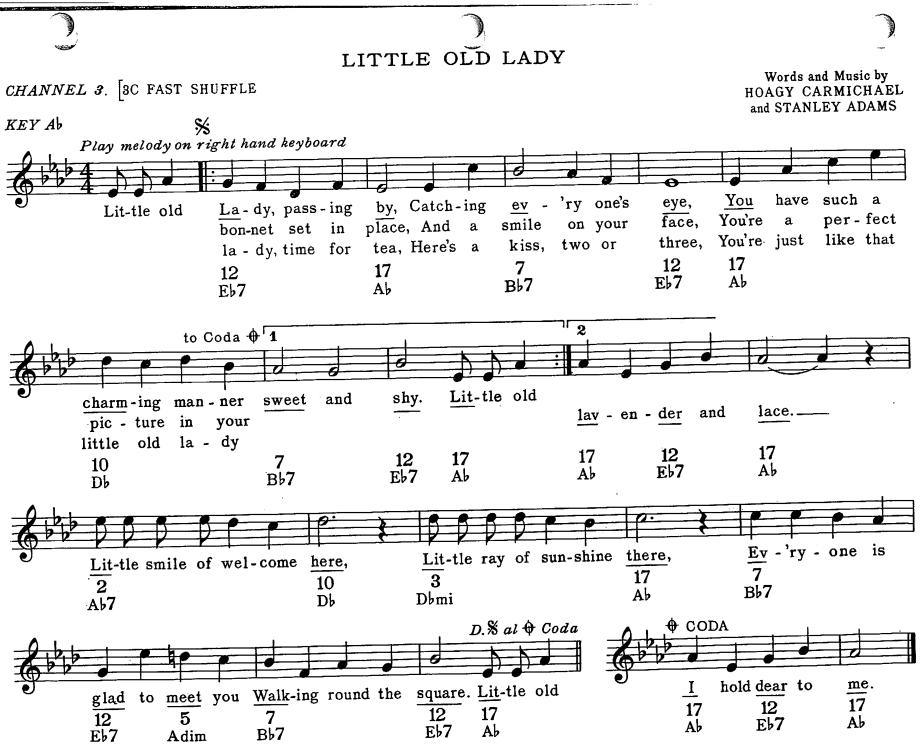
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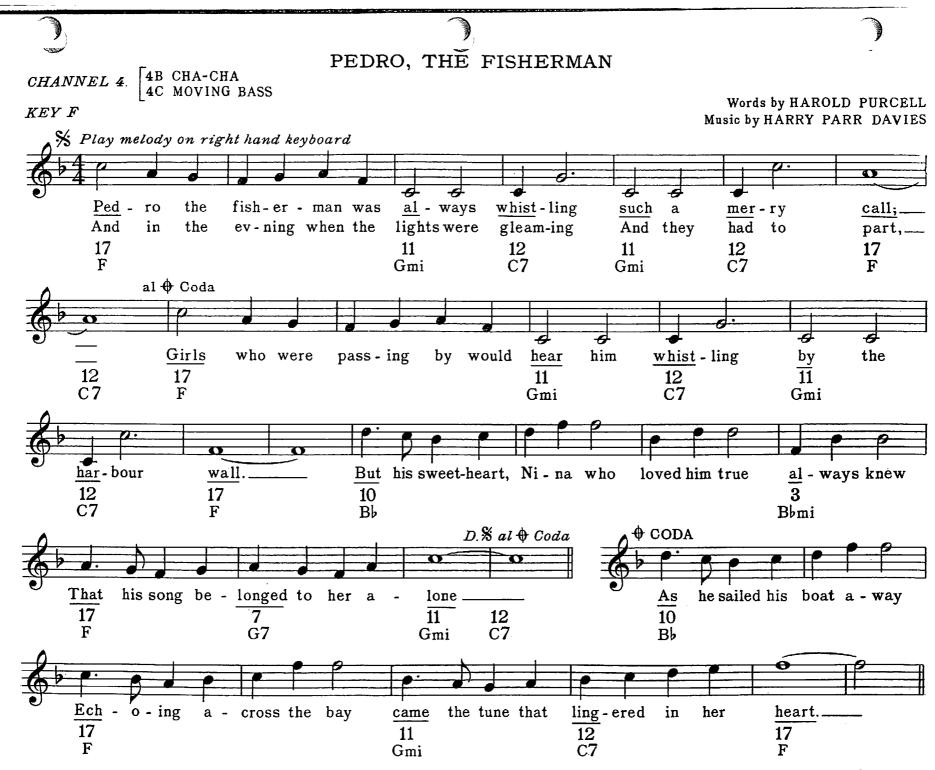
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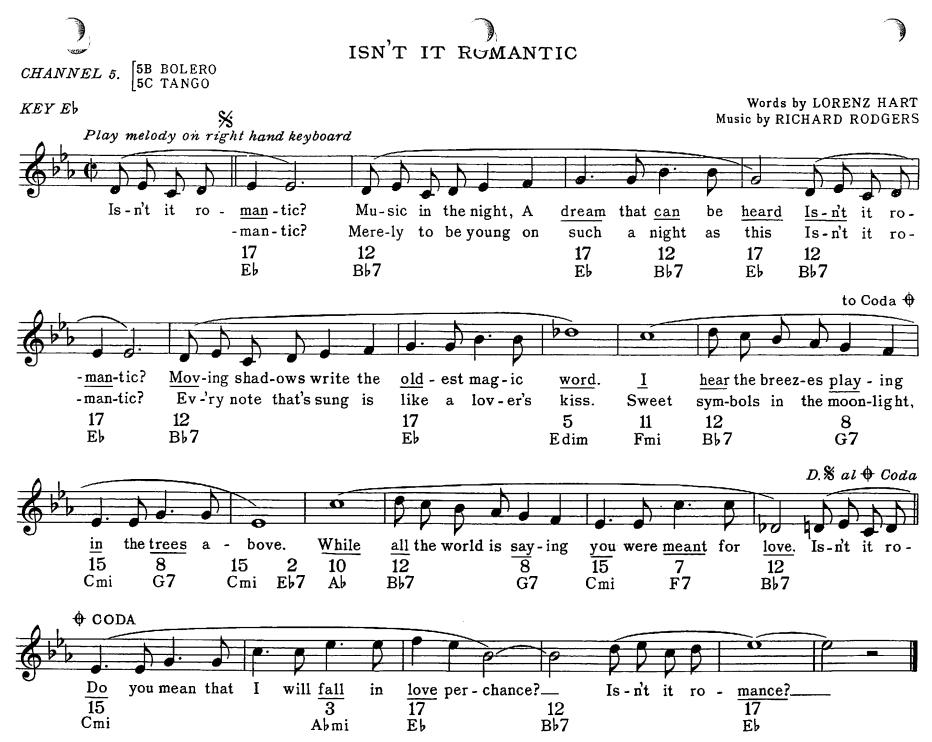
