



HARMONY EXPLOSION

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

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WORDS & MUSIC

Ray Henderson

Lewis and Young

ARRANGEMENT

Boston Consort

I'M SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD

STOCK NO. 8627

1 Intro

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Doo-
doot doo doo

Doom-bah doom-bah doom-bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom-bah doom-bah doom - bah doom-bah

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I'm Sitting On The Top Of The World

7 long, just rol-lin' a - long. Be - cause I'm

doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom

9 quit - tin' the blues of the world, just sing-in' a

doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah

11 song, just sing-in' a song. Glo-ry Hal-le - lu - ia

doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah

13 I just phoned the par - son, "Hey, Par, get rea - dy to call." doo

14 Just like Hump-ty Dump-ty, doo

15

I'm Sitting On The Top Of The World

3

16 doo doo doo doo

17

I'm rea-dy to fall, be-cause I'm sit-tin' on top of the
doo doo doo doo.

Doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah

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world, just rol-lin' a - long, just rol-lin' a -

doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah

Chorus 2

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long. I'm sit-tin' on top of the world, rol-lin' a -

doom-bah doom-bah doom

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He quit the blues

long, rol-lin' a - long. I'm quit-tin' the blues of the
He quit the blues

Bum - bah dum-bah dum dum dum Doom-bah doom-bah doom-bah doom-bah

I'm Sitting On The Top Of The World

blues of the world just sing-in' a song.

26 27

world blues of the world just sing-in' a song, just sing-in' a

doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah

song. Ah, Glo-ry Hal-le-lu-ia I just phoned the par-son, "Hey, Ah,

28 29

doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah doom - bah

Par, get rea - dy to call." Just like Hump-ty Dump-ty, I'm rea-dy to fall, because I'm

30 31 32

dooh ah dooh wah.

He's sit-tin' on top, on top the world,

33 34 35

sit-tin' on top of the world, just sing-in' a song, just sing-in' a

He's sit-tin' on top, on top the world,

The image shows a musical score for the song "I'm Sitting On The Top Of The World". It consists of two staves, a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score starts at measure 36 and ends at measure 40. The lyrics "song. I'm sit-tin' on top of the world." are written below the staves. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing a supporting harmonic line. There are various musical notations including eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. A horizontal line is drawn below the staves.

Performance Notes

Sam Lewis and Joe Young, the lyricists on "I'm Sitting On Top Of The World," have individually written many popular songs through the years. Their joint efforts have also produced such hits as "Rockabye Your Baby With A Dixie Melody;" "Five Foot Two, Eyes Of Blue;" and "Laugh! Clown! Laugh!" which are familiar to most Barbershoppers. Ray Henderson, who wrote the music for this song, was a pianist in dance bands and had a number of Broadway stage scores produced. Among his many compositions are "Sonny Boy" and "Sunny Side Up."

This arrangement of "I'm Sitting On Top Of The World" was made popular by the 1989 international quartet champion, **Second Edition**. It was created, however, by another outstanding foursome, **Boston Consort**. It is an amazing story about woodshedding, an almost lost art. In 1984 Boston Consort was in a dressing room preparing for a show one night. Bass Terry Clarke began singing the pattern you see in the first measure. Baritone Larry Tulley chimed in with tenor Eddie Ryan following. A moment later, lead Tommy Spirito was inspired to start singing "I'm Sitting On Top Of The World." They didn't feel ready to put it on the show that night, but they knew they had a wonderful thing going. They did sing it informally for some friends after the show. At their next rehearsal they finished their creation, all by ear, and started singing it in their show package the very next week. It is now written down and preserved for Barbershoppers forever! Thank you Terry, Larry, Tommy and Eddie!

In performing this arrangement, be sure to maintain a relaxed, steady rhythmic pulse, established initially by the bass. Don't rush. Note that the entire first chorus is a lead solo, while the other three parts act in a supporting role. Chorus 2 should begin with a lighter quality in the unison section — don't oversing. The key change provides a natural lift to a tag that should be fun for every quartet or chorus to sing. Enjoy!

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.