

SOME STAGING SUGGESTIONS

“Theme from New York, New York” is a song that sings itself. Therefore, there’s no need for a great deal of glitzy motion that will only obscure the tune. This song is written in a traditional Broadway style; that is, it starts simply, builds in the middle and slows down to a key change and cakewalk (kickline) finale. Let any motion you use reflect this form - simpler at the beginning, more exuberant and bigger at the end.

You can stage this song in an infinite variety of ways, but three possibilities come to mind. One is a more traditional “top hat and cane” approach with all the same kind of business you would expect from this production number par excellence. Another is to play the piece according to the character who is singing it - a boy or girl leaving their small town to be a part of the big city. Using small town dress could be effective here. Finally, you could also capture the essence of New York itself, dressing performers as any or all people you would expect to see there . . . rich people, bag men, punk rockers, cab drivers, whatever. New York is a place of constant and endless variety that you could use to your advantage in staging.

Whatever course you choose (and there are so many more than the ones listed here), let your staging compliment this “modern classic” of a showstopper. The song will do most of the work for you if you simply let it.

Philip Kern

From the UNITED ARTISTS Motion Picture "NEW YORK, NEW YORK"
THEME FROM NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Words by
FRED EBB

(SATB, accompanied)

Music by
JOHN KANDER
 Arranged by **PHILIP KERN**

Moderate (♩ = 112)

F Fmaj7 F6 F Fmaj7 F6 Gm7 Gm6 Gm

Soprano *mf*
 Alto Start spread - in' the news, I'm leav - ing to -
 Tenor *mf*
 Bass Start spread - in' the news, I'm leav - ing to -
 N.C. F Fmaj7 F6 F Fmaj7 F6

8
 day, I wan - na be a part of it
 day, I wan - na be a part of it
 Gm7 Gm6 Gm N.C. C G7/D C7/E F6
 8

Theme From New York, New York - 8 - 1
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New York, — New York. — — — — — These vag - a - bond

New York, — New York. — — — — — These vag - a - bond

F6 G#dim Gm7 Gm6 Gm7 N.C.

shoes are long-ing to stray, and step a -

shoes are long-ing to stray, and step a -

F Fmaj7 F6 F Fmaj7 F6 Gm7 Gm6 Gm N.C. C G7/D C7/E

round the heart — of it, New York, — New York. — — — — —

round the heart — of it, New York, — New York. — — — — —

F6 F6 F9

+ Horns

I wan - na wake up in the cit - y that does - n't sleep—

I wan - na wake up in the cit - y that does - n't sleep—

F7 Cm7/G F7/A Bb6 Bbm Bbm(+7) Bbm6 F

mf —Horns

24 *cresc.* to find I'm king of the hill,

cresc. to find I'm king of the hill,

24 F Gm Am 3

+Horns —Horns *cresc.*

3 *f* top of the heap. My lit - tle town

f top of the heap. My lit - tle town

3 D9 D7+5 Gm7 Csus4

+Horns *f* —Horns

blues are melt- ing a - way, I'll make a

F Fmaj7 F6 F Fmaj7 F6 Gm7 Gm6 Gm C C G7/D C7/E

mf

32

brand new start of it in old New York.

cresc. cresc.

F6 E7maj7/F

+Horns

If I can make it there, I'd make it an - y - where,-

f

F7(9,13) F7 Cm7/G F7/A Bb6 Bb6/9 Bb6 Bb6(+7) Bb6 F/C D7(+5)

-Horns +Horns

40 *decresc.* *mf* 7

it's up to you, New York, New York.

it's up to you, New York, New York.

40 *decresc.* *mf* -Horns

D7/C D7(+5)/Bb D7/A Gm7 Am7 Bbmaj7 C7 F Fmaj7 F6

F Fmaj7 F6 Gm7 Gm6 Gm C G7/D C7/E F6 +Horns

48 *mf* New York, New York. I wan - na

New York, New York. I wan - na

48 *mf* F6 F9 F7 Cm7/G F7/A'

8

wake up in the cit - y that does - n't sleep

wake up in the cit - y that does - n't sleep

Bb6 Bbm Bbm(+7) Bbm6 F

cresc. 3 56 3

to find I'm king of the hill, head of the list,

to find I'm king of the hill, head of the list.

F Gm7 Am Am7 D9

-Horns

cresc. 3 3

cream of the crop at the top of the heap. My lit - tle town

cream of the crop at the top of the heap. My lit - tle town

Bbm7 D9 Cb/Db D7 Cb/Db

rit. ff

rit. ff

rit. ff

rit. ff

black key

blues are melt - ing a - way,

blues are melt - ing a - way,

60

Gb Gbmaj7 Gb6 Gb Gbmaj7 Gb6 Abm7 Abm7/Db

I'll make a brand new start of it in old New York..

I'll make a brand new start of it in old New York..

64

Db Ab7/Eb Db7/F Gb Gb6

If I can make it there

If I can make it there

68

Dm9 Gb7 Dbm7/Ab Gb7/Bb Cbm Cbm

-Horns

I'd make it an - y - where, come on, come

I'd make it an - y - where, come on, come

8va

Gb/Db

Eb7(+5)

Eb9/Db Eb9(+5)/Cb Eb9/Rb

+Horns

div. sop.

through New York, New York!

through New York, New York!

Abm7

Bbm7

Cb

Cb/Db

Gb

Gbmaj7

Gb6

New York, New York!

New York, New York!

New York, New York!

New York!

New York!

Gbmaj7 Gb6

Dmaj7

Dmaj7

Gb

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