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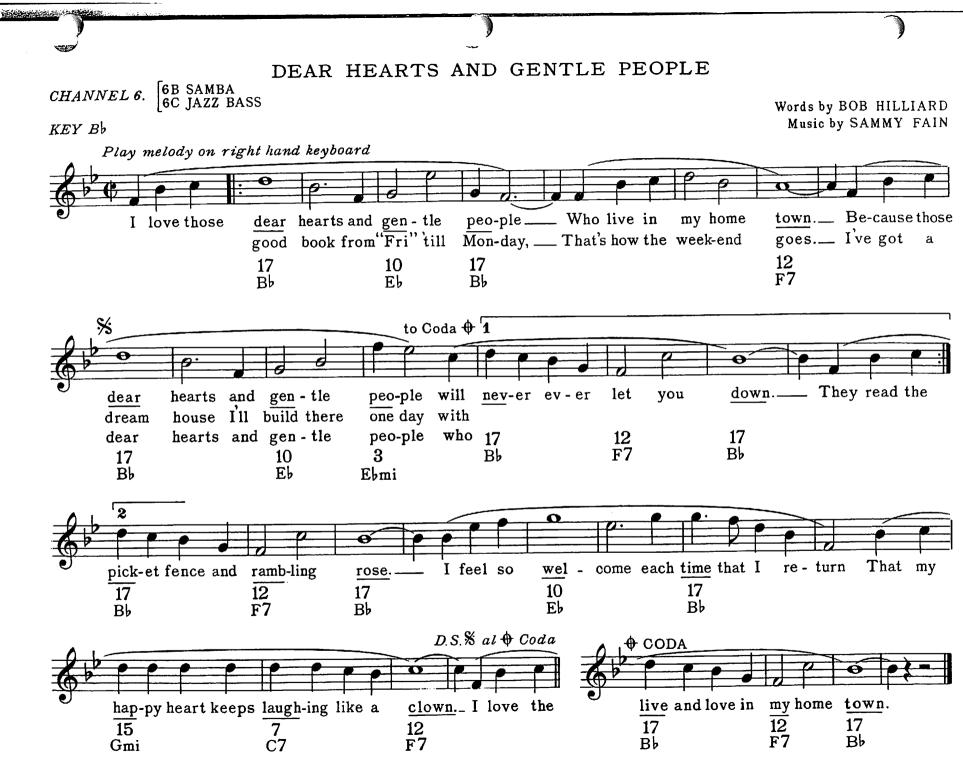
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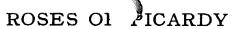


