

# LIDA ROSE / WILL I EVER TELL YOU

8 parts men/women

Words and Music by  
MEREDITH WILLSON

Arrangement by MO RECTOR  
and NANCY BERGMAN

**Intro**  $\text{♪} = \text{♪}^3$

**Tenor Lead**

**Men** So here is my love song, not fan-cy or fine.\_\_\_\_\_

**Bari Bass** not

5 6 7 8

Li - da Rose, oh, won't you be mine, be mine?

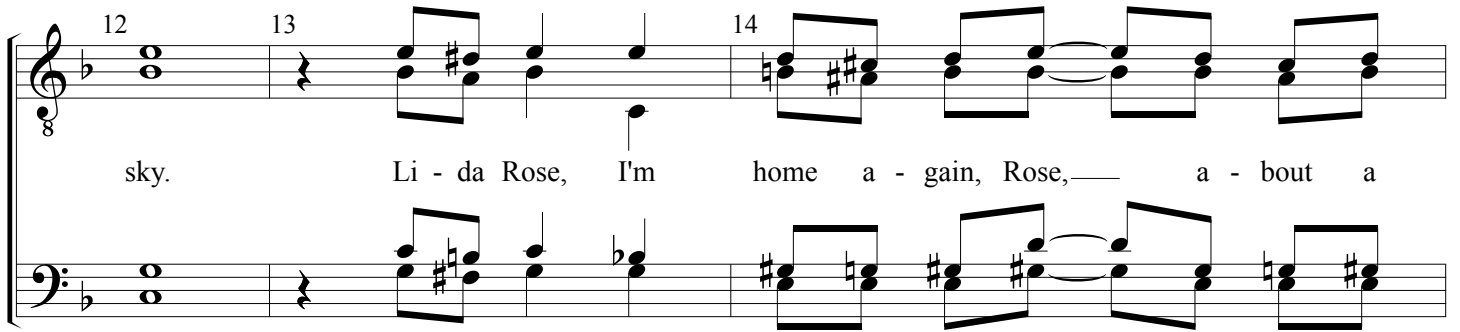
**Chorus 1**

**Tenor Lead**

**Men** Li - da Rose, I'm home a - gain, Rose, to get the sun back in the

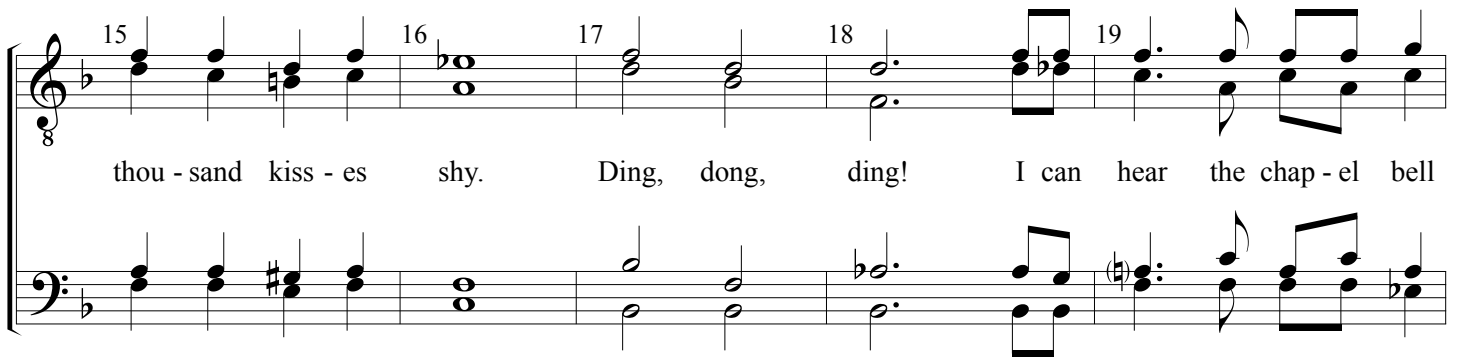
**Bari Bass**

12 13 14



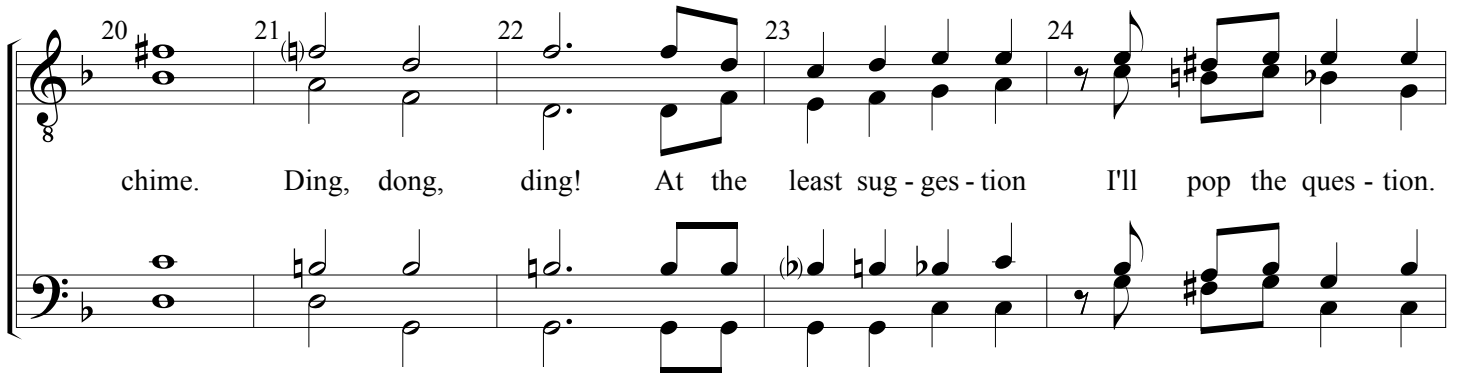
sky. Li - da Rose, I'm home a - gain, Rose, — a - bout a

15 16 17 18 19



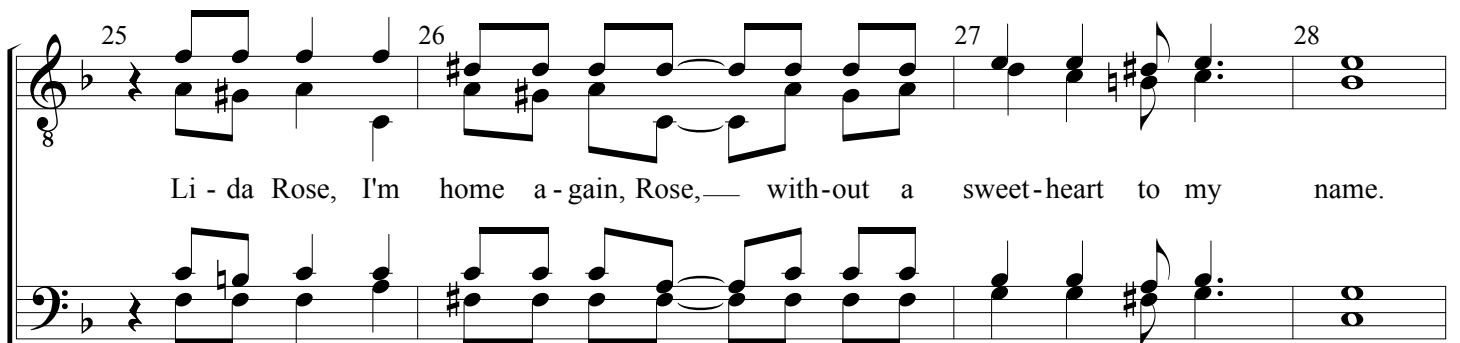
thou - sand kiss - es shy. Ding, dong, ding! I can hear the chap - el bell

20 21 22 23 24



chime. Ding, dong, ding! At the least sug - ges - tion I'll pop the ques - tion.

25 26 27 28



Li - da Rose, I'm home a - gain, Rose, — with - out a sweet - heart to my name.

29 30 31

Li - da Rose, now ev - 'ry - one knows — that I am hop - ing you're the

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of musical notation, measures 29 to 31. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 29 starts with a whole rest in the treble and a half note G2 in the bass. Measures 30 and 31 contain chords and single notes in both staves, with lyrics underneath.

32 33 34 35 36

same. — So, here is my love song, not fan - cy or fine. —

not

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of musical notation, measures 32 to 36. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. Measure 32 has a whole rest in the treble and a half note G2 in the bass. Measure 33 has a whole rest in the treble and a half note G2 in the bass. Measure 34 has a whole note G2 in the treble and a whole note G2 in the bass. Measure 35 has a whole note G2 in the treble and a whole note G2 in the bass. Measure 36 has a whole note G2 in the treble and a whole note G2 in the bass. The word 'not' is written below the bass staff at the end of the system.

