

Performance Notes

- 1) "Once Upon a Time" is a standard composed by Charles Strouse (*Bye Bye Birdie, Annie*) from the 1962 Broadway musical *All American* that included lyrics by Lee Adams and book by Mel Brooks. This song has been recorded by Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Bobby Darin, among many others.
- 2) This arrangement is written in the ballad style and can be performed with just piano accompaniment or with bass and drums. It will be most successfully realized if the director determines phrasing based on the text. Try to achieve a natural, speech-like line that delivers the message of the song, even if this means altering the rhythms and tempi written, especially in the a cappella section.
- 3) Where parts are divided, I have merely suggested possible divisi. You may choose whatever divisions work best for your ensemble.
- 4) Although the voice leading is relatively simple, some chords may present a challenge to your singers' aural skills. (What a terrific educational opportunity for you!) I suggest rehearsing by repeatedly moving back and forth between changing harmonies and connecting the end of the previous phrase to the start of the new one.
- 5) Have fun and enjoy the challenge of the learning process as you and your singers strive for beautiful choral singing on a standard ballad.

– Dr. Steve Zegree

from the Broadway Musical ALL AMERICAN
ONCE UPON A TIME

For SATB* and Piano

Duration: ca. 3:40

Arranged by
STEVE ZEGREE

Lyric by LEE ADAMS
Music by CHARLES STROUSE

Expressive ballad, not too slow ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$)

Piano

B♭ B♭maj7 Cm7 F7sus F7

Rubato, with feeling

Unis.

Tenor *mp a tempo*

Bass

Once up - on a time _____ a girl with moon-light in her eyes _____

B♭(add9)

Cm7(add4)

a tempo

3

put her hand in mine and said she loved me

E♭⁶ B♭maj7

6

* SoundTrax available (46752).

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so. _____ But that was once up - on a time, _____

E♭(add9) Cm/F F♯dim7 Gm7
9

poco rit. a tempo
ver - y long a - go.

Cm7 F7sus F7 B♭ B♭maj7 Cm7 F7sus F7
poco rit. a tempo

15 Soprano Unis. *mf* 'neath a wil-low
Alto Loo loo loo loo tree,
Tenor *mf* Once up - on a hill we sat be - neath a wil - low tree,
Bass

B♭(add9) F/A Gm(add9)
mf

tree,
 'neath a wil - low,
 'neath a wil - low, Oo
 count - ing all the stars

E♭ B♭maj9

8

18

Ah Ah

and wait-ing for the dawn. But that was

E♭(add9) Cm7 F13

20

poco rit. a tempo

Loo loo loo loo gone.

a tempo

once up - on a time, now the tree is gone.

Gm(add9) Cm7 F13 B♭ B♭maj7

poco rit. a tempo

23

27 A little faster, rubato

Unis. *mp*

Musical score for piano and voice. Treble and bass staves. Key signature: B-flat major. Time signature: common time. Dynamics: *mp*. Chords: B-flat 6, B-flat major 7, B-flat 6, C minor 7, F 9, B-flat major 7, B-flat 6, C minor 9, F 13, B-flat major 9, B-flat 6.

How the breeze ruf - fled through her hair. —

Unis. *mp*

How the breeze —

A little faster, rubato

C minor 7, F 9, B-flat major 7, B-flat 6, C minor 9

F 13

B-flat major 9, B-flat 6

Musical score for piano and voice. Treble and bass staves. Key signature: B-flat major. Time signature: common time. Dynamics: *mp*. Chords: B-flat 6, B-flat major 7, B-flat 6, C minor 7, F 9, B-flat major 7, B-flat 6, C minor 9, F 13, B-flat major 9, B-flat 6.

Musical score for piano and voice. Treble and bass staves. Key signature: B-flat major. Time signature: common time. Dynamics: *mp*. Chords: A major 7 (flat 5), D 7 (flat 9), G minor 7, C 9 sus, C 9, E-flat/F, F 7.

How we al - ways laughed as tho' to - mor - row was - n't there. —

Unis.

Musical score for piano and voice. Treble and bass staves. Key signature: B-flat major. Time signature: common time. Dynamics: *mp*. Chords: A major 7 (flat 5), D 7 (flat 9), G minor 7, C 9 sus, C 9, E-flat/F, F 7.

Musical score for piano and voice. Treble and bass staves. Key signature: B-flat major. Time signature: common time. Dynamics: *mf*. Chords: E-flat major 9, B-flat (add 9)/D, C minor 7, C minor 7/F, B-flat (add 9), B-flat.

We were young and did - n't have a care. —

Musical score for piano and voice. Treble and bass staves. Key signature: B-flat major. Time signature: common time. Dynamics: *mf*. Chords: E-flat major 9, B-flat (add 9)/D, C minor 7, C minor 7/F, B-flat (add 9), B-flat.

Where did it go?
rit. e dim.

Gm7 C9 E♭/F F9

33

35 Tempo IUnis. *mf*

Once up - on a time the world was

Unis. *mf*

Once up on a time the world was

B♭₉(add9)**35**

sweet - er than we knew.

sweet - er than we

knew.

sweet - er than we knew.

Gm(add9)

sweet - er than we,

Unis.

Ev - 'ry - thing was ours; how hap - py we were

E♭(add9) B♭(add9) B♭maj7 A♭/B♭ B♭9

39

poco rit.

then. But some - how once up - on a time poco rit.

E♭maj7 Cm7 E♭/F F♯dim7 Gm(add9)

41

poco rit.

Unis. a tempo

nev - er comes a - gain.

Unis. a tempo

E♭(add9) Cm7 F9 B♭ B♭maj7 B♭6 B♭maj7 B♭6

a tempo

44

47 A little faster, rubato

*(a cappella)**mf*

pen hearts,

O - pen

hearts, —

noth - ing to con - ceal. —

*mf**(a cappella)*

47

Ev - 'ry lit - tle thought was so ex - cit - ing to re - veal. —

49

All our dreams we knew would soon be real. —

All our, our dreams we

All our dreams

51

Preview requires purchase

10

div.

Where did they go?
Ah

Where

53

55 Tempo I

Unis.

f

Once up - on a time the world was sweet - er than we knew.

Unis.

f
Tempo I

C

Am

f

55

Ev - 'ry - thing was ours; how hap - py we were

F (add9)

C (add9)

Cmaj7

Gm7

C7

58

then. But some - how once up - on a time

rit. e cresc. div.

F Dm7 F/G G[#]dim7 Am Am/G Fmaj7 C6/E

rit. e cresc.

61

65 Freely

Unis. cresc. div.

nev - er comes a - gain. Unis. cresc. div.

Dm9 F/G Fmaj7/G C/G G/B Am C/G Fmaj7 C/E Dm 7 C

cresc.

64

f Ah mp Oo

B^b maj 7 C maj 9 C (add9) C⁶

f mp mp

67