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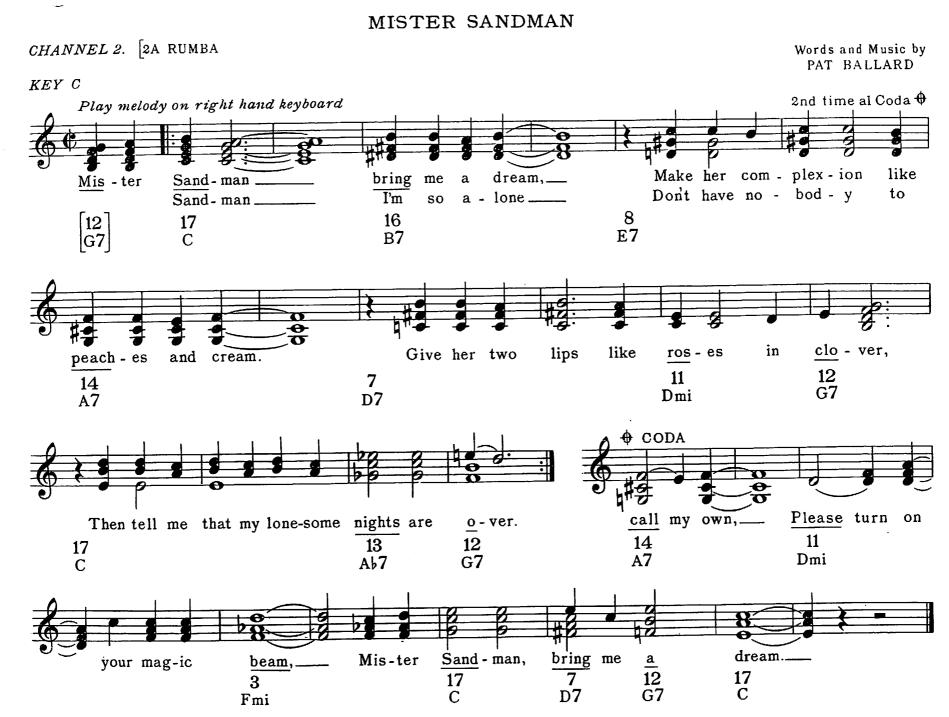
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