

BACK TO BEFORE

(from "Ragtime")

Lyrics by
LYNN AHRENS

Music by
STEPHEN FLAHEFF

CD/TRACK
1/4

Moderately (in one)

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Moderately (in one)'. The first system shows the piano introduction with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand. The first system includes chords Em and Bm. The second system includes chords C and D. The third system, starting at measure 12, is the vocal entry. The lyrics are: 'There was a time our hap - pi - ness seemed nev - er - end - ing.' The chords for this system are G, D/C, and G/B. The fourth system, starting at measure 18, continues the vocal line with the lyrics: 'I was so sure that where we were head-ing was right.' The chords for this system are D/C, G/B, Em, Am7, F, and D. The piano accompaniment continues throughout, providing harmonic support for the vocal line.

24 G D/C G/B

Life was a road so cer - tain and straight and un - bend - ing.

30 D/C G/B B

Our lit - tle road with nev - er a cross - road in sight.

36 Em Bm G

Back in the days when we spoke in civ - i - lized voic - es,

42 C Em F D7sus D

wom - en in white and stur - dy young men at the oar.

48 G G/B D/C G/B C#m7(5)

Back in the days when I let you make all my choices...

poco rit.

54 Am7 a tempo D13 G(9) a tempo

(roll down) We can never go back to before.

poco rit. *a tempo*

59 C(9) C/E D

64 G D/C G/B

There was a time my feet were so solidly plant -

69 D/C G/B Em Am7

ed. You'd sail a - way while I turned my back to the

74 F D G

sea. I was con - tent, a prin - cess a -

79 D/C G/B D/C G/B

sleep and en - chant - ed. If I had dreams, then

84 B Em

I let you dream them for me. Back in the

89 Bm G

days when ev - 'ry - thing seemed so much clear - er.

94 C Em F D7sus

Wom - en in white who knew what their lives held in store.

99 D G G/B D/C

Where are they now, those wom - en who stared from the

104 G/B C#m7(b5) Am7 D7sus

mir - ror? We can nev - er go

109 Eb/F

back to be - fore.

114 *Ped.*

There are

118 *Ped.* Dm/F

peo - ple out there un - a - fraid of re - veal -

123 Cm7/F

ing that they might have a feel - ing.

Bmaj7/F

128

or they might have been wrong. There are

E/F#

D#m/F#

134

peo - ple out there un - a - fraid to feel sor -

C#m7/F#

139

row, un - a - fraid of to - mor - row,

Db/Eb poco a poco cresc.

144

un - a - fraid to be weak... un - a

poco a poco cresc.

149 D/E *poco rall.* *rall.* Bm7 E

fraid to be strong.

cresc. *poco rall.* *rall.*

154 A E/D A/C#

There was a time when you were the per - son in mo -

a tempo

159 E/D A/C# F#m Bm7

tion. I was your wife. It nev - er oc - curred to want

164 G E A *mp* a little slower A/C#

more. You were my sky, my moon and my

mp a little slower

poco rit.

a tempo (slightly faster than tempo primo)

169 E/D A/C# F/C Bm7 *f* E7sus

stars and my o - cean. (roll down) We can nev - er

poco rit. *f*

175 E7 F#m F#m/E D

back to be - fore

181 C#m7 Bm7 Dmaj7/E N.C. D/E (a tempo) A

We can nev - er go back to be - fore.

(colla voce) *Glissando* (a tempo)

187 A/C# D D/E A

poco rall. *sfz*