

# SIMPLE MELODY

1914

Words and Music by Irving Berlin  
Arranged by Mark Rusch

## Intro

*All sing*

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

6

8

7

8

11

8

12

8

## Chorus

## Chorus 1, Quartet or VLQ

Mu - si - cal de - mon set your ho - ney a dream in' won't you play me some rag

## Chorus 2

Won't you play a sim - ple mel - o -

just change that class - i - cal rag to some sweet beau - ti - ful drag if you will

dy like my mother sang to me

25 26 27

play from a co— py of a tune that is chop— py you'll get all my ap - plause —

25 26 27

One with good old fash - ioned har - mo -

28 29 30 31

and that is sim - ply be - cause — I want to list - en to rag.

ny — play a sim - ple mel - o - dy.

**TAG**  
32 *ad lib.*

let's just sing a song in the bar-ber-shop style we can

32 33 34

35 36 37 38

sing, we can sing all night. (we can sing, we can sing all night.)

### *Performance suggestions*

SIMPLE MELODY is one of Irving Berlin's more familiar tunes. It can be performed several ways.

First, you must create two groups. This can be any of the following:

Divide the chorus into two more or less equal groups. On the risers, have them move apart leaving a space between them. Or,

Have a quartet or VLQ as Chorus 1, the balance of the chorus as Chorus 2. Chorus 1 should stand in front of Chorus 2 or go to a microphone at the front of the stage.

A third idea is to perform this with just two quartets.

In its simplest performance, all should sing the introduction. Then Chorus 2 continues with its part to the double bar in measure 31. Chorus 1 then sings from measure 17 to measure 31. Finally both parts sing their respective parts at the same time starting from measure 17 to measure 31. All then sing the tag.

The harmony in both chorus parts fits together in such a way that there is no problem with harmonic clashes when the song is sung by both groups simultaneously. It's important to observe the rest values accurately when both choruses are singing together. It's a very simple, straight forward presentation.

If you want to turn it into a production number, try this. Since the two chorus parts are in contrasting styles, you can turn this into a battle between the two groups. To start, all sing the introduction. While Chorus 2 is singing, Chorus 1 can react to their smooth lyric singing. When Chorus 1 starts, it's very jazzy by comparison and the Chorus 2 singers should react accordingly, lots of moving around, etc. Finally, when they sing together, it becomes a battle with each trying to outdo the other, making the most of their style. This continues when the singing stops, fists waving, etc., etc., etc.

The director blows a whistle like a referee and calls everyone together. With a lot of arm waving, etc., by the director, he calms everyone down. All sing the tag together and all's well because it ends well.

Have fun with a Simple Melody.