



BARBERSHOP CLASSICS

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF
BARBER SHOP QUARTET SINGING IN AMERICA INC.

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WORDS & MUSIC

Spencer Williams

ARRANGEMENT

Dave Briner

BASIN STREET BLUES

STOCK NO. 7353

Intro

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

I'm gon-na take a trip— down on that steam - er ship, — An' I'd

Verse 1

like to have ya all join in. — join in. — Won't ya Come a - long with me, —

Come a - long with me, To the Mis - sis - sip - pi,

Come a - long with me, To the Mis - sis - sip - pi, — To the Mis - sis - sip - pi,

Basin Street Blues

9 We'll take the boat— to the land of dreams,— Steam down the riv - er down to

12 New Or - leans.— Ya know the band's there to meet us.— Band's there to meet us,

13

14 Band's there to meet us,

15 Old friends to greet us,— Old friends to greet us, That's where the white— an' the

16

17

18 black folks meet,— Hea - ven on earth,— they call it Ba - sin Street.—

19

20

Well

Chorus 1

Musical notation for measures 21-24. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: Ba-sin Street— is the street— where the e-lite— al-ways meet— in

Musical notation for measures 25-27. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: New Or-leans,— land of dreams,— You'll ne-ver know how nice it seems or

Musical notation for measures 28-30. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: just how much it real-ly means,— Glad to be,— Yes, sir-ee,— Where

Musical notation for measures 31-34. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: wel-come's free,— dear to me,— Where I can lose— My Ba-sin Street

My

Basin Street Blues

Verse 2

35 Well, well, I'm spread-in' the news.— Ain't ya glad ya came with me?—

Blues

38 Was-n't it fun?— Steam-in' down the Mis-sis-sip-pi, While we

39 We had a par-ty

40

41 rode in the boat to the land of dreams,— Steam-in' down the riv-er, down to

42

43

Chorus 2

44 New Or-leans.— Ba-sin Street— That's the street— where the

45

46

3 Head-in' for Ba-sin Street

47 48 49

friend - ly e - lite — al - ways meet, — Way down in New Or - leans, — That's the
they

3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 47, 48, and 49. The music is in 8/8 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Measure 47 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. Measure 48 has a key signature change to two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 49 has a key signature change to one sharp (F#). There are triplets in measures 48 and 49. The lyrics are: "friend - ly e - lite — al - ways meet, — Way down in New Or - leans, — That's the they".

50 51 52

land of dreams, — You'll nev - er know how nice it seems, or just how much it real - ly means. —

3 3 3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 50, 51, and 52. The music continues in 8/8 time. Measure 50 has a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 51 has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 52 has a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, and G#). There are triplets in measures 51 and 52. The lyrics are: "land of dreams, — You'll nev - er know how nice it seems, or just how much it real - ly means. —".

53 54 55

Glad to be — Yes, sir - ree, — where wel - come is free, — It's so

Detailed description: This system contains measures 53, 54, and 55. The music continues in 8/8 time. Measure 53 has a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, and G#). Measure 54 has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 55 has a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Glad to be — Yes, sir - ree, — where wel - come is free, — It's so".

56 57 58

dear to me, — Where I can lose, — lose my Ba - sin Street blues, —
I'll lose

Detailed description: This system contains measures 56, 57, and 58. The music continues in 8/8 time. Measure 56 has a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, and G#). Measure 57 has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 58 has a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "dear to me, — Where I can lose, — lose my Ba - sin Street blues, — I'll lose".

Basin Street Blues

59 lose
my Ba - sin Street blues, — It's time to spread the news, — I'm

60 61

62 gon - na lose my Ba - sin Street Blues. —

63 rit. my Ba - sin Street Blues. —

64 my Ba - sin Street — Blues. —

Performance Notes

Spencer Williams, the composer, also wrote *Everybody Loves My Baby, I Ain't Got Nobody* and *Royal Garden Blues*, all of which have been sung in barbershop.

Basin Street Blues has been a favorite of the dixieland band repertoire ever since it was written, and vocal versions by Louis Armstrong, Jack Teagarden and Bing Crosby have become popular.

The most important goal in performing this arrangement is to establish a steady relaxed swing beat, and to maintain it absolutely constant until measure 63. All beamed eighth-note pairs are sung as triplets, with the first note having $2/3$ of the time duration, and the second note $1/3$.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask *before* you sing.