

ROW, ROW, ROW

1912

William Jerome provided lyrics for composers from about 1890 through 1928, contributing poetry for most of the finest song writers. As a young man he performed in minstrel shows. James (Jimmie) Monaco came to the U.S. from Italy as a child of six. A self-taught pianist, he performed in night clubs at 17. In 1936 he went to Hollywood. He composed for many of the Bing Crosby movies in the 1930s and '40s. His long list of songs includes several great hits. "Row, Row, Row" is one of his earliest.

The catchy lyric is most appealing and accounts for as much of its success as its rollicking melody.

Words by WILLIAM JEROME
(1865-1932)

Music by JIMMIE V. MONACO
(1885-1945)

INTRO:

Row, row, row, row, row and row. — Young John-ny Jones he had a
Young John - ny
cute lit-tle boat, — And all the girl-ies he would take for a float. —
And all the

12 13 14 15 16 17

He had girl - ies on the shore, Sweet lit - tle

18 19 20 21 22 23

peach - es by the score. But John - ny was a "Wei - sen - hei - mer", you know, But John - ny

24 25 26 27 28 29

His stead - y His stead - y girl was Flo, Oh! And ev - 'ry

30 31 32 33 34 35

Sun - day af - ter - noon She'd jump in his boat and they would spoon.

CHORUS:

36 37 38 39 40 41

And then he'd row, row, row, Way up the riv - er he would row, row, he'd row

42 43 44 45 46 47

row, A hug he'd give her, then he'd kiss her now and then, she would tell hi

A hug he'd

Detailed description: This system contains measures 42 through 47. The music is in a key with three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The vocal line starts with a quarter rest in measure 42, followed by eighth notes in measures 43-47. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

48 49 50 51 52

fool a - round,

when; He'd fool a - round and fool a - round and then they'd kiss a - gain; And then he

fool a - round,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 48 through 52. The vocal line continues with eighth notes and quarter notes. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chordal accompaniment in the right hand.

53 54 55 56 57 58 59

row, row, row, A lit - tle fur - ther he would row, oh, oh, oh, oh!

he'd row

Detailed description: This system contains measures 53 through 59. The vocal line has a long note in measure 54 and then continues with eighth notes. The piano accompaniment has a consistent eighth-note bass line.

60 61 62 63 64 65

Then he'd drop both his oars, take a few more en-cores, And then he'd row,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 60 through 65. The vocal line starts with a quarter rest in measure 60, followed by eighth notes. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth-note patterns.

66 67 68 69 70

REPRISE: (slower)

row, row. And then he'd row, row, row, kind - a

row, kind - a

Detailed description: This system contains measures 66 through 70. The tempo marking 'REPRISE: (slower)' is present. The vocal line has a quarter rest in measure 66, followed by quarter notes. The piano accompaniment is slower and features a steady eighth-note bass line.

slow, a lit - tle slow. a tempo

8 71 A lit - tle slow - er he would row, oh, oh, so slow! He would
slow, slow, so slow!

8 77 pad - dle for shore but then head back for some more, row,
row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row,

8 83 row, Oh, what a show! When
row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row,

8 89 tenor melody Flo! John - ny went out with his Flo, how he would row!
(b) row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row, row,

Additional verse:

Right in his boat he had a cute little seat,
 And ev'ry kiss he stole from Flo was so sweet.
 And he knew just how to row,
 He was a rowing Romeo.
 He knew an island where the trees were so grand,
 He knew just where to land; Oh!
 Then tales of love he'd tell to Flo
 Until it was time for them to go.