

# FROM THE FIRST HELLO TO THE LAST GOODBYE

*as sung by the Boston Common*

Words and Music by JOHNNY BURKE

Arrangement by LOU PERRY

*Verse freely*

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

8

1 2 3 4

Our song was a song of to - mor - row. Our

5 6 7 8

hearts were as high as the sky. But

9 10 11 12

songs are for - got - ten, and skies of - ten gray.

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*From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye*

**Chorus**

13 14 15 16 17

Nev - er - the - less, there is this I can say: From the first

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

hel - lo to the last good - bye, it's been

25 26 27 28 29 30

aw - fly nice to know you. So ex - cuse the part - ing

31 32 33 34 35 36

sigh. And I'll watch you go with my

*From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye*

head held high. You've been dear and sweet, a

plea - sure to meet, a spe - cial treat, say I, from the

first hel - lo to the last, last,

to the last good - bye.

good - bye. to the last good - bye.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 37-42) features a vocal line with a melodic line and a piano accompaniment with a steady bass line. The second system (measures 43-48) continues the vocal melody with some harmonic changes in the piano part. The third system (measures 49-53) includes a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and features more complex piano accompaniment with moving bass lines. The fourth system (measures 54-58) concludes the piece with a final vocal phrase and a piano accompaniment that resolves to a final chord.



*From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye*

*Optional ending*

last, to the

53 54 55

last good - bye! to the

56 57 58

last good - bye!

## Performance Notes

Johnny Burke was a successful musician, active from the 1920s to the 1960s. He started working at the Irving Berlin Publishing Company selling pianos and moonlighting as a pianist in dance bands and in the vaudeville scene. Burke collaborated as the lyricist with many successful musicians, most notably Jimmy Van Heusen. Among his best remembered songs are *Pennies From Heaven*, *Imagination*, *Moonlight Becomes You*, and *Swingin' on a Star*, the last of which won Burke an Academy Award.

Arranger Lou Perry is considered one of the finest barbershop arrangers the Barbershop Harmony Society ever had. Known for writing very singable arrangements, his style is studied by both the new arranger as well as the veteran. Lou wrote many lasting arrangements, among them being *From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye*, *That Old Quartet of Mine*, *Little Pal*, and *Smilin' Through*.

*From the First Hello* is one of the most enduring barbershop arrangements. Its gentle range makes it an excellent song for the everyman, yet its profound lyric keeps it in the repertoire of the most polished ensembles. A signature song for the Boston Common, this arrangement features a beautiful, straight-forward lyric with no frills or unnecessary movements. Although the Common used the lower ending, a secondary, more climactic tag emerged as a viable option.

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