

# Cat's in the Cradle

Harry Chapin (1942-1981)  
arr. Larry Nickel

♩ = 120 (♩ = 60)

*mf* Solo - child-like

Soprano *mp* *freely* *saa* *p*  
Cat's in the cra-dle and the sil-ver spoo

Alto *p*  
Cat's in the cra-dle and the sil-ver spoo

Tenor *mp*  
Cat's in the cra-dle and the sil-ver (n)

Bass  
Cat's in the cra-dle and the spoo (n)

Choir

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**B** stagger breathing

15

*unison*  
child ar - rived\_ just the o - ther day, he came to the world su - al way\_ But there were

*unison*  
child ar - rived\_ just the o - ther day, he came to the u - su - al way\_ But there were

19

*p* Oo *mp* and he was *mf*

planes t' and bills t' pay, he learned to walk while I was a - way

planes ch and bills t' pay, he learned to walk while I was a - way

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23

talk - in' fore I knew it and as he grew he'd say, "I'm gon-na be like you Dad. Y'

Oo "I'm gon-na be lil' Dad. Y'

Oo "I'm gon-na you Dad. Y'

Oo "I'm like you Dad. Y'

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27

know I'm gon-na be like do doot do do do do do do do do do do do

know I'm gon-na be do doot do do do do do do do

know I'm gon-na be you." do doot do do do do do

! na be like you." do doot do do do do

D

32

doot doot do

doot doot do

doot doot do

doot doot do do do do

He said, *mf*

He said, *mf*

*mf* unison My son turned te o - ther day.

*mf* unison My sor just the o - ther day.

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37 *ssa*

"Thanks for the ball, Dad, cor play. Can you teach me to throw?"

"Thanks for the b on let's play. Can you teach me to throw?"

I said, "Not to - day;\_ I've got a -

I said, "Not to - day;\_ I've got a -

41

He said, "That's O - kay." *p* Oo

He said, "That's O - kay." *p* Oo

lot to do." *mp* and he walked a - way\_ smile ne - ver dimmed.

lot to do." *mp* and he walke' but his smile ne - ver dimmed.

45

"I'm gon-na be like hi *mp* Y' know I'm gon-na be like him."\* *mf* \*close to "m" immediately *f* And the

"I'm gon-na be *mp* , yeah. Y' know I'm gon-na be like him."\* *mf* *f* And the

"I'm *mp* ake him, yeah. Y' know I'm gon-na be like him."\* *mf* *f* And the

"I'm *mp* -na be like him, yeah. Y' know I'm gon-na be like him."\* *mf* *f* And the

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50 **E** *altos on melody*

cat's in the cra-dle and the sil - ver spoon, lit - tle boy blue and the man... in the moon...

cat's in the cra-dle and the sil - ver spoon, lit - tle boy blue and the... in the moon...

cat's in the cra-dle and the sil - ver spoon, lit - tle boy blue... in the moon...

cat's in the cra-dle and the sil - ver spoon, lit - tle boy blue and the man... in the moon...

54 *soprano on melody*

*unison (s.a.t.)*

When y' com-in' home, Dad' I don't know when. We'll get to-gether then, son, you

When y' com-in' I don't know when. We'll get to-gether then, son, you

I don't know when. We'll get to-gether then, son, you

I don't know when. you

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58

F

know we'll have a good time then. do doot do do do do do do do do do do

know we'll have a good time then. do doot do do do do do do do do do do

know we'll have a good time then. do do do do do do do do do do

know we'll have a good time then. do do do do do do do do do do

63

s.a. - unison

doot doot do He came from col - lege just the o - ther day, so much like a man I just

doot doot do

doot do

doo do do do



69

had to say "Son, I'm proud of you, — can you sit for a while? He shook his ' and he said

(Oo)

