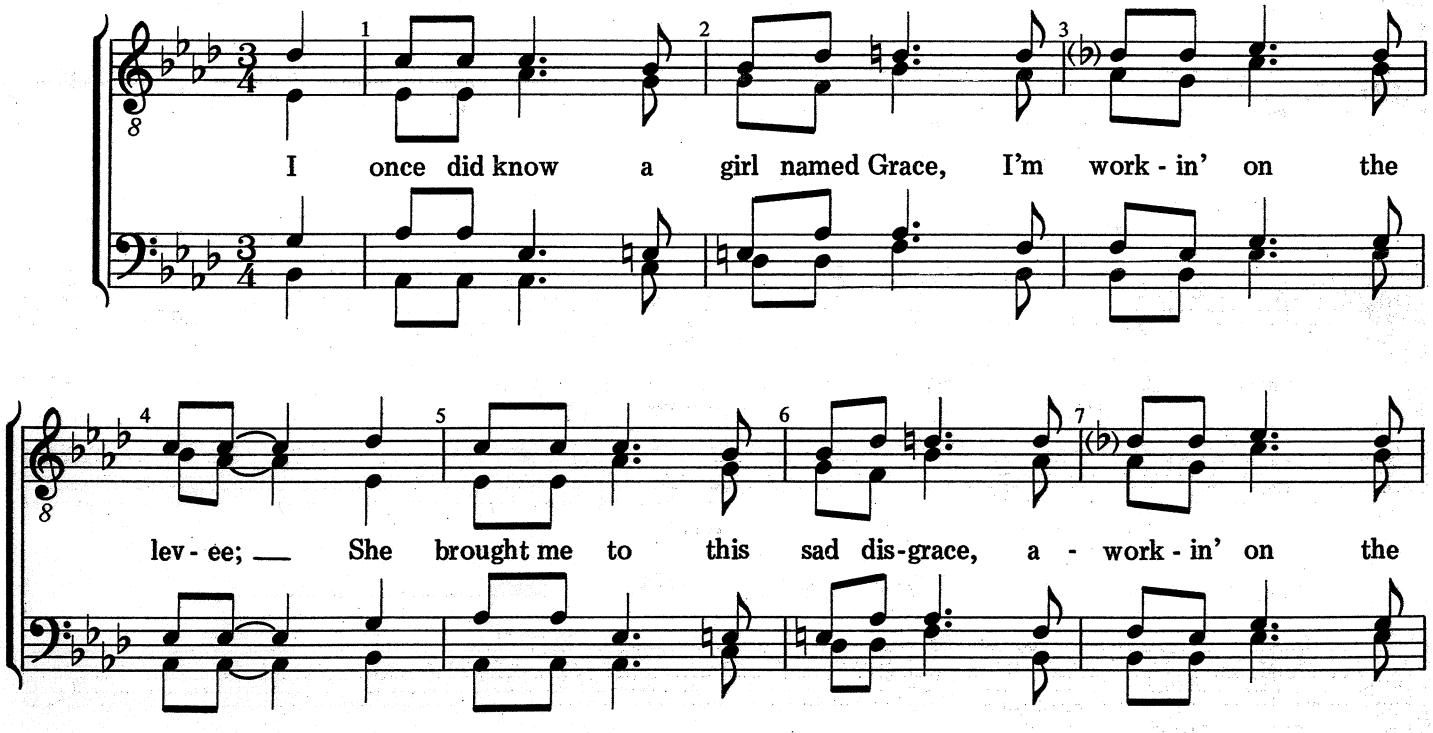
I'VE BEEN WORKIN' ON THE RAILROAD

Music historians and researchers do not seem to know the real source of this well-known song. It probably originated in the South sometime before the Civil War and is very possibly of black heritage. It may have been written for a small minstrel company show, or it may have started out as a work song by black laborers. In any case, it was popular in the 1830s and 1840s. By 1880 it was known throughout the U.S. It may very well be a genuine American folk song. It was first known as "Levee Song" and appeared as part of a collection of Princeton University songs in 1894.

The words to the popular version known as "The Eyes Of Texas" were written for a minstrel show at the University of Texas in 1903 by John Lang Sinclair, but it was not published until 1918.

