

I Once Knew

Music and Lyrics by
Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

Introduction for the piano part. The music is in 12/8 time with a tempo marking of quarter note = 78. The piece begins with a piano (*mp*) dynamic. The right hand features a steady eighth-note accompaniment, while the left hand provides a simple bass line.

MAN 2: *mp* *freely*
I once knew — a wom-an who tried to keep go - ing; who

The vocal line begins at measure 4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same pattern as the introduction. The dynamic is *mp* and the performance is marked *freely*. The piano part includes a *colla voce* instruction at measure 5.

made more of life — than what she had been dealt; A wom-an who raised — a ci - ty of chil - dren, who

The vocal line continues from measure 6. The piano accompaniment remains consistent, supporting the vocal melody. The lyrics describe a woman who made more of life than what she had been dealt, and a woman who raised a city of children.

8

ne-ver got back or gotasked how ___ she felt. I

10

once knew ___ a wom an who had a laugh just like thun der, with hands that could wipe a-way a-ny-one's tears. A

12

wo-man whose life was-n't mea-sured by time, ___ who stayed the same age, de-spite pas-sing years. ___

14

So look bright, so look strong.

slightly louder

16 Act the un - beat - a - ble part you once played. So hold tight, so hold on. Hold

18 fast to the de - li - cate fu - tures you made. 'Cuzas I'm get - ting old - er I'm find - ing the holes — I

understated

20 *rit.* ne - ver — wan ted to see. So hold on, hold fast, hold tight - er — for

23 me. I

a tempo

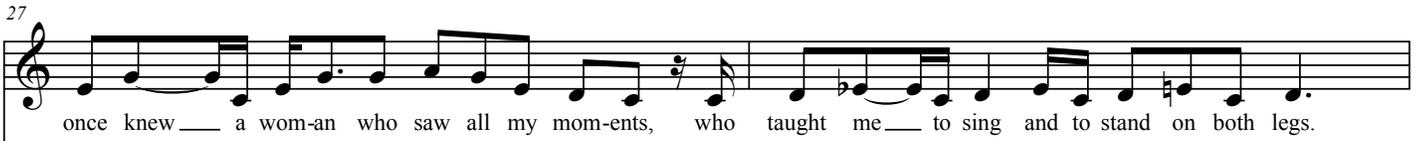
25
once knew — a wom an who took me to break-fast, who taught me that I could mix ket-chup with eggs. I



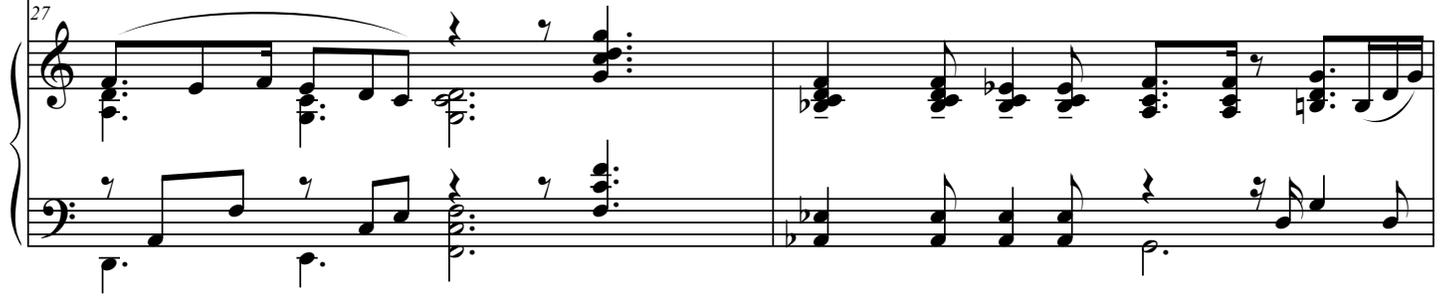
25
mf



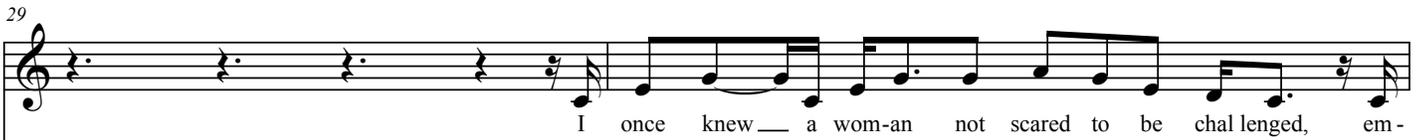
27
once knew — a wom-an who saw all my mom-ents, who taught me — to sing and to stand on both legs.



