

THE LONGEST TIME

for female voices

Words and Music by BILLY JOEL

Arrangement by TOM GENTRY

Adapted by Theo Hicks

Intro

Tenor Lead

1 2 3 4

Woh for the long - est

Bari Bass

dm dm dm for the long - est,

5 6 7 8

time. Woh for the long - est,

for the long - est,

Chorus 1 & 2

oo oo

9 10 11 12

1. If you said good - bye to me to - night,
2. Once I thought my in - no - cence was gone.

oo

The Longest Time

13 14 15 16 ah

there would still be mu - sic left to write.
 Now I know that hap - pi - ness goes on.

oo ah

17 18 19 20 ah ah

What else could I do? I'm so in - spir - ed by you.
 That's where you found me when you put your arms a - round me.

ah ah

21 22 x 23 24 *Back to ms. 9 (2nd time go on)*

That has - n't hap - pened for the long - est time.
 I have - n't been there for the long - est time.

Bridge 1 & 2

25 26 27 28 bung oo ah oo ah bung oo ah oo ah

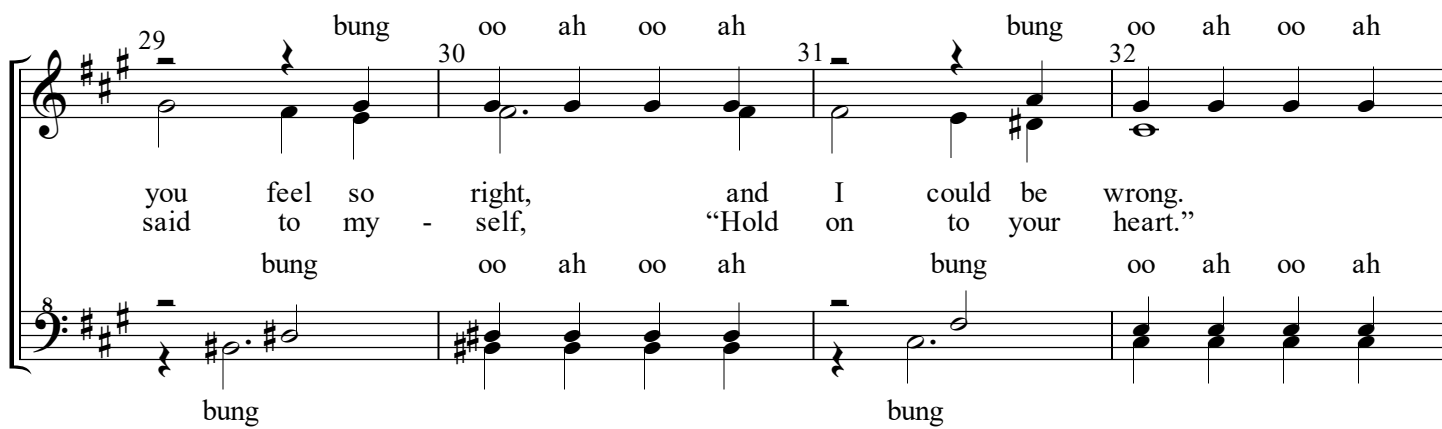
1. May - be this won't last ver - y long, but
 2. I had sec - ond thoughts from the start. I

