



Gordon Lightfoot  
Arranged by Larry Nickel

*♩* = 52 *Rubato*

Pno. *mp* *soft and warm intro*

*pedal intuitively*

*8<sup>va</sup>* *3* *8<sup>va</sup>*

**8** *poco rit.* *mf* **A** *A tempo*

S1  
S2  
A.  
T  
B

There was a time in this fair land when the road did not run; when the  
 There was a time in this fair land when the rail-road did not run; when the  
 There was a time in this fair land and when the rail-road did not run; when the

Pno. *poco rit.*

*8<sup>va</sup>*

**14**

S1  
S2  
A.  
T  
B

wild ma-jes-tic moun-tains stood a-lone a-against the sun. Long be-fore the  
 wild ma-jes-tic moun-tains stood a-lone a-against the sun. Long be-fore the  
 ma-jes-tic moun-tains stood a-lone a-against the sun. Long be-fore the

*tbb*

Pno.

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

Instr. parts available upon request: gratis (guitar, bass, full size piano part)

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20

S1  
S2

A.

T  
B

Pno.

white man and long be-fore the wheel. When the green dark for-est was too si - lent,

white man and long be-fore the wheel. When the green dar' for-est was too si - lent,

white man and long be-fore the wheel. When the  $\varphi$   $\kappa$  for-est was too si - lent,

27

S1  
S2

A.

T  
B

Pno.

*poco rit.* *p* *mf* *accel.*

too si - lent real. But

too si - lent to be real. But

too si - lent to be real. But

*poco rit.* *p* *mf* *accel.*

33

S  
A

T  
B

Pno.

**B**  $\text{♩} = 60$  (fast)

time be-gin - ning and his - t'ry has no bound, As to this ver-dant coun - try they

time has no be-gin - ning and his - t'ry has no bound, As to this ver-dant coun - try they

$\text{♩} = 60$  (faster)

*mp* *lightly*

39

S1  
S2  
A.  
T  
B

came from all a - round. They sailed up-on her wa-ter - ways and walked the for - est tall; Built the

came from all a - round. They sailed up-on her wa-ter - ways and walk' the for - est tall; Built the

came from all a - round. They sailed up-on her wa-ter - ways .ed the for - est tall; Built the

Pno.

*r.h.*  
*l.h.*

45

S  
A  
T  
B

mines, mills and fac - tor - ies\_ for the of us all.

mines, mills and fac - tor - ies. good of us all.

Pno.

*rit.*  $\text{♩} = 82$  (subito faster)

*mf*

51

S  
A  
T  
B

Oo

And when the young man's fan - cy was turned in to the Spring,

Pno.

*f* *mf*

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57

S  
A

T  
B

Pno.

The rail - way men grew rest - less for to hear the hammers ring. Their

63

S1  
S2

A.

T  
B

Pno.

minds were o - ver - flow - ing with the vi - sions of t With ma - ny a for - tune

minds were o - ver - flow - ing with the vi - sions of their day, With ma - ny a for - tune

With ma - ny a for - tune

69

S  
A

T  
B

Pno.

won and ma - ny a debt to pay. For they

lost and ma - ny a debt to pay. For they

$\text{♩} = 110$   
*f*

75 **D**

S1  
S2  
A.  
T  
B  
Pno.

looked in the fu - ture and what did they see?\_ They saw an i - ron road run - nin' from the sea to the sea.\_

looked in the fu - ture and what did they see?\_ They saw an i - ron road run - nin' from the sea to the sea.\_

looked in the fu - ture and what did they see?\_ They saw an i - ron road rom the sea to the sea.\_  
*bass line on melody*

*mf*

79

S1  
S2  
A.  
T  
B  
Pno.

Bring - in' the goods to a young grow - in' land up from the sea - boards and in - to their hands.\_ Look a - way!

Bring - in' the goods to a young grow - in' All up from the sea - boards and in - to their hands.\_ Look a - way!

Bring - in' the goods to a young land All up from the sea - boards and in - to their hands.\_

83

S1  
S2  
A.  
T  
B  
Pno.

aid they, a - cross this might - y land. From the east - - ern\_

said they, a - cross this might - y land. From the east - - ern\_

Look a - way! From the east - - ern\_

*f*

*lh.*

88 E

S1  
S2  
A.  
T  
B  
Pno.

shore to the west - - ern strand. Bring in the work-ers and bring up the rails, we got-ta

shore to the west - - ern strand. Bring in the wor'-ers and bring up the rails, we got-ta

shore to the west - - ern strand. Bring i k-ers and bring up the rails, we got-ta

*l.h.*

93

S1  
S2  
A.  
T  
B  
Pno.

lay down the tracks and tears up the trail. O-pen you heart, let the life blood flow. Got-ta

lay down the tracks and tears up t' O-pen you heart, let the life blood flow. Got-ta

lay down the tracks and te . trails. O-pen you heart, let the life blood flow. Got-ta

97 *molto rit.*

S1  
S2  
A.  
T  
B  
Pno.

get on our ause we're mov-in' too slow. Get on our way\_ 'cause we're mov-in' too slow...

gr way\_'cause we're mov-in' too slow. Get on our way\_ 'cause we're mov-in' too slow...

get on our way\_'cause we're mov-in' too slow. Get on our way\_ 'cause we're mov-in's too slow...

