DELUXE **MEN'S EDITION**
SHEET MUSIC & BACKING TRACKS

PRESENTS

SING LIKE AN AMERICAN IDOL!

Everything you need to sing the hits

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Photo by Lisa Stahl Sullivan

DEBRA BYRD is the vocal coach and arranger for every season of American Idol and for seasons 2 thru 6 of Canadian Idol. She coached the 2006-2007 tour of High School Musical-The Concert and the My Grammy Moment Contest with Justin Timberlake for the 49th Annual Grammy Awards and 2007 MTV Movie Awards. Byrd has recorded duets with Barry Manilow and Bob Dylan, has been featured in five Broadway shows and movie soundtracks. She is vocal arranger for Manilow's Emmy award winning Music and Passion in Las Vegas. Her DVD, Vocal Help Now! and seminars "Welcome To STAR SCHOOL" offer important advice on how to improve and protect your voice and ace auditions.

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practice and awareness, these breathing fundamentals become second nature, and you won't have to think about it all the time.

Tone quality is important because your sound is unique to you. Some singers try to imitate their favorites. It's important that you sound like *you*. The songs in this great collection were originally recorded and sung by some of the most outstanding vocalists of our time. With practice, you can develop a voice that is just as impressive. But you must practice.

Your unique sound should be a natural extension of your speaking voice, so it's very important you sing within your **vocal range**. If a song is very "rangy," meaning it has low notes as well as high notes, it's not a good song choice for you if you don't sing those notes comfortably. For example, sopranos don't always have the ability to sing very low notes. Kelly Clarkson, an incredible singer, has expanded her range since being a contestant on *American Idol*. At that time, her lowest note was middle C.

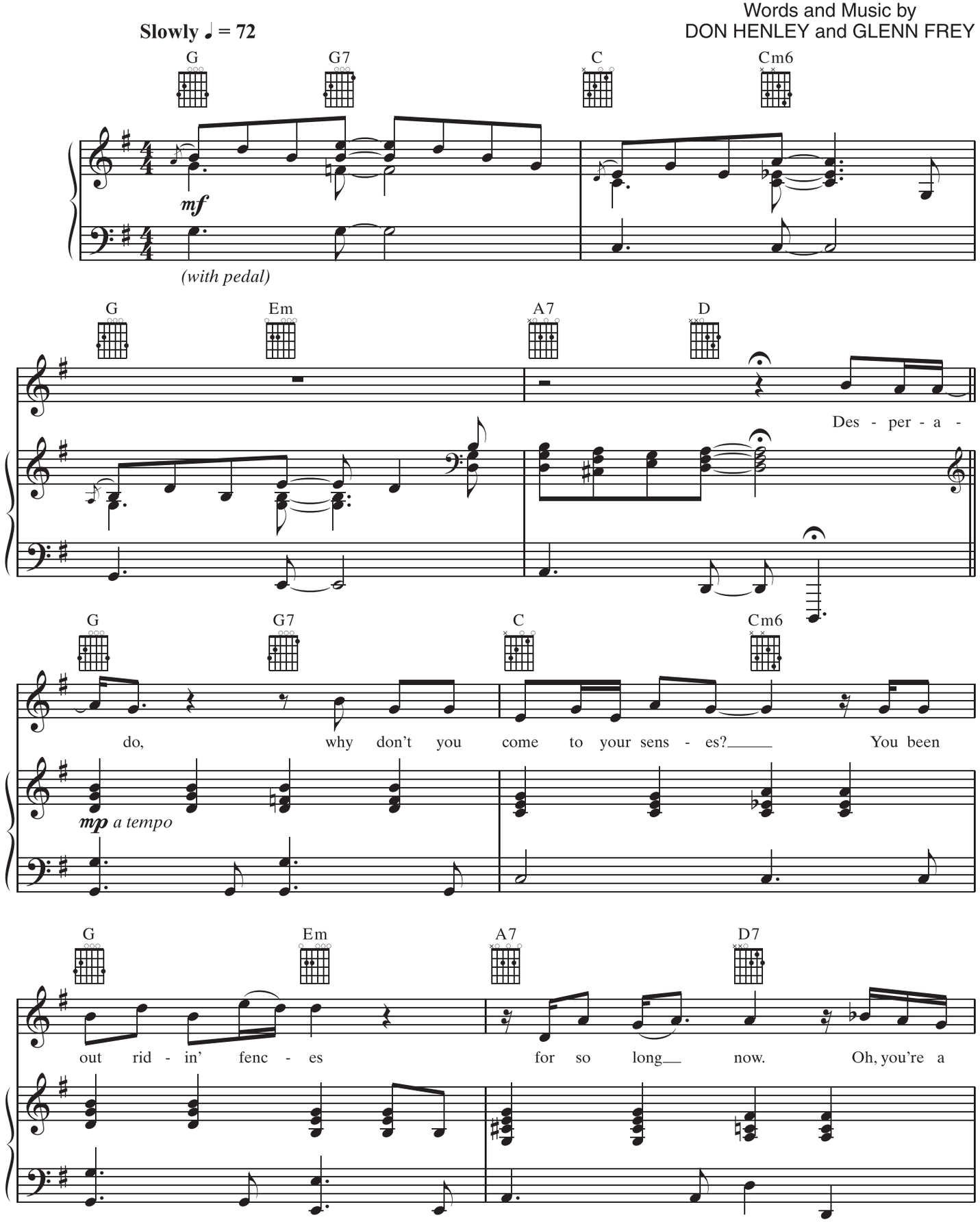
At dress rehearsal early in Season One, *Idol* judge Randy Jackson was concerned because Kelly altered notes for the beginning of a song she had chosen. I explained to him that the beginning of the song was slightly out of her range, and I remember his surprise when I explained that Kelly's lowest note was middle C. Because she knew her limits and didn't force her singing, her amazing musicality shone through.

George Huff, a marvelous singer from Season Three, came into the competition abruptly after another contestant left, and he made it to the Top 10; however, he came in with only about 55 percent of his vocal ability because he had been ill. He fought to maintain his unique tonal quality by being extremely disciplined and not pushing his voice or his range during the entire contest. Every week, he would say, "It's coming back,

SAMPLE

DESPERADO

Words and Music by
DON HENLEY and GLENN FREY



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