37 38 39 40

Li - da Rose, oh, won't you be mine? Li - da Rose, oh, Li - da Rose. —

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of musical notation, measures 37 to 40. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. Measure 37 has a whole note G2 in the treble and a whole note G2 in the bass. Measure 38 has a whole note G2 in the treble and a whole note G2 in the bass. Measure 39 has a whole note G2 in the treble and a whole note G2 in the bass. Measure 40 has a whole note G2 in the treble and a whole note G2 in the bass. The system ends with a double bar line.

**Chorus 2**

41 42 43 44 45 x

Tenor Lead

Women

Bari Bass

Dream of now, dream of then. Dream of a

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for Chorus 2, measures 41 to 45. It features three staves: Tenor Lead (treble clef), Women (treble clef), and Bari Bass (bass clef). Measure 41 has a whole note G2 in the Tenor Lead, a whole note G2 in the Women, and a whole note G2 in the Bari Bass. Measure 42 has a whole note G2 in the Tenor Lead, a whole note G2 in the Women, and a whole note G2 in the Bari Bass. Measure 43 has a whole note G2 in the Tenor Lead, a whole note G2 in the Women, and a whole note G2 in the Bari Bass. Measure 44 has a whole note G2 in the Tenor Lead, a whole note G2 in the Women, and a whole note G2 in the Bari Bass. Measure 45 has a whole note G2 in the Tenor Lead, a whole note G2 in the Women, and a whole note G2 in the Bari Bass. The system ends with a double bar line and an 'x' above the Tenor Lead staff.

46 x x 47 48 x 49 50

love song that might have been. Do I love you? Oh, yes, I

51 52 53 54 55

love you. And I'll brave-ly tell you, but on - ly when we dream a -

56 57 58 59 60

gain. Sweet and low, sweet and low,

61 x 62 x x 63 64 x 65

how sweet the mem - 'ry, how long a - go. For - ev - er,

66 67 68 69 70

oh, yes, for - ev - er. Will I ev - er tell you? Ah,

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 66 through 70. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a rest in measure 66, followed by the lyrics 'oh, yes, for - ev - er.' in measure 67, 'Will I ev - er' in measure 68, 'tell you?' in measure 69, and 'Ah,' in measure 70. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

**Chorus 3**

71 72 73

Tenor Lead

no. Dream of

Bari Bass

Men

Tenor Lead

Li - da Rose, oh, Li - da Rose, oh, Li - da Rose, I'm

Bari Bass

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 71 through 73, labeled as 'Chorus 3'. It is divided into parts for 'Women' and 'Men'. The 'Women' part includes a Tenor Lead and a Bari Bass. The Tenor Lead has a long note in measure 71, a rest in measure 72, and the lyrics 'no.' in measure 71 and 'Dream of' in measure 73. The Bari Bass has a long note in measure 71, a rest in measure 72, and the lyrics 'no.' in measure 71 and 'Dream of' in measure 73. The 'Men' part includes a Tenor Lead and a Bari Bass. The Tenor Lead has the lyrics 'Li - da Rose, oh, Li - da Rose, oh, Li - da Rose, I'm' across measures 71, 72, and 73. The Bari Bass provides accompaniment for the men's part.

74 75 76

now, dream of then.

home a - gain, Rose, to get the sun back in the sky.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 74 through 76. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with the lyrics 'now,' in measure 74, 'dream of' in measure 75, and 'then.' in measure 76. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

77 x 78 x 79

Dream of a love song that might have

Li - da Rose, I'm home a - gain, Rose, — a - bout a thou - sand kiss - es

Detailed description: This system contains measures 77, 78, and 79. The vocal line (top staff) has lyrics: "Dream of a love song that might have" for measure 77, and "Li - da Rose, I'm home a - gain, Rose, — a - bout a thou - sand kiss - es" for measures 78 and 79. The piano accompaniment (bottom two staves) features chords and arpeggiated patterns. Measure 77 has a guitar fretting instruction 'x'. Measure 78 has a guitar fretting instruction 'x' and a fermata over the final note.

80 x 81 82 83

been. Do I love you? Oh, yes, I love you.

shy. Ding, dong, ding! I can hear the cha-pel bell

Detailed description: This system contains measures 80, 81, 82, and 83. The vocal line (top staff) has lyrics: "been. Do I love you?" for measure 80, "Oh, yes, I love you." for measure 81, and "shy. Ding, dong, ding! I can hear the cha-pel bell" for measures 82 and 83. The piano accompaniment (bottom two staves) features chords and arpeggiated patterns. Measure 80 has a guitar fretting instruction 'x'. Measure 82 has a fermata over the final note.