TRADITIONAL

VERSE:



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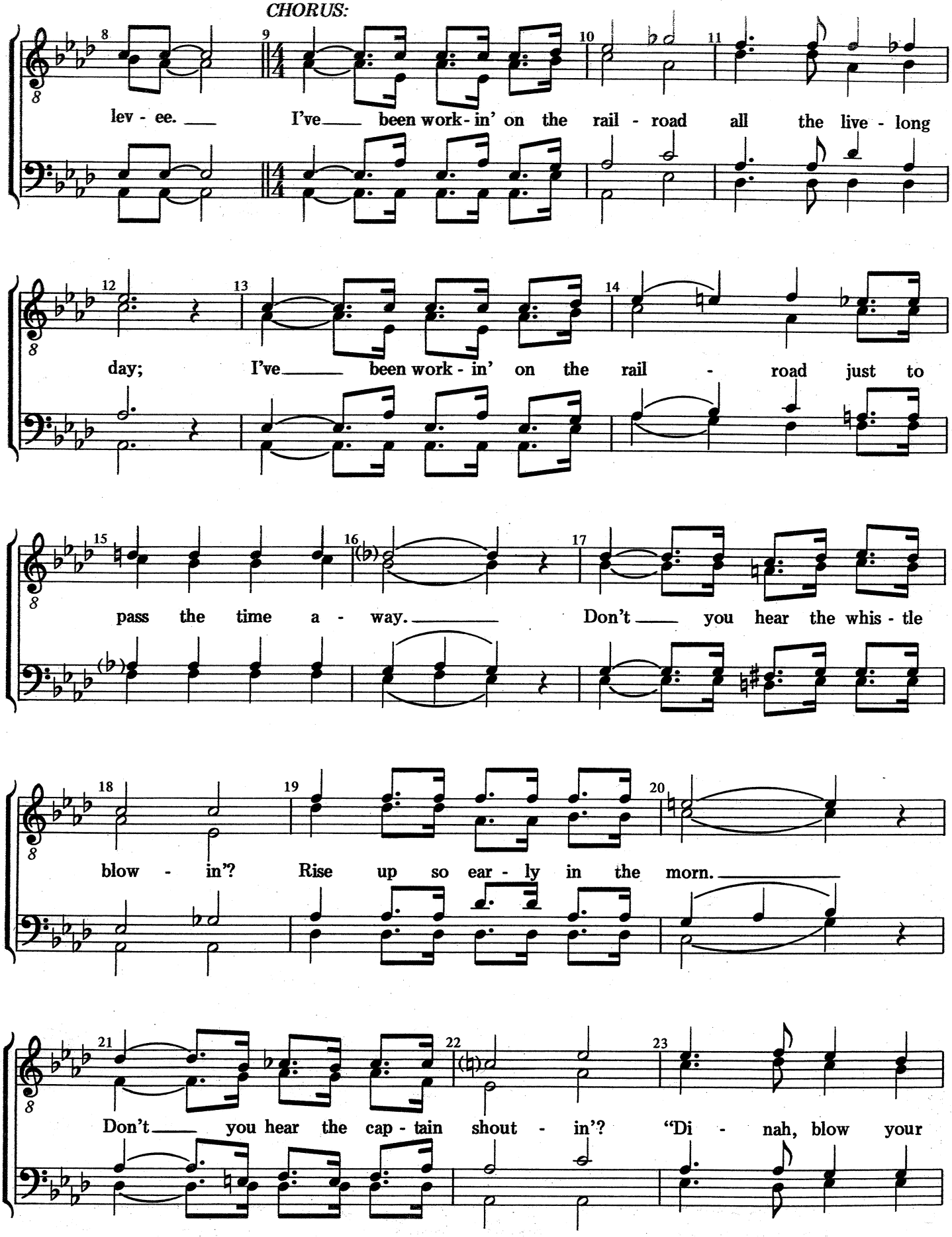
