

THE BIRTH OF THE BLUES

SATB, 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)

S
A

Oh _____ *mp* _____ *unis.* _____
 Oo _____ they say some peo - ple long a _____

T
B

Oh _____ *mp* _____ _____
 Oo _____ Oo, _____

Slowly and freely (ad lib. tempo)
 N.C.

PIANO
 (Guitar,
 Bass)*

Drums tacet until meas. 17

go _____ were search - ing for a dif - f'rent tune; one that they could
 long a - go _____

Ab7 G7 Ab7

* Guitar: Play ad lib. from chord symbols in piano part.

Bass: Double bottom notes in left hand of piano part, adjusting octaves as necessary.

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can, as they can.

unis.

croon as on-ly they can.

They on-ly had the rhy-thm

can, as they can.

G⁶

Ab7

G9

N.C.

9

so

unis.

so, the rhy - thm

so they start-ed sway-ing to and fro.

Oo

to and

9

They did n't know just what to use.

That is how the

fro.

G⁶

Ab7

unis.

blues real-ly be - gan. They heard the

be - gan, real - ly be - gan.

G7 Ab7 G9 N.C.

17 Easy, relaxed swing $\text{♩} = 76-80$ ($\text{♩} = \text{♩}^{\text{♩}}$)

mp

breeze in the trees — sing - ing weird — mel - o - dies —

17 Easy, relaxed swing $\text{♩} = 76-80$ ($\text{♩} = \text{♩}^{\text{♩}}$)

Cmaj7 C#dim7 Dm7 B/D# Em7 E7 Fmaj7

Susp. Cymbal *mp* continue pattern

and they made that — the start of the

D7/F# G Am7 A#dim7 G/B

blues. _____

25

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

blues, start of the blues.

C

Em/F

Ebm/E

Dm/Eb

25

Cmaj7

C#dim7

Dm7

B/D#

Fm7

F7

Fmaj7

D7/F#

blues. _____

played that _____ as part of the blues, of the
blues.

blues, of the

G

Am7

A#dim7

G/B

C

L.V.

blues. } From a whip-poor - will, out on a hill, — they took a new—

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

continue pattern

note. — Pushed it through a horn 'til it was worn.

unis.

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

rit. mf unis.

in to a blue — note. And then they

mf

Cdim7 C#m6 Am7 D9 G6/9 N.C. Gb(13) F(13)

rit. mf

41 Strong and "bluesy"

a tempo

nursed it, re - hearsed it, and gave

41

a tempo

C C#dim7 Dm7 B7/D#

out the news that the

Em7 E7 F D7/F#

South land gave birth to the blues!

G Am7 A#dim7 G/B

L.V.

cresc. *unis. f*

They — *unis. f*

cresc.

Esus/B E7

49

nursed it, re hearsed it, and —

49 F F#dim7

gave, gave out the news that the South-land — *unis.*

C B Bb A N.C.

that the South - land gave. — *LV.*

unis. *p* *f*

gave birth to the blues! They

shout! *f*

One more time!

F/G *pp* *f*

57

nursed it, rehearsed it, and

57 *F* *F#dim*

gave, gave out the news

Am7/G *C* *B* *Bb* *A* *N.C.*

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

gave
 Dm7 Am/E F F#dim G7
 L.V.

They nursed it, re - hearsed it the blues!

They nursed, re hearsed the blues!
 F7/C Am/E F7 F#dim N.C.

Blues!

Solo

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