bung oo ah oo ah bung oo ah oo ah

bung bung

The Longest Time

29 bung oo ah oo ah 30 31 bung oo ah oo ah 32

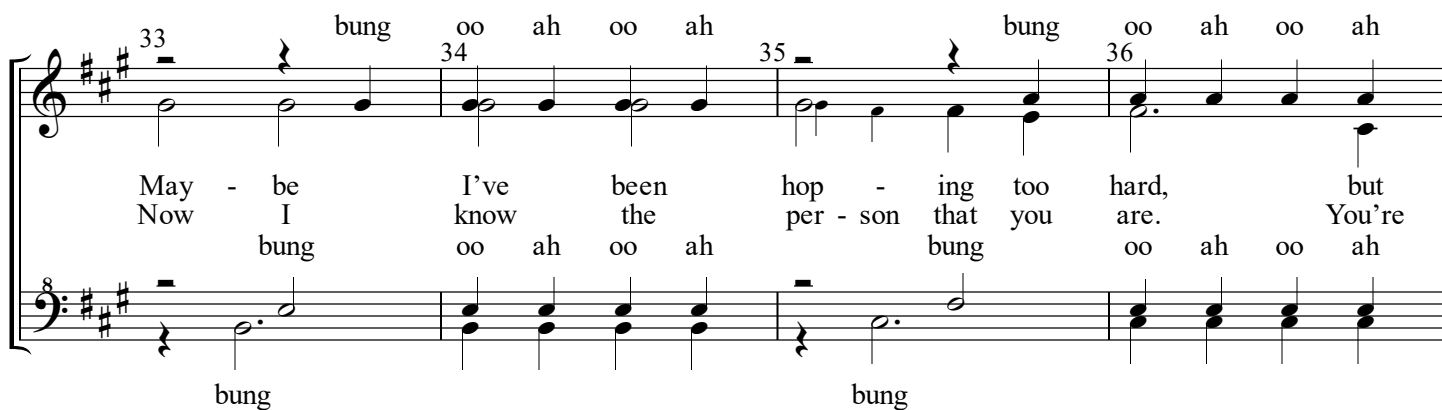


you said feel so right, and I could be wrong.
to my - self, "Hold on to your heart."

bung oo ah oo ah bung oo ah oo ah

bung bung

33 bung oo ah oo ah 34 35 bung oo ah oo ah 36

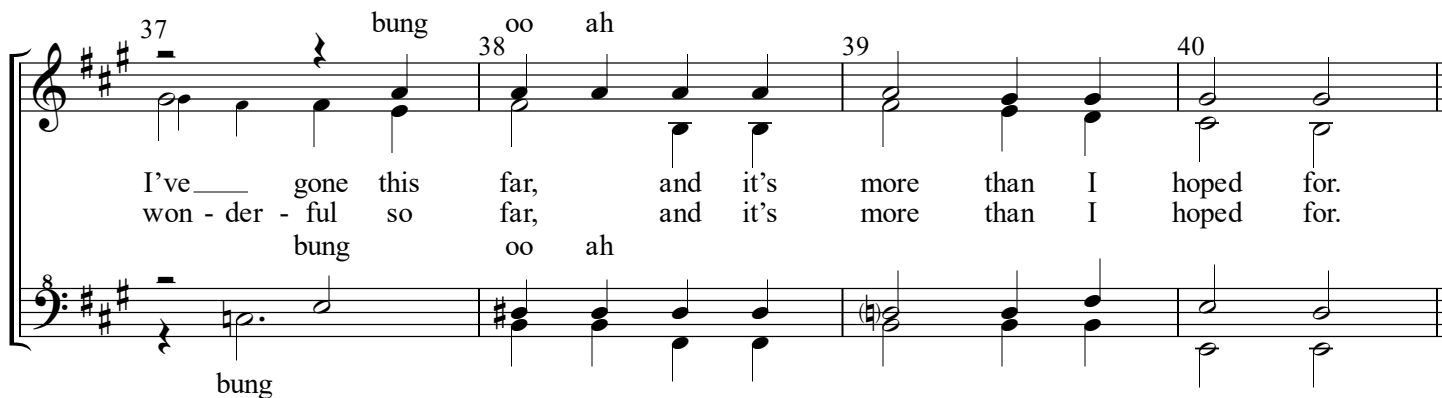


May - be I've been hop - ing too hard, but
Now I know the per - son that you are. You're

bung oo ah oo ah bung oo ah oo ah

bung bung

37 bung oo ah 38 39 40



I've gone this far, and it's more than I hoped for.
won - der - ful so far, and it's more than I hoped for.

