

# ON THE NICKEL

♩ = 70

WORDS AND MUSIC BY  
TOM WAITS

The first system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of four sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a whole rest. The middle staff is a treble clef with the same key signature and time signature, containing a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff is a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, containing a bass line with eighth and quarter notes. The dynamics *mp* and *LEGATO* are written below the middle staff.

6

The second system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of four sharps and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a vocal line with lyrics. The middle staff is a treble clef with the same key signature and time signature, containing a piano accompaniment. The bottom staff is a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, containing a bass line. The lyrics are: "STICKS AND STONES WILL BREAK MY BONES, BET-TER BRING A BUCK-ET AL-WAYS WILL BE THERE'S A HOLE IN THE".

10

The third system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of four sharps and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a vocal line with lyrics. The middle staff is a treble clef with the same key signature and time signature, containing a piano accompaniment. The bottom staff is a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, containing a bass line. The lyrics are: "TRUE. PAIL. AND WHEN YOUR MA-MA'S DEAD AND GONE, I'LL SING THIS IF YOU DON'T GET MY LET- THEN YOU'LL".

13

LUI- IA- BY JUST FOR YOU. WHAT BE-COMES- OF ALL THE LIT-TLE BOYS  
 KNOW THAT I'M IN JAIL. WHAT BE-COMES- OF ALL THE LIT-TLE BOYS

8

17

WHO NEV-ER COMB THEIR HAIR? THEY'RE THEY FINE SLEEP-ING- UP ALL A-

20

ROUND THE BLOCK ON THE NICK -EL. O- VER THERE.  
 SA- BY ON THE NICK-EL. O- VER THERE.

24

29

AND IF YOU CHEW TO-BAC-EO\_ SO RING A-ROUND THE ROS- Y,-

AND WISH UP-ON A SLEEP-ING IN THE

32

STAR. RAIN.

YOU'RE -WAYS- LATE FOR

Ab Fm E

34

SCARE-SUP- EROW SITS. PER JUST LIKE PUNCH LINES AND YOU LET ME DOWN BE-TWEEN- THE CARS. A- GAIN.

37

AND I KNOW A PLACE WHERE A  
AND I THOUGHT I HEARD A

Ab

Db

A

38

ROY-AL FLUSH  
MOCK-ING BIRD.

CAN NEV-ER BEAT A PAIR.  
ROO-SEVELT KNOWS WHERE.

BBRN

Db

Ab

Fm

41

AND E-VEN THOM-AS-JEF-FER-SON IS ON THE NICK-EL, O-VER  
WELL, I'M WHIST-LING PAST THE GRAVE-YARD, AND THEY'RE ON THE NICK- O-VER\_

44

THERE. THERE.

B B $\flat$  E

48

AND WHAT BE-COMES- OF ALL THE

E $\flat$

51

LIT-TLE BOYS THAT RUN A-WAY FRO HOME?

54

THE WORLD JUST KEEPS GET-TING BIG- GER.- ONCE YOU GET OUT ON YOUR-

57

OWN. SO HERE'S TO ALL THE LIT-TLE BOYS.

60

THE SAND-MAN-TAKES YOU WHERE YOU'RE SLEEP-ING WITH A

63

PIL- LOW OF MAN-- ON THE NICK- EL... O- VER THERE.

66

SO CLIMB UP THROUGH THAT BUT-TON HOLE AND FALL RIGHT UP THE

69

Musical score for measures 69-72. The score is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of three staves: a vocal line, a piano accompaniment in the right hand, and a piano accompaniment in the left hand. The lyrics are: STAIRS. AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE THE SHORT DOGS GROW, ON THE NICK-EL.

73

Musical score for measures 73-76. The score is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of three staves: a vocal line, a piano accompaniment in the right hand, and a piano accompaniment in the left hand. The lyrics are: 0- VER THERE.