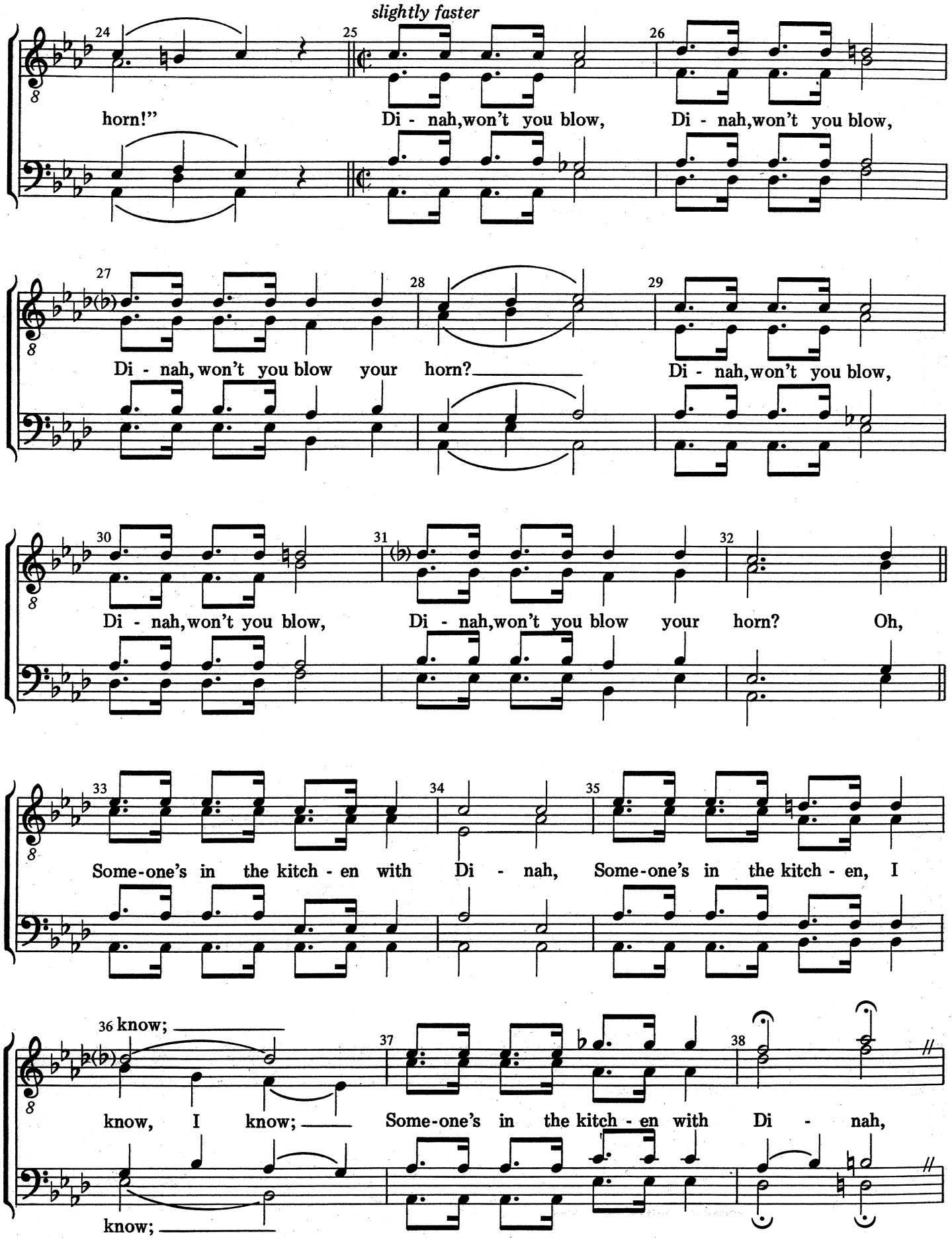
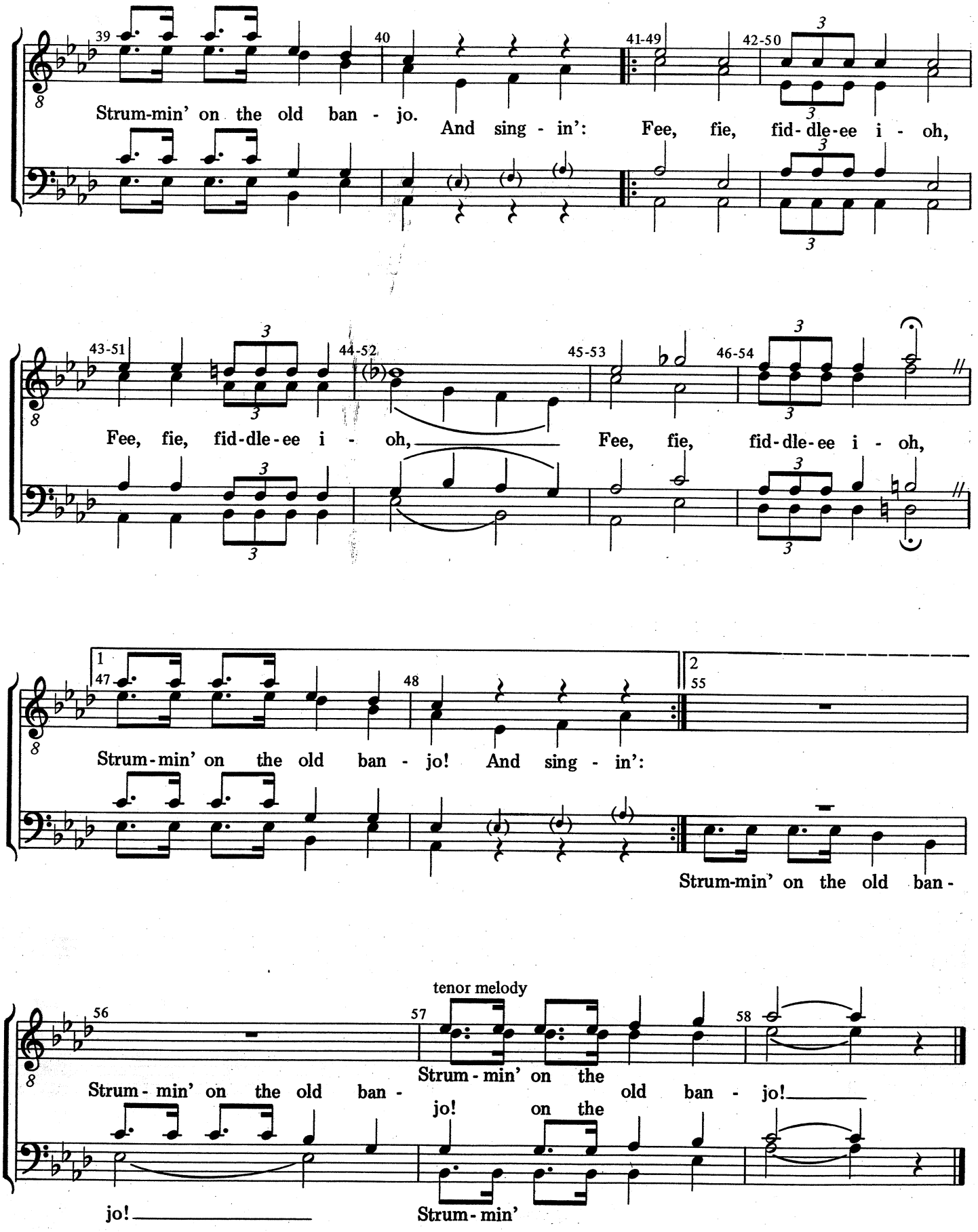
CHORUS:


lev - ee. I've been work - in' on the rail - road all the live - long
day; I've been work - in' on the rail - road just to
pass the time a - way. Don't you hear the whis - tle
blow - in'? Rise up so ear - ly in the morn.
Don't you hear the cap - tain shout - in'? "Di - nah, blow your


slightly faster
24
25
26
horn!"
Di - nah, won't you blow,
Di - nah, won't you blow,
27
28
29
Di - nah, won't you blow your horn?
Di - nah, won't you blow,
30
31
32
Di - nah, won't you blow,
Di - nah, won't you blow your horn?
Oh,
33
34
35
Some-one's in the kitch - en with Di - nah,
Some-one's in the kitch - en, I
36 know;
37
38
know, I know;
Some-one's in the kitch - en with Di - nah,
know;


39
40
41-49
42-50
Strum-min' on the old ban - jo.
And sing - in':
Fee, fie, fid-dle-ee i - oh,
43-51
44-52
45-53
46-54
Fee, fie, fid-dle-ee i - oh,
Fee, fie, fid-dle-ee i - oh,
1
47
48
2
55
Strum-min' on the old ban - jo! And sing - in':
Strum-min' on the old ban -
tenor melody
56
57
58
Strum - min' on the old ban -
Strum - min' on the
old ban - jo!
jo!
on the
jo!
Strum - min'