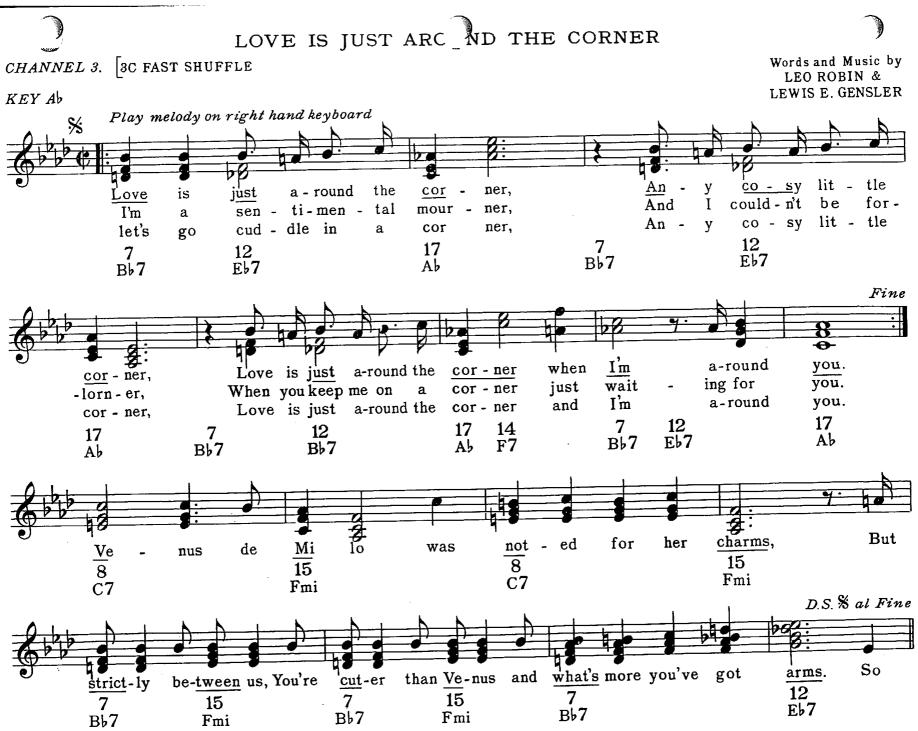
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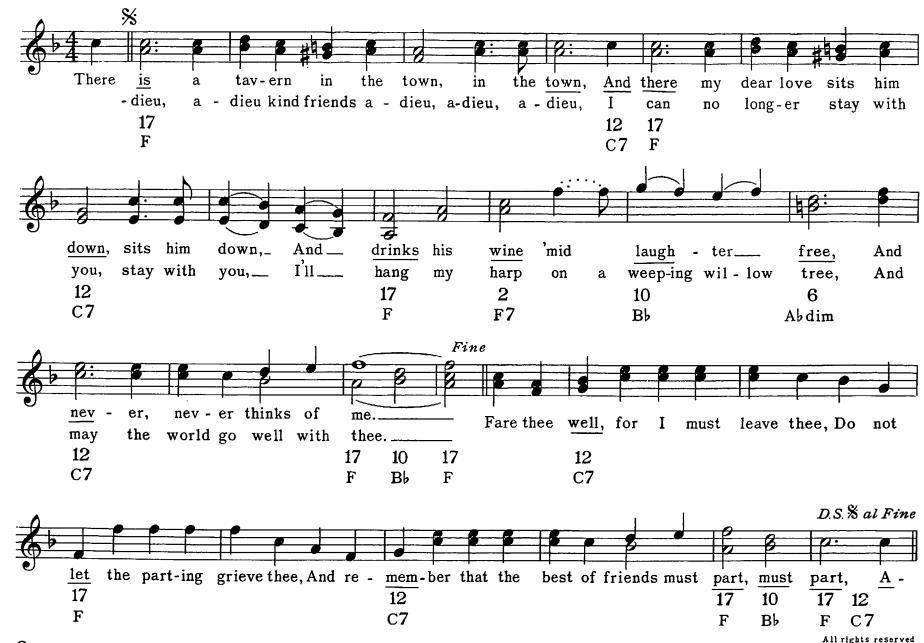


