THE BIRTH OF THE BLUES

Two-Part, accompanied, with optional guitar, bass and drums

Words by B.G. DeSYLVA and LEW BROWN
Music by RAY HENDERSON
Arranged by CARL STROMMEN

Performance time: 3:45

Slowly and freely (ad lib. tempo)

Oh

they say some people long ago

Oo

they say some people long ago

Slowly and freely (ad lib. tempo)

N.C.

PIANO
(Guitar, Bass)*

Drums tacet until meas. 17

* Guitar: Play ad lib. from chord symbols in piano part.
Bass: Double bottom notes in left hand of piano part, adjusting octaves as necessary.
croon as only they can, as they can. They only had the rhythm

croon as only they can. They only had the rhythm

G7 Ab7 G9 N.C.

so they started swaying to and fro.

so, the rhythm so Oo fro.

They didn’t know just what to use. That is how the

They didn’t know just what to use. That is how the

G7 Ab7

CH9675
Easy, relaxed swing $\frac{\text{d}}{\text{r}} = 76-80 (\frac{\text{d}}{\text{r}} = \frac{3}{4})$

blues really began, really began. They heard the blues really began. They heard the

G$^7$  Ab$^7$  G$^9$  N.C.

17

breeze in the trees, singing weird melodies

breeze in the trees, singing weird melodies

Cmaj7  C$\sharp$dim7  Dm7  B/D$\#$  Em$^7$  E7  Fmaj7

and they made that the start of the

and they made that the start of the

D$^7$/F$\#$  G  Am$^7$  A$\#$dim7  G/B

CH9675
blues.

And from a jail came the wail.

blues, start of the blues. And from a jail came the wail.

C  Em/F  Ebm/E  Dm/Eb  Cmaj7  C#dim7  Dm7

of a down-hearted frail, and they

of a down-hearted frail, and they

B/D#  Em7  E7  Fmaj7  D7/F#

played that as part of the blues.

played that as part of the blues, of the

G  Am7  A#dim7  G/B

C

CH9675
From a whip-poor-will, high on a hill, they took a new blues.

N.C. 33 E7 Bm7(b5) E7 Bm7(b5)

continue pattern

Pushed it through a horn 'til it was worn.

E F#m7 Gdim7 E/G# A Bm7(b5)

in-to a blue note. And then they

Cdim7 C#m6 Am7 D9 G6/9 N.C. Gb9(5) F(b5)

CH9675
Strong and “bluesy”

a tempo

nursed it, rehearsed it, and gave

\[
\begin{align*}
C & \quad C# \dim 7 & \quad Dm7 & \quad B7/D\# \\
\text{a tempo} & \quad & \quad & \\
& \quad & \quad & \\
\end{align*}
\]

out the news that the

\[
\begin{align*}
Em7 & \quad E7 & \quad D7/F\# \\
\text{out the news that the} & \quad & \\
& \quad & \\
\end{align*}
\]

South land gave birth to the blues!

\[
\begin{align*}
G & \quad Am7 & \quad A\# \dim 7 & \quad G/B \\
\text{South land gave birth to the blues!} & \quad & \quad & \\
& \quad & \quad & \\
\end{align*}
\]
cresc.

They

E sus/B

They

E7

nursed it,

re-hearsed it,

and

nursed it,

re-hearsed it,

and

49 F

49 F#dim7

gave,

gave out the news

that the South-land

gave,

gave out the news

that the South-land gave.
that the South land gave, gave birth to the blues!

They nursed it, rehearsed it, the blues!

They nursed, rehearsed the blues!

Blues!