



Gordon Lightfoot  
arr, Larry Nickel

**Rubato**  $\text{♩} = 52$

*mp* soft and warm intro

pedal intuitively

8va-3

Piano score for the first system, including treble and bass clefs.

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

*mf*

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

B  
There was a time in the land when the rail-road did not run; when the

**12** poco rit. .

Piano score for the second system, including vocal lines and piano accompaniment.

**14**

T  
wild ma-jestic moun-tains stood a-lone a-against the sun. Long be-fore the

B  
wild ma-jestic moun-tains stood a-lone a-against the sun. Long be-fore the

Piano score for the third system, including vocal lines and piano accompaniment.

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

20

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

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

Pno.

27

T  
too si - lent tr real. But

B  
too si - lent be real. But

Pno.

*poco rit.* *p* *mf*

*accel.*

33

**B** ♩ = 60 (faster)

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

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

Pno.

*mp* *lightly*

♩ = 60 (faster)

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39

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

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

Pno.  
r.h. l.h.

45

T  
mines, mills and fac - tor-ies for the go of us all.

B  
mines, mills and fac - tor-ies fc od of us all.

Pno.  
rit. = 82 (subito faster)

51

T  
And when the young man's fan - cy was turned in to the Spring,

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

Pno.  
f mf

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

57

T  
The rail-way men grew rest-less for to hear the ham-mers ring. Their

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

Pno.

63

T  
minds were o-ver-flow-ing with the vi-sion day, With ma-ny a for-tune

B  
minds were o-ver-flow-ing with visions of their day, With ma-ny a for-tune

Pno.

69

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

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

Pno.

♩ = 110

75 **D**

T  
looked in the fu - ture and what did they see? They saw an i - ron road run - nin' from the sea to the sea...

B  
looked in the fu - ture and what did they see? They saw an i - ron road run - the sea to the sea...

Pno.  
*mf*

79

T  
Bring-in' the goods to a young grow-in' land up from the sea - boards and in - to their hands. Look a-way!

B  
Bring-in' the goods to a young grow - All up from the sea - boards and in - to their hands.

Pno.

83

T  
— d they, — a - cross — this might-y land. From the east - - ern.

B  
a-way! a - cross — this might-y land. From the east - ern

Pno.  
*f* *l.h.*

88 E

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

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

Pno.  
*l.h.*  
*mf*

93

T  
 lay down the tracks and tears up the trails O-pen your heart, let the life blood flow. Got-ta

B  
 lay down the tracks and tears up the trails. O-pen your heart, let the life blood flow. Got-ta

Pno.

97 *molto rit.*

T  
 get on our way 'cause we're mov-in' too slow. Get on our way... 'cause we're mov-in' too slow...

B  
 get on our way 'cause we're mov-in' too slow. Get on our way... 'cause we're mov-in' too slow...

Pno.  
*molto rit.*

101  $\text{♩} = 96$  F Solo

solo  $\text{♩} = 96$

T *mp* The stars, they come

B *mel. mp* Be - hind the blue Rock-ies\_ the sun is de - clin - ing. Oo...

Pno. *p*

109

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

T (Oo...) (at of the day) (Oo...)

B (Oo...)

Pno.

116

solo sleep - ing. rit. . . . .

T (Oo...) Be - yond the dark o - ceans in a land far a - way. rit. . . . .

B Be - yond the dark o - ceans in a land far a - way. rit. . . . .

Pno.

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**G** A tempo

123 *mf*

T  
We are the nav-ies\_ who work u-pon the rail- way.\_\_\_\_\_ Swing-in'\_ your ham-mers in the

B  
We are the nav-ies\_ who work u-pon the rail- way.\_\_\_\_\_ g-in'\_ your ham-mers in the

*a tempo*  
*mp*

Pno.

130

T  
bright blaz-in' sun.\_\_\_\_\_ I lay-in' down track and build - in' the bridg- es.\_\_\_\_\_

B  
bright blaz-in' sun.\_\_\_\_\_ Lay-in' down track and build - in' the bridg- es.\_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

137

T  
Bend - in' our backs 'til the rail-road is done.\_\_\_\_\_ So

B  
Bend - in' our backs 'til the rail-road is done.\_\_\_\_\_ So

Pno.



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

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

B  
o-ver the moun-tains and o-ver the plains, o-ver the mus - id in - to the rain.

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

Pno. *mf* plodding at first

147

T  
Up the St. Law-rence, all the way to Gas-pé... swing-in' and ham-mers and draw-in' our pay...

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

Pno.

♩ = 110

**Solo One** with *cha*

T  
*f* Driv-in' er and ty-in' em down, a - way to the bunk-house and in-to the town.

B  
**Solo Two** *f*

A

Pno.

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

T  
Oh, the *f*

B  
dol-lar a day\_ and a place for my head, a drink to the liv - in' a toast to the dead!\_ Oh, the *f*

Pno. *accel.*.....

159 **I** ♩ = 116 (faster)

T  
song of the fu - ture has been sung, All the bat - tles have been won. On the

B  
song of the fu - ture has been All the bat - tles have been won. On the

Pno. ♩ = 116 (faster) *f*

164

T  
moun - tair ve stand. All the world at our com - mand. We have

B  
m i tops we stand. All the world at our com - mand. We have

Pno. *lh.*

168 **molto rit.** *mf*

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

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

Pno. *l.h.* *molto rit.*

173 **J** ♩ = 60 **Rubato**

T  
was a time in this fair land where road did not run; when the

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

Pno. ♩ = 60 **Rubato** *8va*

178

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

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

Pno.

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183

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

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

Pno. *p*

189 *a cappella* *poco rit.* *p* *subato*  
T for - est was too si - lent to be real. And man - y were the dead men, too

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

194 *p* *rit.*  
T si - lent, too si - lent to be real.

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

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



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.