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THERE IS A TAVERN IN THE TOWN

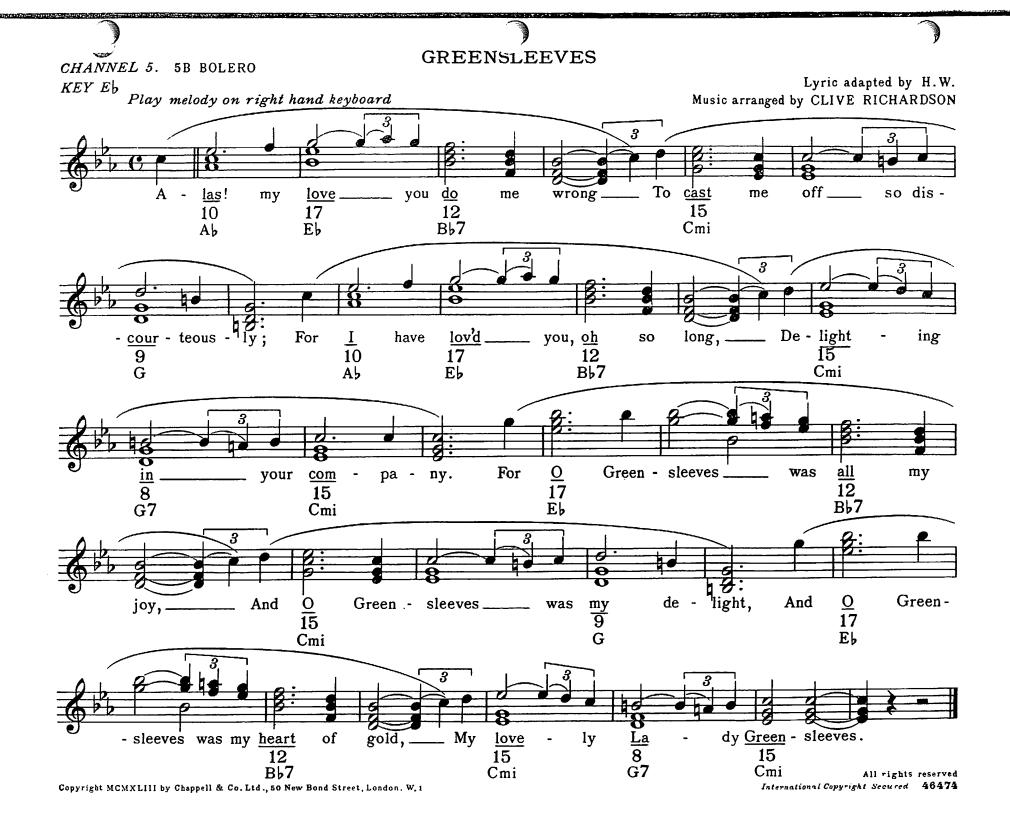
CHANNEL 4. 4B CHA-CHA 4C MOVING BASS

KEY F

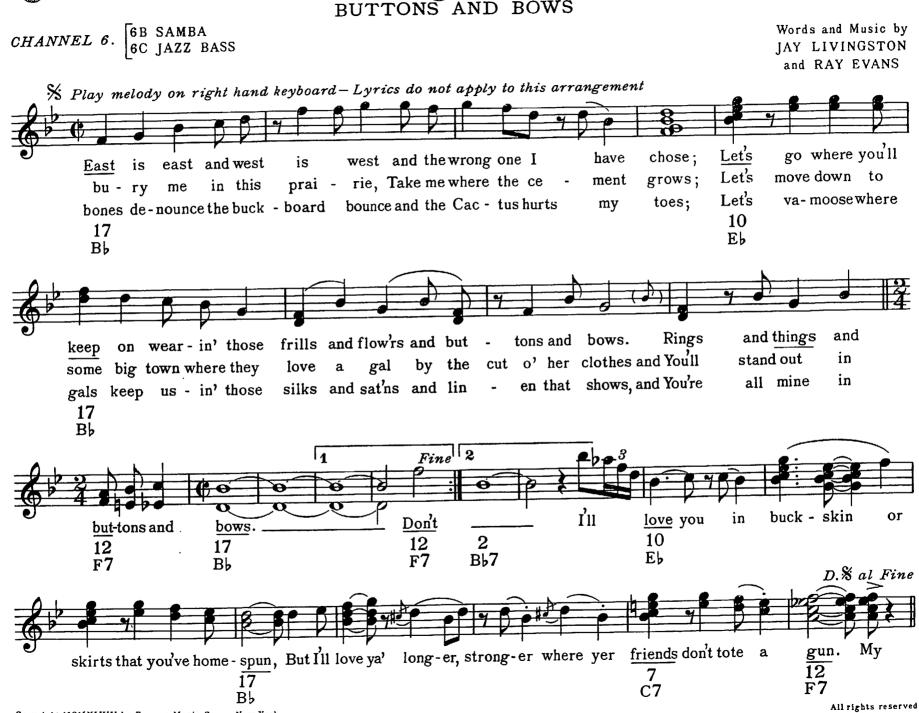


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BUTTONS AND BOWS



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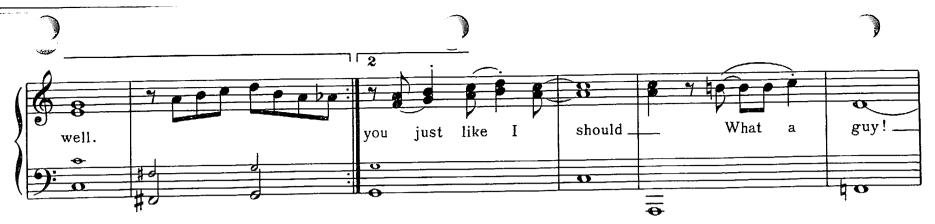
I GET ALONG WITHC T YOU VERY WELL

