



published by
The Barbershop Harmony Society

110 - Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37203 | www.harmonymarketplace.com | 800-876-SING

I'M GONNA SIT RIGHT DOWN AND WRITE MYSELF A LETTER

Words by JOE YOUNG

Music by FRED E. AHLERT
Arrangement by JIM KAHLKE

Verse

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

door-, he nev - er rings my front door - bell. There's

Bari Bass

not a sin - gle line from that old love of mine. No,

Bari Bass

I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter

13 not a word— since I last heard, "Fare - well." That's the

14

15

Chorus

16 rea-son that I'm— gon-na sit right down and write my-self a let-ter, oh,

17

18

19 let-ter, oh,

20 yeah,— and make be-lieve it came— from you, you, came from

21

22

23

yeah,— you, came from

24 lit-tle old you.— I'm gon-na write words, oh, so sweet;— they're gon-na knock me off my

25

26

27 lit-tle old you.—

I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter

28 29 30 31

feet. A lot-ta kiss-es on the bot-tom, bot-tom, I'll be glad I

bot-tom, bot-tom,

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of musical notation, measures 28 through 31. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a 7/8 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "feet. A lot-ta kiss-es on the bot-tom, bot-tom, I'll be glad I". There are two instances of "bot-tom, bot-tom," written above the staff in measures 30 and 31.

32 33 34 35

got 'em. I'm gon-na smile and say I hope you're feel - in' bet-ter much

bet-ter much -

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of musical notation, measures 32 through 35. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass line continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "got 'em. I'm gon-na smile and say I hope you're feel - in' bet-ter much". There are two instances of "bet-ter much" written above the staff in measures 35 and 36.

36 37 38 39

bet - ter, close do, yes, you do.

and close "With love" the way you do.

bet - ter, close do, yes, you do.

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of musical notation, measures 36 through 39. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass line continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "bet - ter, close do, yes, you do." and "and close 'With love' the way you do." and "bet - ter, close do, yes, you do." There are two instances of "bet - ter, close do, yes, you do." written above the staff in measures 36 and 39.

40 41 42 43

I'm gon-na sit right down and write my - self that let-ter, uh -

sit down,

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth system of musical notation, measures 40 through 43. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass line continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "I'm gon-na sit right down and write my - self that let-ter, uh -" and "sit down,". There are two instances of "sit down," written below the staff in measures 41 and 42.

I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter

44 45 46 47 48

huh, and make be - lieve it came from you, my dear. Since

Interlude

49 50 51 52

you stopped writ - ing me, I'm wor - ried as can be. Got - ta

Reprise*

53 54 55 56

find a way to feel o - kay a - gain. So here's my plan. I'm gon - na

57 58 59 60

smile and say I hope you're feel - in' bet - ter, and
bet - ter, much bet - ter,

* For show version go to top of page 6.

I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter

do, yes, you do. _____

61 62 63 64

close "With love" the way you do. _____ I'm gon-na

do, yes, you do. _____

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the page. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 61 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. Measure 62 has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. Measure 63 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. Measure 64 has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. The bass line starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. Measure 61 has a quarter note G2, a quarter note F#2, and a quarter note E2. Measure 62 has a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, and a quarter note B1. Measure 63 has a quarter note G1, a quarter note F#1, and a quarter note E1. Measure 64 has a quarter note D1, a quarter note C1, and a quarter note B0. Lyrics are placed below the vocal line.

sit down,

65 66 67 68

sit right down and write my - self that let - ter _____ oh yeah, and

sit down,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 65-68. The vocal line continues with a treble clef and one sharp. Measure 65 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. Measure 66 has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. Measure 67 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. Measure 68 has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. The bass line continues with a bass clef and one sharp. Measure 65 has a quarter note G2, a quarter note F#2, and a quarter note E2. Measure 66 has a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, and a quarter note B1. Measure 67 has a quarter note G1, a quarter note F#1, and a quarter note E1. Measure 68 has a quarter note D1, a quarter note C1, and a quarter note B0. Lyrics are placed below the vocal line.

69 70 71 72

make be - lieve it came from, just won't be the same, hon, _____ gon - na

Detailed description: This system contains measures 69-72. The vocal line continues with a treble clef and one sharp. Measure 69 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. Measure 70 has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. Measure 71 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. Measure 72 has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. The bass line continues with a bass clef and one sharp. Measure 69 has a quarter note G2, a quarter note F#2, and a quarter note E2. Measure 70 has a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, and a quarter note B1. Measure 71 has a quarter note G1, a quarter note F#1, and a quarter note E1. Measure 72 has a quarter note D1, a quarter note C1, and a quarter note B0. Lyrics are placed below the vocal line.

you! _____

73 74 75 76

make be - lieve it came from you, won - der - ful you!