*mp*

Oo

73

— with a smile, "What ake, Dad, is to bor-row the car— keys.. See y' lat - er, can I

real-ly like, Dad, is to bor-row the car— keys.. See y' lat - er, can I

Oo See y' lat - er, can I

Oo See y' lat - er, can I

77 *f* *mf* **H**

have them please?" \_\_\_\_\_ And the cat's in the cra - dle and the sil - ver spoon,

have them please?" \_\_\_\_\_ And the cat's in the cra - dle and the spoon,

have them please?" \_\_\_\_\_ And the cat's in the cra - dle sil - ver spoon,

have them please?" \_\_\_\_\_ And the cat's in r' and the sil - ver spoon,

81 *ssa*

lit - tle boy blue and the the moon... When y' com-in' home, Dad? I don't know... when.

lit - tle boy blue in the moon... When y' com-in' home, Dad? I don't know when.

lit - tle the man... in the moon... I don't know when.

blue and the man... in the moon... I don't know when.

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85 unison (s.a.t.)

We'll get to - geth - er then, — son, you know we'll have a good time then.

We'll get to - geth - er then, — son, you know we'll have a gr then.

We'll get to - geth - er then, — son, you know we'll r time then.

you kr a good time then.



89 **I** full warm sound

Ah Ah

Ah Ah

Ah Ah I've

Ah Ah I've

ssa

gliss.

gliss.

J

97

*mp*

Oo

*mp*

Oo

*unison*

long since re-tired my son's moved a-way I called him up just the I said, "I'd

long since re-tired my son's moved a-way I called him ur ther day. I said, "I'd

*mp*



102

*mp*

Oo

Oo

He said, "I'd love to, Dad, if I can find the time You see, my

love to if you don't mind."

lo. you if you don't mind."

*mf*

He said, "I'd love to, Dad, if I can find the time You see, my

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new job's a has-sle and the kids have the flu, but it's sure nice talk-in' to you, ad. It's been  
 Oo sure nice talk-in' ad. It's been  
 Oo It's benn  
 Oo It's benn

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110 *f* **K**  
 sure nice talk-in' to  
 sure nice talk-in' ad.  
 Solo: Tenor or Baritone  
**Rubato - thoughtfully**  
 sure nic to you. And as I hung up the phone it oc -  
 su. talk-in' to you. And as I hung up the phone it oc -

114

*mp* **molto rit.** *mf* **A tempo** *f*

My boy was just like me. And the

My boy was just like me. And the

*tutti mp* cured to me, He'd grown up just like me. My boy was j And the *f*

*tutti mp* cured to me, He'd grown up just like me. My bo ike me. And the *f*

120 **L**

cat's in the cra-dle and the moon, lit-tle boy blue and the man in the moon...

*altos on melody*

cat's in the cra-' il - ver spoon, lit - tle boy blue and the man in the moon...

cat's in ad the sil - ver spoon, lit - tle boy blue and the man in the moon...

cat's e cra-dle and the sil - ver spoon, lit - tle boy blue and the man in the moon...

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124 *ssa* *unison (s.a.t.)* **molto rit.**

When y' com-in' home, Dad? I don't know when. We'll get to-ge-th-er then, son, you

When y' com-in' home, Dad? I don't know when. We'll get to-ge-th-er r' son, you

I don't know when. We'll get to-g' son, you

I don't know when. you

128

know we'll have a good tir

know we'll have a then.

know we'll od time then.

knov. nave a good time then.



**Harry Forster Chapin** (1942 - 1981) was an American singer-songwriter who became one of the most popular singers of the 1970s.

Chapin was also a dedicated humanitarian who fought to end world hunger; he was a key player in the creation of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger in 1977. In 1987, Chapin was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his humanitarian work.

The "Cat's in the Cradle" lyrics began as a poem written by Harry's wife, Sandra "Sandy" Gaston; His recording of the song was nominated for the 1975 Grammy Award for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance and was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2011. Harry died on July 16, 1981 when his car was hit by a truck in Jericho, New York.

"Cat's in the Cradle" has been a meaningful reminder for composer/arranger Dr. Larry Nickel, who has three children and eight grandchildren.