

It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)

Bass for Standard Key

Irving Mills

Duke Ellington

Fast Swing [Duke Ellington 1932] ($\text{♩} = 214$)

A1

G_{MII} G_{MII/F#} G_{MII/F} G_{MII/E} E^b7 D⁷ G_{MII}

It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing,

This musical score shows a bass line for the first section of the song. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The bass line consists of eighth-note patterns corresponding to the chords listed above. The lyrics "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing," are written below the notes.

5 C⁷

F^{7sus}

B^{b6}

D^{7(#5)}

doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah. It

This section continues the bass line with a repeating eighth-note pattern. The lyrics "doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah. It" are written below the notes.

A2

9 G_{MII}

G_{MII/F#}

G_{MII/F} G_{MII/E}

E^b7

D⁷

G_{MII}

don't mean a thing, all you got to do is sing,

This section shows another bass line pattern. The lyrics "don't mean a thing, all you got to do is sing," are written below the notes.

13 C⁷

F^{7sus}

B^{b6}

B^{b6}

doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah. It

This section continues the bass line with a repeating eighth-note pattern. The lyrics "doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah. It" are written below the notes.

B

17 F_{MII}⁷

B^{b7}

E^b_{MA}⁷

E^b_{MA}⁷

makes no diff'rence if it's sweet or hot; Just

This section shows a bass line pattern. The lyrics "makes no diff'rence if it's sweet or hot; Just" are written below the notes.

21 G_{MII}⁷

C⁷

F⁷

D⁷

give that rhythm ev - 'ry - thing you got. It

This section continues the bass line with a repeating eighth-note pattern. The lyrics "give that rhythm ev - 'ry - thing you got. It" are written below the notes.

A3

25 G_{MII}

G_{MII/F#}

G_{MII/F} G_{MII/E}

E^b7

D⁷

G_{MII}

don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing,

This section shows another bass line pattern. The lyrics "don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing," are written below the notes.

29 C⁷

F^{7sus}

B^{b6}

B^{b6}

doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah, doo wah.