

# **“I Don’t Care if I Never Get Back: Optimism and Ascent in ‘Take Me Out to the Ball Game’”**

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This file includes the abstract, and extensive keyword list, acknowledgements, and bibliography for the video essay, “I Don’t Care if I Never Get Back: Optimism and Ascent in ‘Take Me Out to the Ball Game’” by Michael Buchler. This essay may be found at <https://vimeo.com/428807269> or <https://vimeo.com/societymusictheory/smtv7-3buchler>.

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## Abstract for “I Don’t Care if I Never Get Back: Optimism and Ascent in ‘Take Me Out To The Ball Game’” by Michael Buchler, *SMT-V* 7.3

The chorus of “Take Me Out To The Ball Game” (Von Tilzer and Norworth, 1908) is familiar to anyone who has attended baseball games in North America. However, relatively few people are aware that there is an introductory verse that poetically and contrapuntally motivates and anticipates the well-known chorus. This video article demonstrates some relationships between the verse and chorus and also challenges an earlier analysis that views this song through the lens of common-practice melodic norms.

## Extensive Keyword List

ascending, ascent, music, musical, theory, analysis, *Urlinie*, rising, cadence, baseball, Take Me Out to the Ball Game, Von Tilzer, optimism, Heinrich Schenker, obligatory register, Schenkerian, song, Tin-Pan Alley, The Star-Spangled Banner, virtuosically, discourage, seventh-inning stretch, ballpark, summer, rrrrolls his Rs, descent, descending, foursquare, sixteen-bar phrases Katie Casey, Tim Johnson, hidden narrative, David Neumeyer, Broadway songs, strike out, vaudeville, inflexibility, musical evidence.

## Performance:

- Harvey Hindermyer, 1908. "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," music by Albert von Tilzer, words by Jack Norworth; Columbia matrix 3917.

**Other compositions cited:**

- “Stop Thief,” music by music by Albert von Tilzer, words by Will Dillon.
- “That Hypnotizing Man,” music by Albert von Tilzer, words by Lew. Brown.
- Sonata for Piano in G, Op. 36, no. 5, third movement, by Muzio Clementi.
- “Under the Anhauser Bush,” music by Harry von Tilzer, words by Andrew B. Sterling.

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- The University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- Connecticut College, Greer Music Library