

# WHILE THE BAND PLAYED AN AMERICAN RAG

BY IRVING BERLIN



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# While The Band Played An American Rag.

By IRVING BERLIN.

Moderato.

The piano introduction consists of two staves in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The music is marked 'Moderato' and 'f' (forte). The right hand features a series of chords and eighth notes, while the left hand plays a steady bass line with eighth notes. The piece concludes with a final chord marked 'fz' (forzando).

Voice.

The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics: "I had a won-der - ful dream last The Russian Czar wet his lips\_ with". The piano accompaniment is marked 'Vamp.' and 'p' (piano). It features a repeating eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. The music is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "night\_ I nev - er saw such a love - ly sight\_ I wine\_ Then start - ed whist - ling 'The Wacht am Rhine'\_ The". The piano accompaniment continues with the same vamp pattern as in the first system.

The vocal line concludes with the lyrics: "dreamt that the war - ring nat - ions were at a Kais - er sang 'Tip - pe - rar - y' with out a". The piano accompaniment continues with the same vamp pattern.

ball \_\_\_\_\_ There was - n't an - y one talk - ing fight \_\_\_\_\_ They re - a -  
 pause \_\_\_\_\_ They kept it up till the break of day \_\_\_\_\_ Then when they

lized that it was - n't right \_\_\_\_\_ And this is just  
 start-ed to go a - way \_\_\_\_\_ The whole world rang

what I no - ticed in the hall. \_\_\_\_\_  
 out with glad - ness just be - cause. \_\_\_\_\_

**Chorus.**

The King of Eng - land danced \_\_\_\_\_ with the Pres - i - dent of

France — The Crown Prince of Ger-man - y — danced with the King of

Hun - ga - ry — They all layed down their swords — while the diff-'rent Dukes and

Lords — all shout - ed, "We don't want an-y more talk of

war - talk!" They start - ed drink - ing to each oth - er, like

broth-ers. They drank a toast to each oth - er's flag

The Rus-sian Czar said to the Kais-er, "Let's drink some Bud -

weis-er. "Then he shook his hand while a Ger-man Band Played an A-mer - i-can,

made in A-mer - i-ca, An A-mer-i-can Rag. — The Rag.

1. 2.

*D. S.*