

How Long Has This Been Going On?

Bass for Standard Key

Ira Gershwin

George Gershwin

Medium [June Christy 1954] ($\text{♩} = 112$)

A1

A bass line on a single staff. Measures 1-4: AmI⁹, G#⁰⁷, D^{7sus}, D⁹, DmI⁷, G⁷, C⁷, F⁹. Measures 5-8: G/B, B^{b07}, AmI⁷, D⁷, G⁷, C⁷, E^{b7}, D⁷, GmA⁷. The lyrics are: I could cry salty tears; Where have I been all these years?

5 Lit-tle wow, tell me now, How long has this been go-ing on?
Listen you, tell me do, How long has this been go-ing on?

A2

A bass line on a single staff. Measures 9-12: AmI⁹, G#⁰⁷, D^{7sus}, D⁹, DmI⁷, G⁷, C⁷, F⁹. Measures 13-16: G/B, B^{b07}, AmI⁷, D⁷, G⁷, C⁷, E^{b7}, D⁷, G⁶, G⁷. The lyrics are: There were chills up my spine, And some thrills I can't de-fine.
What a kick! How I buzz! Boy, you click as no one does!

13 Lis-ten sweet, I re-peat: How long has this been go-ing on?
Hear me sweet, I re-peat: How long has this been go-ing on?

B

A bass line on a single staff. Measures 17-20: CmA⁷, F⁷, CmA⁷, F⁷, CmA⁷, F⁷, CmA⁷, C#mI^{7(b5)}, F#⁷. The lyrics are: Oh, I feel that I could melt; in-to Hea-ven I'm hurled.
Dear, when in your arms I creep, that di-vine ren-dez-vous,

21 BmI, #E^{MI}⁶, BmI, C#mI^{7(b5)}, F#⁷, BmI, #E^{MI}⁶, BmI⁷, B^{b7}
I know how Co-lum-bus felt, Find-ing an-oth-er world.
Don't wake me, if I'm a-sleep, let me dream that it's true.

A3

A bass line on a single staff. Measures 25-28: AmI⁹, G#⁰⁷, D^{7sus}, D⁹, DmI⁷, G⁷, C⁷, F⁹. Measures 29-32: G/B, B^{b07}, AmI⁷, D⁷, G⁷, C⁷, E^{b7}, D⁷, G⁶, (G⁷). The lyrics are: Kiss me once, then once more. What a dunce I was be-fore.
Kiss me twice, then once more, that makes thrice, let's make it four!

29 What a break! For Heaven's sake! How long has this been go-ing on?