

from the musical "Ain't Misbehavin'"

HANDFUL OF KEYS

for S.A.T.B. voices and four-hand piano
with optional SoundPax and SoundTrax CD*

Arranged by
LARRY SHACKLEY

Words and Music by
FATS WALLER

Rollicking ($\text{♩} = 100+$)

PRIMO

mf

SECONDO

mf

p

f

sfz

8va

8vb

* SoundTrax CD available (27400). SoundPax available (27401) – includes Piano Score and parts for Guitar, Bass, and Drums.

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9

8va

mf

12

(8va)

15

1. (8va)

2. 8va

3

3

3

3

1.

2.

18 (8va) 7

19

f

21

25

27 8va

mf

3 3

mf

27399

28 ^(8va)

29

31 ^(8va)

32

33

34

35 ^{8va}

f *ff*

36

37

38

^{8vb}

SOPRANO *mp*

ALTO

1. I like to tin - kle on an old pi - an - a.
2. I like to sing a lit - tle tune that's mel - lah.

TENOR *mp*

BASS

*mp**mp*

I like to play it in a sub - tle man - nah. I get a lot o' plea - sure
I like to vo - cal - ize, there's noth - ing swel - lah. I love to have a sup - ple

44

1.

with a span_ o' keys un - der-neath my fin - ger - tips. —
mel-o - dy — just

1. *8va* — — — — — 1

3 3 3

1.

3

47

2.

mf 49

trick - lin' off_ o' my lips A hand-ful o' keys and a

2.

sfz *mf*

2.

sfz *mf*

50

song to sing, — now how could you ask for more?

mf

Than

53

mf

I re - peat what I said be - fore. —

tick - lin' the i - vo - ry, sing - in' jive, —

57

f

I like to tin - kle on an old pi - an - a.

*f**f**f*

59

I like to play it in a sub - tle man - nah.

I know I'll al - ways be the

62

top ba - na - na with a hand - ful of keys.

65

mf When my left hand thumps out bass notes

add octave lower

69

Measures 69-72 of the musical score. The vocal line is in the upper staff, and the piano accompaniment is in the lower staves. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'mf'.

I'm half way to play - in' that stride pi - an - o.

Piano accompaniment for measures 69-72. The right hand plays chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note bass line. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

73

mf

Measures 73-76 of the musical score. The vocal line is in the upper staff, and the piano accompaniment is in the lower staves. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'mf'.

Then right there in be - tween those bass notes

Piano accompaniment for measures 73-76. The right hand plays chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note bass line. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

77

I play chords for that stride pi - an - o sound.

end lower octave

81

Yeah, yeah, yeah, no, yeah, yeah, yeah, no,

There it is, that stride pi - an - o.

85

yeah, yeah, yeah, no, yeah, yeah, yeah, no,

I'm a whiz at stride pi - an - o.

8va

89

yeah, yeah, yeah, no, yeah, yeah, yeah, no,

Stride pi - an - o, yeah, no, yeah, no,

(8va)

93

yeah, no, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

no, yeah, yeah, no, yeah, no, yeah. Now!



97

That's e - nough of that half pint jazz, here's where it all pays



100 *ff* 101

off. First my right hand goes off with a mel - o - dy

sfz *ff* *ff*

103 I make up. *ff*

Then my left hand plays tricks.

(8va)

The musical score is for a piano and voice piece. It begins at measure 100, marked with a forte (ff) dynamic. The vocal line starts with the lyrics 'off. First my right hand goes off with a mel - o - dy'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand. A piano fortissimo (ff) dynamic is indicated. The score continues to measure 103, where the vocal line says 'I make up.' and the piano part has a forte (ff) dynamic. The lyrics 'Then my left hand plays tricks.' follow. The piano part includes an 8va (octave up) marking. The score is written in B-flat major and 4/4 time. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

106

mf

My *mf*

— with the rhy - thm and both hands are tak - in' it up.

(8^{va})

109

fin - gers feel breez - y, they're eas - y on the keys...

r.h. *mf*

l.h. *mf*

112

They're light as a feath - er and groov - in' to-geth-er

TENOR

BASS

With a

115

117

f

I can

mov in' bass for "Storm - y Weath - er."

f

f

118

nev - er be lone - ly, I got me ev-'ry-thing that I please. I feel_

TENOR *f*

BASS

3 3

121

— good, I feel — strong, noth - in' — bad can go —

8va

125

124

—wrong. No - bod - y else com - mands— what I

(8^{va})

127

hold in these two hands. There's such an ap-peal-in',

3 3 8^{va}

130

pow - er-ful feel - in', deal - in' with a hand-ful o' keys.

(8va)



133

mf

1. I like to tin kle on an old pi - an - a.
2. I like to sing a lit - tle tune that's mel - lah.

mf

8va

mf



135

I like to play it in a sub-tle man - nah. I get a lot o'plea - sure
 I like to vo - cal-ize, there's noth-ing swel - lah. I love to have a sup - ple

(8va) 1

8va

138

1. with a span_ o' keys un - der-neath my fin - ger - tips._
 mel-o - dy_ just

1. 8va

3

3

1. 3

141 2. *f* 143

trick - lin' off — o' my lips. A hand-ful o' keys and a

144 Ba song to sing. Ba Ba Ba

3 3 3

sfz *f* *sfz* *f*

8va

147

Tick-lin' the i - vo-ry, sing-in' jive. —

Ba —

Ba —

150

151

Bang those old white notes!

ff

ff

3

3

3

r.h. detached

ff

153

Bang those old black— notes! Bang those

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156

old eighth— notes! Bang those old whole notes!

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159

Stride that old left— hand! Rag that

Piano accompaniment for measures 159-161. The right hand features a steady eighth-note melody, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

162

old right! There's such an ap-peal-in', pow-er-ful feel-in',

Piano accompaniment for measures 162-164. The right hand continues the eighth-note melody, and the left hand provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

165

deal-in' with a hand-ful o' keys.

168

Freely

ff

Yeah!

ff

Freely

Freely

Thomas “Fats” Waller (1904-1943) was a true American original. Starting out with classical piano and organ as a child, he later studied “stride” piano with the Harlem master James P. Johnson. His phenomenal technique and inventiveness, plus a charming stage personality, made him one of the most sought-after popular pianists of the 1930s. (He was once kidnapped and forced at gunpoint to play for Al Capone’s birthday party.) Stride piano was a later development of ragtime, with a steady left hand “boom-chick” pattern underlying a swinging, improvisatory right hand. Ragtime king Scott Joplin wanted his pieces played slowly; stride pianists such as Waller specialized in manic tempos that demanded amazing skill. This accompaniment in this arrangement of Waller’s hit “Handful of Keys” is based on his own recording of the piece, with embellishments to take advantage of the four-hand format. The clever lyrics were added for the 1978 Broadway revue *Ain’t Misbehavin’*. In the section beginning at measure 65, the lyrics describe the stride piano technique as the vocal parts demonstrate how it’s done. Vocalists and pianists should maintain a light and bouncy attitude, even in the loud sections.

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