

## Ol' Man River

Words by  
OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN 2nd

Music by  
JEROME KERN

Piano

Moderato

*ff deliberato*

*mf rit*

The piano introduction is written for a grand piano in B-flat major, 2/4 time. It consists of four measures. The first three measures are marked 'Moderato' and 'ff deliberato', featuring a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. The fourth measure is marked 'mf rit' and features a half-note chord in the right hand and a half-note chord in the left hand, with a fermata over the right hand.

Unison: Oo

*p a tempo*

The vocal and piano accompaniment section begins with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a single staff and features a melody that starts with a half-note 'Oo' followed by a series of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment is written for a grand piano in two staves. It begins with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The first measure of the piano accompaniment is marked 'p a tempo'. The vocal line and piano accompaniment are written in a single system.

Handwritten musical score for the first system, featuring a Chorus and a Baritone Solo.

**Chorus:** Treble and Bass staves with *pp* (pianissimo) dynamics. The Treble staff includes a vocal line with a long note and a piano accompaniment. The Bass staff includes a vocal line with a long note and a piano accompaniment.

**Baritone Solo:** Treble staff with the instruction *Refrain (very slowly, with deep expression)*. The lyrics are: "Ol' man riv - er, dat ol' man riv - er, He must know sump - in', but".

**Piano:** Treble and Bass staves with the instruction *molto legato*. The piano accompaniment is written in a grand staff.

Handwritten musical score for the second system, featuring a Solo and a Piano accompaniment.

**Solo:** Treble staff with the lyrics: "don't say noth - in', He jus' keeps roll - in', He keeps on roll - in' a".

**Piano:** Treble and Bass staves with the piano accompaniment.

Handwritten musical score for the first system. The system includes Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Solo vocal parts, along with piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The Solo part has the lyrics: "long. He don't plant 'ta - ters, he". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and a more active treble line.

Handwritten musical score for the second system. The system includes Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Solo vocal parts, along with piano accompaniment. The key signature remains B-flat major. The Solo part has the lyrics: "don't plant cot - ton, An' dem dat plants 'em is soon for - got - ten; But". Dynamic markings include *cresc.* (crescendo) and *decresc.* (decrescendo) for both the vocal and piano parts. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note bass line and a more active treble line.

Handwritten musical score for the first system. It consists of four staves. The top two staves are for vocal parts, and the bottom two are for piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The vocal parts have lyrics underneath. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

ol' man riv - er, he jus' keeps roll - in' a - long.

Handwritten musical score for the second system. It continues the vocal and piano parts from the first system. The key signature remains B-flat major. The lyrics are written under the vocal staves.

You an' me, we sweat an' strain,

You an' me, we sweat an' strain,

T  
T

Bo-dy all ach-in' an' racked wid pain.

B  
B

Solo

Bo - dy all ach - in' an' racked wid pain. "Tote dat barge!"

T  
T

Unison

rit.

Get a lit-tle drunk an' you land in Jail.

B  
B

Unison

rit.

Solo

"Lift dat bale," Git a lit-tle drunk an' you land in jail.

rit.

Chorus tacit First time.

Second time, sing unison (or octaves) with solo to end.

Solo (with Chorus Second time)

*mf* Ah gits wea - ry an' sick of try - in', Ah'm tired of liv - in' An'

*cresc.*

*f* skeered of dy - in', But ol' man riv - er, he jus' keeps roll - in' a -

*cresc. e rit.*

1. long.

2. long. Keeps rolling a - long

*ff marcato ed allarg.*