

WHILE THE BAND PLAYED AN AMERICAN RAG

BY IRVING BERLIN



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While The Band Played An American Rag.

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Moderato.

The piano introduction is in B-flat major, 4/4 time, marked *Moderato*. It begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand features a series of chords and eighth-note patterns, while the left hand provides a steady bass line with eighth notes. The piece concludes with a final chord marked *fz* (forzando).

Voice.

I had a won-der - ful dream last
The Russian Czar wet his lips— with

Vamp.

The piano accompaniment for the first vocal line is marked *p* (piano). It features a vamp section with a repeating eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. The vamp is repeated twice before the vocal line begins.

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 for the second vocal line continues the vamp pattern from the first line, maintaining the *p* dynamic. It provides a harmonic foundation for the vocal melody.

dreamt that the war - ring nat - ions were at a
Kais - er sang "Tip - pe - rar - y" with out a

The piano accompaniment for the third vocal line continues the vamp pattern, concluding with a final chord. It maintains the *p* dynamic throughout.

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. 1. The Rag. 2. The Rag.

D. S.