

THE SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK

1894

Charles Lawlor, from Dublin, Ireland, was a vaudeville singer in New York when he asked his friend, native New Yorker, hat salesman, and part-time lyricist James Blake, to write some words for a melody he had composed. He asked for "something about New York." The result was what is perhaps the best known song about the city. Other songs about the famous city are "The Bowery," "In Old New York" and "The Streets Of New York," but none of these was as successful as "The Sidewalks Of New York."

The lyric of the song gives a brief glimpse into the everyday life of the big city in 1894 and remains as popular today as it was when it was composed almost 100 years ago.

Words by **JAMES W. BLAKE**
(1862-1935)

Music by **CHARLES B. LAWLOR**
(1852-1925)

VERSE:

The musical 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 first system contains measures 1 through 4, and the second system contains measures 5 through 9. The lyrics are: "Down in front of Ca - sey's there on his old brown wood - en stoop, On a".

1 2 3 4
Down in front of Ca - sey's there on his

5 6 7 8 9
old brown wood - en stoop, On a

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10 11 12 13 14

8

sum - mer's eve - ning we formed a mer - ry

Detailed description: This system contains measures 10 through 14. The music is written for voice and piano. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The time signature is 8/8. The vocal line starts with a half note on 'sum' (measure 10), followed by quarter notes for 'mer's' (11), 'eve' (12), and 'ning' (13). A slur covers measures 12 and 13. The piano accompaniment consists of chords, with a (b) marking in measure 13.

15 16 17 18 19

8

group; Boys and girls to - geth - er,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 through 19. The vocal line has a long note for 'group;' (15), followed by quarter notes for 'Boys' (17), 'and' (18), 'girls' (19), and 'to' (20). A slur covers measures 15 and 16. The piano accompaniment continues with chords.

20 21 22 23 24

8

gol - ly, how we would sing and waltz;

Detailed description: This system contains measures 20 through 24. The vocal line has a long note for 'gol - ly,' (20), followed by quarter notes for 'how' (21), 'we' (22), 'would' (23), and 'sing' (24). A slur covers measures 23 and 24. The piano accompaniment continues with chords.

25 26 27 28 29

8

There we learned the waltz step on the side - walks

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25 through 29. The vocal line has a long note for 'There' (25), followed by quarter notes for 'we' (26), 'learned' (27), 'the' (28), 'waltz' (29), 'step' (30), 'on' (31), 'the' (32), and 'side - walks' (33). A slur covers measures 25 and 26. The piano accompaniment continues with chords.

CHORUS:

30 31 32 33 34

8

of New York. On the East side,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 30 through 34. The vocal line has a long note for 'of' (30), followed by quarter notes for 'New' (31), 'York.' (32), 'On' (33), 'the' (34), 'East' (35), and 'side,' (36). A double bar line is present after measure 32. The piano accompaniment continues with chords.

35 36 37 38 39

8

West side, All a - round the town,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 35 through 39. The music is written for a piano accompaniment with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 35 starts with a piano dynamic marking of 8. The lyrics are 'West side, All a - round the town,'. Measure 39 ends with a fermata over a whole note chord.

40 41 42 43 44

8

The tots sang "Ring a Ro - sie," "Lon - don

Detailed description: This system contains measures 40 through 44. The music continues with the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'The tots sang "Ring a Ro - sie," "Lon - don'. Measure 44 ends with a fermata over a whole note chord.

45 46 47 48 49

8

Bridge is fall - ing down." fall - ing down." Boys and

Detailed description: This system contains measures 45 through 49. The music continues with the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'Bridge is fall - ing down." fall - ing down." Boys and'. Measure 49 ends with a fermata over a whole note chord.

50 51 52 53 54

8

girls to - geth - er, there was Me and Ma - mie

Detailed description: This system contains measures 50 through 54. The music continues with the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'girls to - geth - er, there was Me and Ma - mie'. Measure 54 ends with a fermata over a whole note chord.

55 56 57 58 59

8

Rorke, We tripped the light fan - tas - tic

Detailed description: This system contains measures 55 through 59. The music continues with the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'Rorke, We tripped the light fan - tas - tic'. Measure 59 ends with a fermata over a whole note chord.

60 61 62 63

On the side - walks of New York.

TAG:

64 65 66 67

We tripped the light fan - tas - tic

tenor melody

68 69 70 71 72

on the side - walks of New York.

Additional verses:

That's where Johnny Casey and little Jimmy Crowe,
 With Jakey Krause, the baker, who always had the dough,
 Pretty Nelly Shannon, with a dude as light as cork,
 First picked up the waltz step on the sidewalks of New York.

Things have changed since those times, some are up in "G,"
 Others they are wanderers, but they all feel just like me.
 They would part with all they've got could they but once more walk
 With their best girl and have a twirl on the sidewalks of New York.