

# I'D RATHER LEAD A BAND

Lyrics and Music by  
IRVING BERLIN



From the RKO Musical Production  
**"FOLLOW THE FLEET"**

starring

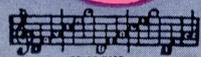
**FRED ASTAIRE and  
GINGER ROGERS**

A Pandro S. Berman Production

Directed by Mark Sandrich

- We Saw the Sea
- Get Thee Behind Me Satan
- Let Yourself Go
- I'd Rather Lead a Band
- But Where Are You?
- I'm Putting All My Eggs In One Basket
- Let's Face the Music and Dance

Irving Berlin Inc.  
MUSIC PUBLISHERS  
799 SEVENTH AVE NEW YORK N.Y.



MADE IN  
USA

AUTHORIZED FOR SALE ONLY IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

# I'D RATHER LEAD A BAND

From the R K O Radio Picture Production "FOLLOW THE FLEET"

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Moderato

Piano introduction in G major, 4/4 time, marked Moderato. The piece begins with a forte (f) dynamic. The right hand features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line with chords and single notes.

VERSE

*C* *F 9* *Bb* *Ab* *D mi*

I have-n't am - bi - tions for lof - ty po - si - tions That wind up

*mf*

mf

*G 7* *G aug* *C* *G 7* *C* *F 9*

with the wealth of the land. I'd give you the throne that a king sat on

*Bb* *Ab* *D mi* *G 7* *D 7* *D mi* *G 7*

for just a small ba - ton Pro - vi - ding you in - clud - ed a band.

*\*) Symbols for Guitar, Chords for Ukulele and Banjo*

CHORUS

If I could be the wealthy owner of a large industry I would say

*p-f*

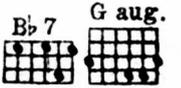
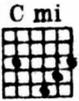
"Not for me" I'D RATHER LEAD A BAND.

If I could be a politician with a chance to dictate I would say

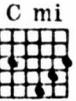
"Let it wait" I'D RATHER LEAD A BAND.

**WARNING!**

Any one who copies the words or music of this song, or any portion thereof, will be criminally prosecuted under section 28 of the United States Copyright Law, and section 441a of the New York Penal Law.



(2nd Chorus) My ev - 'ry care\_ cea - ses I'm rich\_ as old\_ Croe - sus  
Give me\_ a band\_ yes\_ sir And not\_ a thing\_ less - er



When I've\_ got ten\_ pie - ces in hand\_ If I\_ could have  
To be\_ that pro - - fess - or is grand\_ If Jo - se - phine



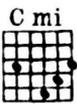
\_ a mil - lion - air - ess with a whole flock of banks\_ I would just\_ whis - per "thanks"  
\_ had left Na - po - le - on and climbed in my lap\_ I'd say "go\_ back to Nap"



I'D RATH - ER LEAD A BAND.  
I'D RATH - ER LEAD A BAND.

*1 - To Patter* *Fine*

PATTER



A Sax - o - phone, \_\_\_\_\_ A slide Trom - bone, \_\_\_\_\_ A



Bass Fid - dle and a Drum, - A guy at the Pia - no who makes it hum. - A



Vi - o - lin, \_\_\_\_\_ A Clar - i - net. \_\_\_\_\_ A



hot Trum - pet and Gui - tar, - And me with the ba - ton and there you are. -

*D. S. al Fine*