*molto rit.*

101  $\text{♩} = 96$  *mp* **F**

S1 S2 Be - hind the blue Rock-ies\_ the sun is de - clin - ing. The stars, they come

A. *mp* Be - hind the blue Rock-ies\_ the sun is de - clin - in - Oo

T B *mp* Be - hind the blue Rock-ies\_ the sun is de Oo

Pno.  $\text{♩} = 96$  *p*

109

S1 S2 steal-in' at the close of the day. - cross the wide prai-rie\_ our loved ones are

A. e of the day. Oo our loved ones are

T B at the close of the day. Oo our loved ones are

Pno.

116 *rit.*

S1 S2 sleep - ing. Be - yond the dark o - ceans in a land far a - way.

A. sleep Be - yond the dark o - ceans in a land far a - way.

T B sleep - ing. Be - yond the dark o - ceans in a land far a - way. *rit.*

Pno. *rit.*

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**G** a tempo

123 *mf* ah

S  
A  
T  
B

Oo Swing-in' your ham-mers in the  
We are the nav-vies who work u-pon the rail- way. g-in' your ham-mers in the

*a tempo*  
*mp*

Pno.

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130

S  
A  
T  
B

bright blaz-in' sun. Lay-in' d and build-in' the bridg-es.  
bright blaz-in' sun. down track and build-in' the bridg-es

Pno.

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138

S1  
S2  
A.  
T  
B

Bend-in' cks 'til the rail-road is done. So  
Ben our backs 'til the rail-road is done. So  
Bend-in' our backs 'til the rail-road is done. So

Pno.

**PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY**



**H** ♩ = 82 (slowly and gradually accel. to m. 151)

143

S1  
S2  
A.  
T  
B

o-ver the moun-tains and o-ver the plains, o-ver the mus-keg and in-to the rain...  
o-ver the moun-tains and o-ver the plains, o-ver the mus-ker and in-to the rain.  
o-ver the moun-tains and o-ver the plains, o-ver the r and in-to the rain.

♩ = 82 (slowly and gradually accel. to m. 151)

Pno.

*mf*  
*plodding at first*

*two singers come forward together (and stand side by side)*

147

S1  
S2  
A.  
T  
B

Up the St. Law-rence, all the way to Gas-pé, swing-in' our ham-mers and draw-in' our pay...  
Up the St. Law-rence, all the way to C swing-in' our ham-mers and draw-in' our pay...  
Up the St. Law-rence, all the way to Gas-pé, swing-in' our ham-mers and draw-in' our pay...

Pno.

151 ♩ = 110

S  
A

T  
B

**Solo** **Solo Two**

in'em in and ty-in'em down, a-way to the bunk-house and in-to the town. A

♩ = 110

Pno.

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155 *accel.*..... *f*

S A Oh, the

T B dol-lar a day\_ and a place for my head, a drink to the liv- in' a toast to the dead!\_

Pno. *accel.*.....

**I** ♩ = 116 (faster)

159

S1 S2 song of the fu - ture has been sung, On the

A. song of the fu - ture has been sun On the

T B All the bat - tles have been won. \_

Pno. **I** ♩ = 116 (faster) *f*

164

S1 S2 moun - tain e stand. \_ We have

A. mour tops we stand. \_ We have

T B All the world at our com - mand. \_ We have

Pno. *l.h.*

*molto rit.*

*mf*

168

S1  
S2  
A.  
T  
B

o - pened up the soil, with our tear-drops and our toil There

Pno.

*L.h.* *molto rit.*

173  $\text{♩} = 52$  *Rubato*

S  
A  
T  
B

was a time in this fair land when the rail-road did not run; when the

Pno.

$\text{♩} = 52$  *Rubato*

*grv*

178

*ssa*

S  
A  
T  
B

wild ma-jes-tic moun-tains stood a-lone a-against the sun.

Pno.

183

S  
A

Long be-fore the white man and long be-fore the wheel. When the green dark

T  
B

Long be-fore the white man and long be-fore the wheel. When the green dark

Pno.

*mp*

*mp*

*p*

189 A cappella

S  
A

for - est was too si - lent to be real. And man - y were the dead men, too

T  
B

for - est was too si - lent to be — And man - y were the dead men, too

194

S  
A

si - lent, si - lent to be real. rit. . . . .

T  
B

si - lent, too si - lent to be real.



the last spike - November 7, 1885 (the last of 30 million spikes)

This iconic song was commissioned by the CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corp.) to celebrate the Canadian Centennial in 1967. While Lightfoot's song echoes the optimism of the railroad age, it also chronicles the cost in sweat and blood of building "an iron road runnin' from the sea to the sea."

The slow middle section of the song is especially poignant, vividly describing the efforts and sorrows of the nameless and forgotten "navvies," whose manual labour actually built the railway. The railroad may have physically connected the country, but it came at the expense of Indigenous lives and on the backs of the people who built it.