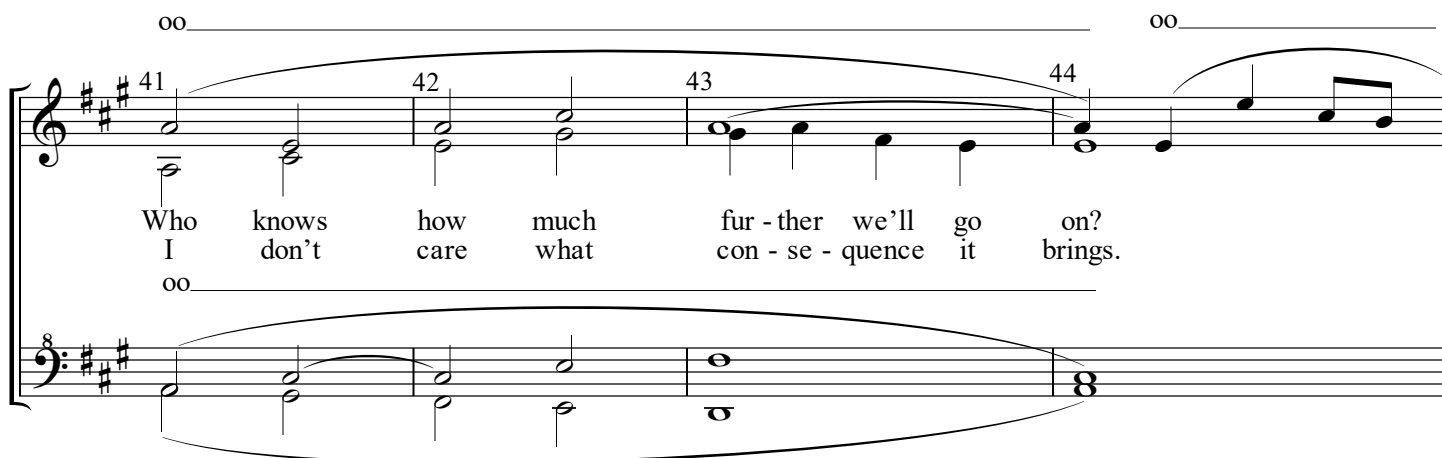
bung oo ah

bung

Chorus 3 & 4

oo _____ oo _____

41 42 43 44



Who knows how much fur - ther we'll go on?
I don't care what con - se - quence it brings.

oo _____

The Longest Time

45 46 47 48 ah

May - be I'll be sor - ry when you're gone.
I have been a fool for less - er things.

oo ah

49 50 51 52 ah ah

I'll take my chan - ces. I for - got how nice ro - mance is.
I want you so bad. I think you ought to know that.

ah ah

53 54 x 55 56 *Back to ms. 25 (2nd time go on)*

I have - n't been there for the long - est time.
I in - tend to hold you for the long - est time.

Tag 57 58 59 60

Woh for the long - est
for the long - est,

The Longest Time

61 62 63 64 65

time, Woh for the long - est time,

for the long - est,

66 67 68 69

Woh for the long - est time,

for the long - est,

70 71 72 73 74

Woh for the long - est time. oo - ee oo

for the long - est,

Performance Notes

Born in 1949 on Long Island, Billy Joel dropped out of high school just short of graduation to follow his love of music. Joel's early bands proved less than successful, and he also endured stints as a lounge pianist and, later, a composer of commercial jingles. Finally Joel decided to go it on his own as a singer-songwriter. His 1974 tune "Piano Man" was his first Top 40 hit, thus beginning his rise to the top. Five of Joel's songs became gold singles: "Just the Way You Are," "My Life," "It's Still Rock and Roll to Me," "Uptown Girl" and "We Didn't Start the Fire." In 1984 "The Longest Time" reached #1 on the Adult Contemporary charts.

He married supermodel Christie Brinkley, for whom he wrote "Uptown Girl," in 1985. The two were divorced in 1994. Joel received Grammy's Living Legends Award in 1990 and *Billboard's* Century Award in 1994. Although his considerable wealth and high-profile failed marriage might indicate otherwise, Joel has maintained his status as a working-class hero throughout his career.

The singer is invited to have a great deal of fun, both vocally and visually, performing this piece. Maintaining a steady tempo will be a help toward this end. When singing the various neutral syllables—*oo*, *ah*, *woh* and such—be sure to keep adding energy to the sound rather than letting it rest on a plateau.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any other arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask *before* you sing.