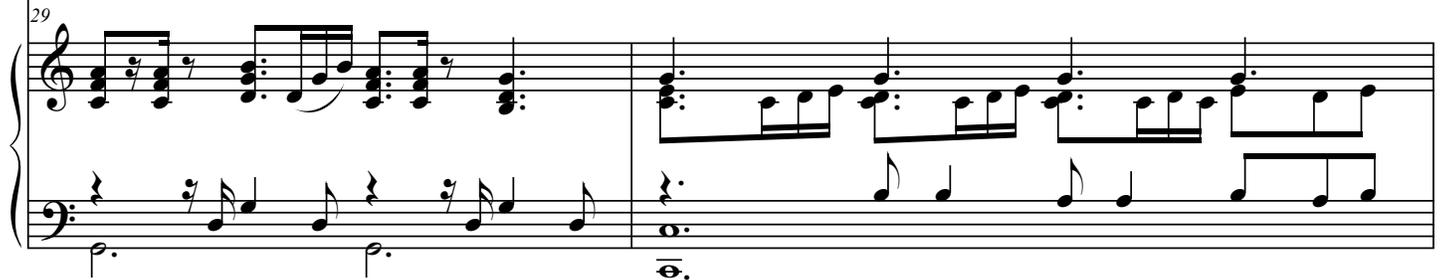
27



29
I once knew — a wom-an not scared to be chal lenged, em-



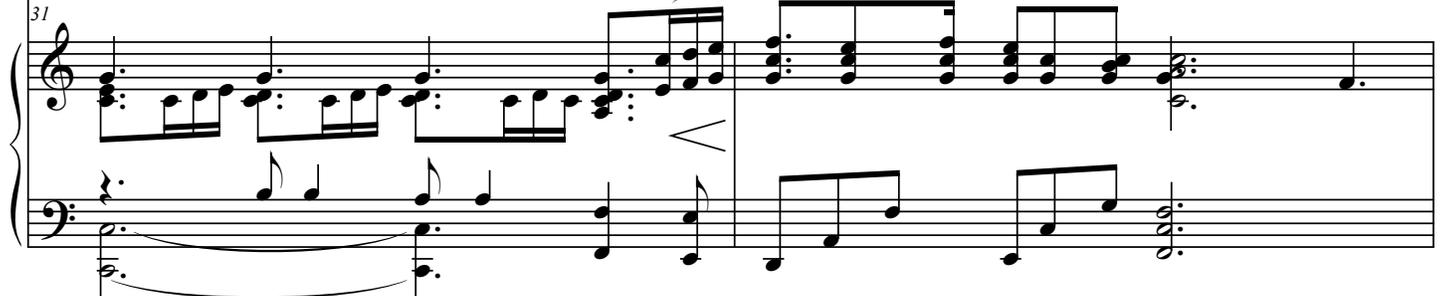
29



31
brac-ing all chan-ces al-though she could fail. And when she fell down — she would al-ways get up. I



31



33
was - n't a - fraid, I knew she'd pre - vail. So look

33
f

35
bright, so look strong. Act the un - beat - a - ble part you once played. So hold

35
f

37
tight, so hold on. Hold fast to the de - li - cate fu - tures you made. 'Cuz as

37

39
I'm get - ting old - er I'm find - ing the holes I

39
rhythmic; crisp

40

ne - ver wan - ted to see. So hold on, hold fast, hold

42

tight - er for me.

building intensity

45

I won't e - ver leave, I can stay by your side.

soaring; fluid

47

What can I do so you're a - ble to see that there's

49

no way to fall with out you there to catch me. So please be the wom an I

52

need you t be

54

So don't cry, and act strong.

56

Be the un - beat - a - ble part you once played. So just try and hold on.

58

Ev - 'ry - thing's fine Mom, you can't be a - fraid. — So hold

59 *freely*

on, hold fast, hold tight - er — for

colla voce *rit.*

61

me. —

mp a tempo *rit.* *mf*