

# I GOTTA RIGHT TO SING THE BLUES

(From The Musical Production "Earl Carroll's Vanities")

2924

Lyric by TED KOEHLER  
Music by HAROLD ARLEN

Slow tempo di Blues

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a right-hand (R.H.) line with various articulations and a left-hand (L.H.) line with chords and bass lines. Chord diagrams for guitar are provided above the vocal line. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system includes the lyrics "I don't care who" and features a *mf* dynamic and a *mf* piano accompaniment. The second system includes the lyrics "knows I am blue, My song would-n't take" and features a *f* piano accompaniment. The third system includes the lyrics "long to give my heart a way I know" and features a *mf* piano accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

*mf* I don't care who

*mf* knows I am blue, My song would-n't take

*mf* long to give my heart a way I know

Chord diagrams: Bb, Bbm, F7, Bb, F7, Bbm, C7, B7, Bb, Ebm 6fr, Gb7, F7, Bb

Dynamic markings: *mf*, *mf deciso*, *mf*, *f*, *mp*, *mf*

Articulations: *marcato*, *R.H.*, *mf*

Bbm F7 Bb

its plain - my heart's - in pain, - My song

R.H. R.H. R.H.

F7 Bbm C7 Cm7 Bb

could-n't be - long to some-one feel - ing gay.

mp 3 mp

C7 F7 F+

Refrain (slowly and with much expression)

I got-ta right to sing the blues I got-ta right to feel low down

p mf p mf

Fm7 Bb7

I got-ta right to hang a - round, - down a - round the

Fm G7 C7

riv - er. A cer - tain man in this old town

This system contains the first system of music. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. Above the vocal line are three guitar chord diagrams: Fm, G7, and C7. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line.

Dm E7 Gm E7 Dm Bb F7

Keeps drag-gin' my poor heart a - round, All I see for

This system contains the second system of music. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. Above the vocal line are seven guitar chord diagrams: Dm, E7, Gm, E7, Dm, Bb, and F7. The piano accompaniment includes a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The right-hand side of the piano part is labeled "R.H.".

F+ Bb Cm7 Eo (open) F7 Bb C7

*molto cresc.* *f* *p*

me is mis - e - ry. I got-ta right to sing the blues,

This system contains the third system of music. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. Above the vocal line are seven guitar chord diagrams: F+, Bb, Cm7, Eo (open), F7, Bb, and C7. The piano accompaniment includes a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The right-hand side of the piano part is labeled "R.H.". Dynamic markings include *molto cresc.*, *f*, and *p*.

F7 F+

I got - ta right to moan and sigh, I got - ta

This system contains the fourth system of music. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. Above the vocal line are two guitar chord diagrams: F7 and F+. The piano accompaniment includes a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line.

**Fm7** **Bb7** **Fm** **G7**

right to sit and cry — down a - round the riv - er. I know the

*f* *mp*

**Gm7** **C7** **Gm**

deep blue sea — Will soon be call - ing me. —

*p* *f* *p* *f*

**C7** **Gm7** **C7** **Ebm** 6fr. **F7**

It must be love say what you choose, I got - ta right to sing the blues. —

*mf* *mf* *sf* *mp*

**Bb**

1 2 **Bb**

I got - ta

*p* *p* *sf*