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**The Barbershop Harmony Society**

# (THE) LONGEST TIME

Words and Music by BILLY JOEL

Arrangement by TOM GENTRY

**Intro**

**Tenor Lead**

8

1 2 3 4

Woh. for the long - est

**Bari Bass**

Dm dm dm for the long - est,

5 6 7 8

time. Woh. for the long - est,

for the long - est,

## Chorus 1 & 2

Oo oo

9 10 11 12

If you said good - bye to me to - night,  
Once I thought my in - no - cence was gone.

Oo

13 14 15 16 Ah

there would still be mu - sic left to write.  
Now I know that hap - pi - ness goes on.

oo Ah

17 18 19 20 ah ah

What else could I do? I'm so in - spir - ed by you.  
That's where you found me when you put your arms a - round me.

ah ah

21 22 x 23 24

That has - n't hap - pened for the long - est time.  
I have - n't been there for the long - est time.

**Bridge 1 & 2** Bung oo ah oo ah bung oo ah oo ah

25 26 27 28

May - be had this won't last ver - y long, but  
I had this ond thoughts from the start. I

Bung oo ah oo ah bung oo ah oo ah

Bung bung

29 *bung* oo ah oo ah *bung* oo ah oo ah

you said feel so right, and I could be wrong.  
to my - self, "Hold on to your heart."

*bung* oo ah oo ah *bung* oo ah oo ah

*bung* *bung*

33 *bung* oo ah oo ah *bung* oo ah oo ah

May - be I've know been hop - ing that to hard, but  
Now I know the wo - man that you are. You're

*bung* oo ah oo ah *bung* oo ah oo ah

*bung* *bung*

37 *bung* oo ah *bung* oo ah

I've gone this far, and it's more than I hoped for.  
won - der - ful so far, and it's more than I hoped for.

*bung* oo ah *bung* oo ah

*bung*

## Chorus 3 &amp; 4

Oo

41 42 43 44

Who knows how much fur - ther we'll go on?  
I don't care what con - se - quence it brings.

Oo

8



## The Longest Time

Ah \_\_\_\_\_

45 46 47 48

May - be I'll be sor - ry when you're gone.  
I have been a fool for less - er things.

oo Ah \_\_\_\_\_

49 50 51 52

I'll take my chan - ces. I for - got how nice ro - mance is.  
I want you so bad. I think you ought to know that

ah ah \_\_\_\_\_

53 54 55 56

I in - tend to be - hold you for the long - est time.  
I have - n't been there for the long - est time.

## Tag

57 58 59 60

Woh for the long - est  
for the long - est,

time, Woh for the long - est time,

for the long - est,

Woh for the long - est time,

for the long - est,

Oo - ee oo

Woh for the long - est time.

for the long - est,

## Performance Notes

Born in 1949 on Long Island, Billy Joel dropped out of high school just short of graduation to follow his love of music. Joel's early bands proved less than successful, and he also endured stints as a lounge pianist and, later, a composer of commercial jingles. Finally Joel decided to go it on his own as a singer-songwriter.

His 1974 tune "Piano Man" was his first Top 40 hit, thus beginning his rise to the top. Five of Joel's songs became gold singles: "Just the Way You Are," "My Life," "It's Still Rock and Roll to Me," "Uptown Girl" and "We Didn't Start the Fire." In 1984 "The Longest Time" reached #1 on the Adult Contemporary charts.

He married supermodel Christie Brinkley, for whom he wrote "Uptown Girl," in 1985. The two were divorced in 1994. Joel received Grammy's Living Legends Award in 1990 and *Billboard's* Century Award in 1994. Although his considerable wealth and high-profile failed marriage might indicate otherwise, Joel has maintained his status as a working-class hero throughout his career.

The singer is invited to have a great deal of fun, both vocally and visually, performing this piece. Maintaining a steady tempo will be a help toward this end. When singing the various neutral syllables—oo, ah, woh and such—be sure to keep adding energy to the sound rather than letting it rest on a plateau.

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