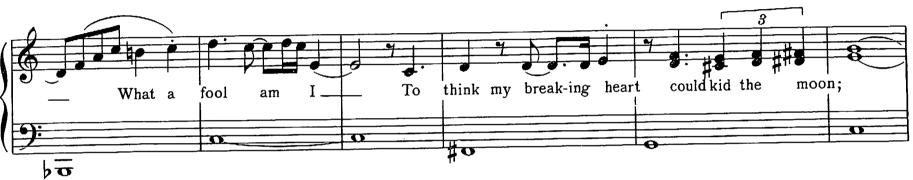
CHANNEL 1. 1A BOSSA NOVA

Words and Music by HOAGY CARMICHAEL



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CHANNEL 2, 2A RUMBA

Words by SAMMY CAHN Music by JULE STYNE







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TWO SLEEPY PEOPLE

CHANNEL 4. 4B CHA-CHA

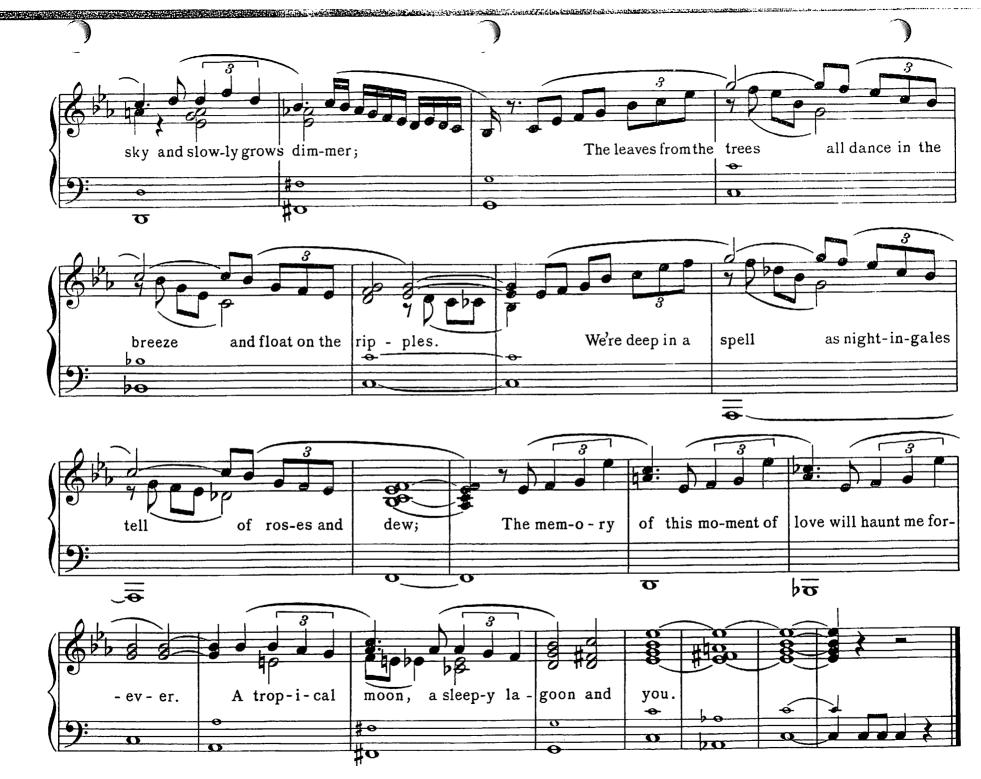
Words by FRANK LOESSER Music by HOAGY CARMICHAEL





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Use of Chord Finders

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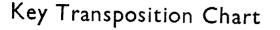
As you will see, there are five Chord Finders supplied with your instrument. The first is marked Channels 1 and 2, and the remainder Channels 3, 4, 5, 6.

To enable you to learn quickly the chords that you are playing, insert the relevant Chord Finder for the Channel selected behind the first 17 notes of the Left Hand. By this means you will immediately be able to see the name of each chord as you press its corresponding key. You will be surprised at the speed with which you can dispense with these Chord Finders because your ear will soon start telling you which chord you are playing.