Musical score for measures 84-87. The score is written for voice and piano. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "And I'll brave - ly tell you, but on - ly when we dream a - chime. Ding, dong, ding! At the least sug - ges - tion".

Musical score for measures 88-90. The score is written for voice and piano. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "gain. Sweet and low, I'll pop the ques - tion. Li - da Rose, I'm home a - gain, Rose, — with - out a".

91 92 93 x 94 x x

sweet and low, how sweet the mem - 'ry,

sweet-heart to my name. Li - da Rose, now ev - 'ry - one knows — that I am

Detailed description: This system contains measures 91 through 94. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 91 has a vocal note on 'sweet' and piano chords. Measure 92 has 'and low,' with piano chords. Measure 93 has 'how' with piano chords. Measure 94 has 'sweet the mem - 'ry,' with piano chords and an 'x' above the staff. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and some melodic fragments.

95 96 x 97 98

how long a - go. — For - ev - er, oh, yes, for -

hop - ing you're the same. — So, here is my love song,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 95 through 98. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 95 has 'how long a - go. —' with piano chords. Measure 96 has 'For - ev - er,' with piano chords and an 'x' above the staff. Measure 97 has 'oh, yes, for -' with piano chords. Measure 98 has 'hop - ing you're the same. — So, here is my love song,' with piano chords. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and some melodic fragments.



99 100 101 102

ev - er. Will I ev - er tell you? Ah,

not fan-cy or fine. Li - da Rose, oh, won't you be

not

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score, measures 99-102. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with 'ev - er.' in measure 99, followed by 'Will I ev - er tell you?' in measure 100, 'Ah,' in measure 101, and a long note in measure 102. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

103 104 105 106

no.

rit.

103 104 105 106

mine? Li - da Rose, oh, Li - da Rose, oh, Li - da Rose.

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of a musical score, measures 103-106. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with 'no.' in measure 103, followed by 'mine?' in measure 104, and 'Li - da Rose, oh, Li - da Rose, oh, Li - da Rose.' in measures 105 and 106. The piano accompaniment includes a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking above measures 104 and 105. The piano part features sustained chords and moving lines in both hands.

## ***Performance Notes***

Meredith Willson was a composer, conductor and playwright. Although he composed many popular songs, two symphonies and two Oscar-nominated film scores, he is best-known for writing the book, music and lyrics to **The Music Man**. Willson put years of time and effort into this classic musical, including over 40 revisions and 30 original songs, and his efforts definitely paid off. The production ran for an impressive 1,375 performances on Broadway, won five Tony awards and has twice been adapted for film. The 1962 movie featured the Barbershop Harmony Society's 1950 quartet champion, the **Buffalo Bills**, in the role of the school board quartet.

*Lida Rose* is one of the most recognizable barbershop songs of all time. The stereotypical image of barbershoppers clad in straw hats and striped vests was certainly reinforced by **The Music Man**. Many a barbershopper had his first taste of the style while performing in this musical.

Inexorably linked to *Lida Rose* is its partner song, *Will I Ever Tell You?* Mo Rector and Nancy Bergman teamed up to create this arrangement, an excellent choice for double ensemble (or men's group with a female soloist). A male quartet could perform this piece alone by skipping measures 37-100.

The late Mo Rector, a prolific arranger for the Barbershop Harmony Society, was its first double gold-medal winner, singing bass in the **Gaynotes** (1958) and **Mark IV** (1969). Mo sang in a touring company of **The Music Man** in the 1960s and in 1985 formed the **Good News!** gospel quartet. That foursome recorded numerous albums and published over a dozen songbooks. Among Mo's secular arrangements are *Ma! (She's Making Eyes at Me)*, *Cruising Down the River* and *I'd Give a Million Tomorrows*.

Nancy Bergman is a gifted barbershop arranger, coach, chorus director and singer. Her quartet the **Mississippi Misses** was the 1954 Sweet Adelines International champion. Nancy began arranging in the 1950s with the help of veteran arranger Floyd Connett. She has more than 500 arrangements to her credit and continues to create music for both male and female quartets and choruses.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest guidelines. Ask *before* you sing.