

TELL ME WHY

The origins of this lovely song are lost in the mists of time. No composers' names seem to be associated with it. The music has been known for decades and frequently appears in folios of college songs, usually described as a traditional melody.

Several features contribute to its enduring popularity. The easily singable melody allows natural harmonization, even by unskilled singers. The words carry their meaning with artful tenderness and simplicity. No wonder "Tell Me Why" has been such a longtime favorite.

CHORUS I:

Traditional

Musical score for the Chorus I of "Tell Me Why". The score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is marked with measure numbers 1 through 10. The piano accompaniment is marked with an 8-measure rest at the beginning of each system. The lyrics are: "Tell me why the stars do shine, Tell me why the ivy twines, Tell me why the".

8

1 2 3 4 5

Tell me why the stars do shine, Tell me

8

6 7 8 9 10

why the ivy twines, Tell me why the

11 12 13 14 15

8

skies are blue, And I will tell you why I love

Detailed description: This system contains measures 11 through 15. The music is written for voice and piano. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 11 starts with a piano dynamic marking of 8. The lyrics are 'skies are blue, And I will tell you why I love'. There are fermatas over the notes in measures 11, 13, and 15. Measure 13 has a first ending bracket. Measure 15 has a second ending bracket.

CHORUS II:

16 17 18 19 20

8

you. Be - cause God made the stars to shine,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 16 through 20, labeled 'CHORUS II:'. The key signature changes to two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 16 starts with a piano dynamic marking of 8. The lyrics are 'you. Be - cause God made the stars to shine,'. There are fermatas over the notes in measures 16 and 18.

21 22 23 24 25

8

Be - cause God made the i - vy twine, Be - cause God

Detailed description: This system contains measures 21 through 25. The key signature remains two sharps. Measure 21 starts with a piano dynamic marking of 8. The lyrics are 'Be - cause God made the i - vy twine, Be - cause God'. There are fermatas over the notes in measures 22 and 24.

26 27 28 29 30

8

made the skies so blue, That is the rea - son why

Detailed description: This system contains measures 26 through 30. The key signature remains two sharps. Measure 26 starts with a piano dynamic marking of 8. The lyrics are 'made the skies so blue, That is the rea - son why'. There are fermatas over the notes in measures 27 and 29.

31 32 33 34 35 36

8

I love you, I love you.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 31 through 36. The key signature remains two sharps. Measure 31 starts with a piano dynamic marking of 8. The lyrics are 'I love you, I love you.'. There are fermatas over the notes in measures 31, 33, 35, and 36. Measure 34 has a first ending bracket. Measure 36 has a second ending bracket.