

BASIN STREET BLUES

Words and Music by SPENCER WILLIAMS

Arrangement by DAVE BRINER

Intro $\text{♩} = \text{♩}^3$

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

I'm gon-na take a trip — down on that steam - er ship, — An' I'd

Verse 1

like to have ya all join in. — Won't ya Come a - long with me, —

Come a - long with me, To the Mis - sis - sip - pi,

Come a - long with me, To the Mis - sis - sip - pi,

9 We'll take the boat — to the land of dreams, — 10 11 Steam down the riv - er down to

12 New Or - leans. — Ya know the 13 band's there to meet us. — 14 Band's there to meet us,

15 Old friends to greet us, — 16 Old friends to greet us, — 17 That's where the white — an' the

18 black folks meet, — 19 Hea - ven on earth, — they call it 20 Ba - sin Street. —
Well

Chorus 1

21 Ba - sin Street — is the street — where the e - lite — al - ways meet — in

22

23

24

25 New Or - leans, — land of dreams, — You'll ne - ver know how nice it seems or

26

27

28 just how much it real - ly means, — Glad to be, — Yes, sir - ee, — Where

29

30

31 wel - come's free, — dear to me, — Where I can lose — My Ba - sin Street

32

33

34

My

Verse 2

35 Well, well, I'm 36 spread-in' the news. Ain't 37 ya glad ya came with me?_____

Blues_____

38 Was - n't it fun?_____ 39 Steam-in' down the Mis - sis - sip - pi,_____ 40 While we

41 rode in the boat to the 42 land of dreams,_____ 43 Steam-in' down the riv - er, down to

Chorus 2

44 New Or - leans._____ 45 Ba - sin Street_____ 46 That's the street_____ where the

3
Head-in' for Ba - sin Street

47 friend - ly e - lite — 48 al - ways meet, — 49 Waydown in New Or - leans, — That's the

they

50 land of dreams, — You'll nev - er know how nice it seems, or 51 just how much it real - ly means. — 52

53 Glad to be — 54 Yes, sir - ree, — 55 where wel - come is free, — It's so

56 dear to me, — Where I can lose, — 57 lose my Ba - sin Street blues, — 58

I'll lose

Basin Street Blues

The musical score for 'Basin Street Blues' is presented in two systems. The first system covers measures 59 to 61, and the second system covers measures 62 to 64. The music is written for voice and piano in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'lose my Ba - sin Street blues, — It's time to spread the news, — I'm gon - na lose my Ba - sin Street Blues. — my Ba - sin Street — Blues. —'. Measure 63 is marked with a 'rit.' (ritardando) and a fermata. Measure 64 ends with a double bar line. The piano accompaniment features a steady swing beat with beamed eighth-note pairs in measures 59-62 and 64, and a triplet in measure 63.

Performance Notes

Spencer Williams, the composer, also wrote *Everybody Loves My Baby, I Ain't Got Nobody* and *Royal Garden Blues*, all of which have been sung in barbershop.

Basin Street Blues has been a favorite of the dixieland band repertoire ever since it was written, and vocal versions by Louis Armstrong, Jack Teagarden and Bing Crosby have become popular.

The most important goal in performing this arrangement is to establish a steady relaxed swing beat, and to maintain it absolutely constant until measure 63. All beamed eighth-note pairs are sung as triplets, with the first note having $\frac{2}{3}$ of the time duration, and the second note $\frac{1}{3}$.

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 rules. Ask *before* you sing.