Detailed description: This system contains measures 73-76. The vocal line continues with a treble clef and one sharp. Measure 73 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. Measure 74 has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. Measure 75 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. Measure 76 has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. The bass line continues with a bass clef and one sharp. Measure 73 has a quarter note G2, a quarter note F#2, and a quarter note E2. Measure 74 has a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, and a quarter note B1. Measure 75 has a quarter note G1, a quarter note F#1, and a quarter note E1. Measure 76 has a quarter note D1, a quarter note C1, and a quarter note B0. Lyrics are placed below the vocal line. There are triplets in the bass line for measures 75 and 76.

* Optional ending for show version

doo_____ doot doo doot doo doo doo doo_____

57 58 59 60

sit right down and write my - self a let-ter_____ and

doo doo doo doo doo doot doot doo doot doo doo doo doo_____

doo_____

61 62 63 64

make be-lieve it came from you._____ I'm gon-na

doo_____

doo_____ doo_____

65 66 67 68

write words, oh, so sweet;_____ they're gon-na knock me of my feet. A lot-ta

doo_____ doo_____

doo_____ doo_____

69 70 71 72

kiss-es_____ on the bot-tom_____ I'll be glad I got 'em. I'm gon-na

doo_____ doo_____

doo doo doo doo doo doo

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doo doot doo doot doo doot doo doot doo doot doo doo doo doo

73 74 75 76

smile and say I hope you're feel - in' bet-ter_____ and

doo doot doo doot doo doot doo doot doo doot doo doo doo doo

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of musical notation, measures 73 through 76. It features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line includes lyrics: "smile and say I hope you're feel - in' bet-ter_____ and". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and rhythmic patterns. Measure numbers 73, 74, 75, and 76 are indicated above the staff.

doo_____

77 78 79 80

laugh the way we used to do_____ I'm gon - na

doo_____

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of musical notation, measures 77 through 80. The vocal line continues with lyrics: "laugh the way we used to do_____ I'm gon - na". A long melisma "doo_____" spans across measures 77 and 78. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. Measure numbers 77, 78, 79, and 80 are indicated above the staff.

doo wah doo wah doo oh yeah,

81 82 83 84

sit right down and write my - self that let-ter,_____ oh yeah, and then I'll

doo wah doo wah doo oh yeah,

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of musical notation, measures 81 through 84. The vocal line includes lyrics: "sit right down and write my - self that let-ter,_____ oh yeah, and then I'll". The piano accompaniment features chords and a bass line. Measure numbers 81, 82, 83, and 84 are indicated above the staff.

doo_____

85 86 87 88

make be - lieve it came from Y O_____ U. I'm gon - na

doo_____

Tag

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth system of musical notation, measures 85 through 88. The vocal line includes lyrics: "make be - lieve it came from Y O_____ U. I'm gon - na". A long melisma "doo_____" spans across measures 85 and 86. The piano accompaniment includes a bass line. Measure numbers 85, 86, 87, and 88 are indicated above the staff. The system concludes with the word "Tag".

89 90 91 92

make be - lieve it came from you. doot doo doot doo doo doo doo. —

you. —

Performance Notes

I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter enjoyed success in several different decades. It was an early hit by **Fats Waller** (1935), the very next year by the **Boswell Sisters**, and later by **Frank Sinatra**, and **Billy Williams** led another revival of it in 1957. Crooners **Nat 'King' Cole**, **Frank Sinatra**, **Bing Crosby** and **Dean Martin** have all recorded it, as well as contemporary songster **Barry Manilow** and even **Willy Nelson**.

This arrangement provides an ensemble the opportunity for both a contest ending and an ending more suitable for shows. As a straight contest arrangement, an ensemble would sing the first 76 measures. In the show version, instead of singing the Reprise as listed, go to page 6 and end the song with a different tag.

Writer Fred E. Ahlert graduated from college as a lawyer, but found a career writing songs. Among his hits are *I Don't Know Why (I Just Do)* and *Walkin' My Baby Back Home*. He is a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame (1970). Joe Young is likewise a Songwriters Hall of Fame member (1970) and wrote many hit lyrics, including *A Shanty in Old Shanty Town*, *Annie Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, and *Just a Baby's Prayer at Twilight*.

Jim Kahlke is a well-known arranger of BHS songs, a coach and a Music judge. He has contributed for years to the body of arrangements published by the BHS, including *Something*, *Only You (And You Alone)*, and *When She Loved Me*.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any other song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask *before* you sing.