In fact, from an educational point of view, you will find these Chord Finders will teach anyone, young or old, a rapid appreciation of the chord structure.

Other Instruments can play along

As this instrument is fitted with variable pitch control, concert pitch is always attainable, and anybody who plays a lead instrument can stand in and add their own contribution. By using only the Rhythm Section and the "live" lead instruments you will immediately have the sound of a DANCE combination, and by adding the background with the left thumb, the sound of additional instrumentalists will also be brought in.



The purpose of the Transposition Chart is to enable you to take a piece of sheet music, regardless of the key in which it may be written, and translate the chord symbols into the corresponding chord numbers which then enable you to play in any of the five keys contained in the instrument. Thus, if you have a piece of music written in the key of G and you wish to play it in an alternative key, you just read up and down the G column, allocating the correct chord numbers against the corresponding chord symbols. Having done this, you can then play the music in any of the five original keys on the instrument by simply choosing the appropriate channel, whilst still continuing to use the same chord numbers in the left hand.

One constant rule: The key in which you choose to play with your left hand is governed by the channel you select, and your right hand must always play in this same key.

TRANSPOSITION CHART

Channel		1	2	3	4	5	6									<u> </u>
Sharps or flats		None	None			56	- bb	#	#	###	#####	#####		6 bb	b ^k bb	6 6 6 6
Chord Number	17	С	С	Ab	F	ЕЬ	В♭	G	D	A	E	В	F#	Db	Gb	СЬ
Chord Number	16	B7	B7	G7	E7	D7	A7	F#7	C#7	A67	Eb7	B67	F7	C7	F7,	Bb7
Chord Number	15	Ami	Ami	Fmi	Dmi	Cmi	Gmi	Emi	Bmi	F#mi	C#mi	Abmi	Ebmi	Bbmi	Ebmi	Abmi
Chord Number	14	A7	A7	F7	D7	C7	G7	E7	B7	F#7	C#7	А67	Eþ7	B67	Eb7	Ab7
Chord Number	13	A67	Ab7	E7	D67	B7	G67	Eb7	Bb7	F7	C7	G7	D7	A7	D7	G
Chord Number	12	G7	G7	Eb7	C7	B67	F7	D7	A7	E7	B7	F#7	C#7	A67	D67	Gb7
Chord Number	11	Dmi	Dmi	Bbmi	Gmi	Fmi	Сті	Ami	Emi	Bmi	F#mi	C#mi	Abmi	Ebmi	Abmi	Dbmi
Chord Number	10	F	F	Db	ВЬ	АЬ	ЕЬ	С	G	D	A	E	В	Gb	СЬ	E
Chord Number	9	E	E	С	A	G	D	В	F#	C#	АЬ	ЕЬ	вь	F	Bb	Еþ
Chord Number	8	E7	E7	C7	A7	G7	D7	B7	F#7	C#7	A67	Eb7	Bb7	F7	Bþ7	Eþ7
Chord Number	7	D7	D7	B67	G7	F7	C7	A7	E7	B7	F#7	C#7	Ab7	Eb7	Ab7	Db7
Chord Number	6	Ebdim	Ebdim	Bdim	Abdim	Gbdim	Dbdim	Bbdim	Fdim	Cdim	Gdim	Ddim	Adim	Edim	Adim	Ddim
Chord Number	5	C#dim	C#dim	Adim	F∦dim	Edim	Bdim	G∦dim	D#dim	A#dim	F	Cdim	Gdim	Ddim	Gdim	Cdim
Chord Number	4	Gmi	Gmi	Ebmi	Cmi	Bbmi	Fmi	Dmi	Ami	Emi	Bmi	F#mi	C#mi	Abmi	Dbmi	Gbmi
Chord Number	3	Fmi	Fmi	Dbmi	Bbmi	Abmi	Ebmi	Cmi	Gmi	Dmi	Ami	Emi	Bmi	Gmi	Bmi	Emi
Chord Number	2	C7	C7	Ab7	F7	Eb7	Bþ7	G7	D7	A7	E7	B7	F#7	D67	Gb7	B7
Chord Number	1	Cmi	Cmi	Abmi	Fmi	Ebmi	Bbmi	Gmi	Dmi	Ami	Emi	Bmi	F#mi	Dbmi	Gbmi	B mi

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