

THE NICKEL UNDER THE FOOT

from *The Cradle Will Rock*

Words & Music by

Marc Blitzstein

Editor

Leonard Lehrman

[A number of singers have performed this a minor third higher, but this is the original key.]

Andante (♩ = 68)

It was Tuesday,

last week. Yeh, Tuesday. I had breakfast at Andy's. Coffee-and. For lunch I had coffee-

and again. For dinner I could only afford coffee. Then I looked on the floor, and I see

a nickel shinin' there: Then I looked closer...
Gee, Coffee-and, Andy! That wasn't no nickel. Not coffee-and, Andy, just coffee, Andy.

Cute, Huh? Mister, you don't know what it felt like, thinkin' that was a nickel under my foot.

Segue

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Allegretto [♩ = 76] *mf*

May-be you won-der what it is — makes peo-ple

[ff] — *p*

good or bad, Why some guy, an ace with-out a doubt, Turns out to be a

[Freely]

bas-tard* and the oth-er way a-bout; — I'll tell you what I

[colla voce]

cresc. *[a tempo]* *dim.* *[mp]*

feel, it's just the nick-el un-der the heel. O, you can

[that]

cresc. *[a tempo]* *dim.* *[p]*

* alternates from the 1950s: bandit/stinker[!]

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Poco più mosso [♩ = 84]

live like hearts

won-der-land tou

hap-pi-ly put an

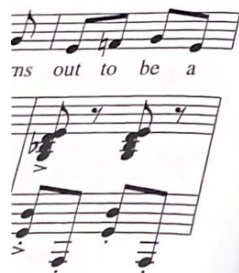
sure

Poco più mosso [♩ = 84]

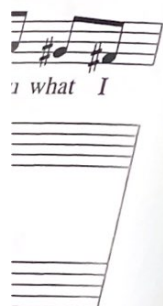
is — makes peo-ple



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what I



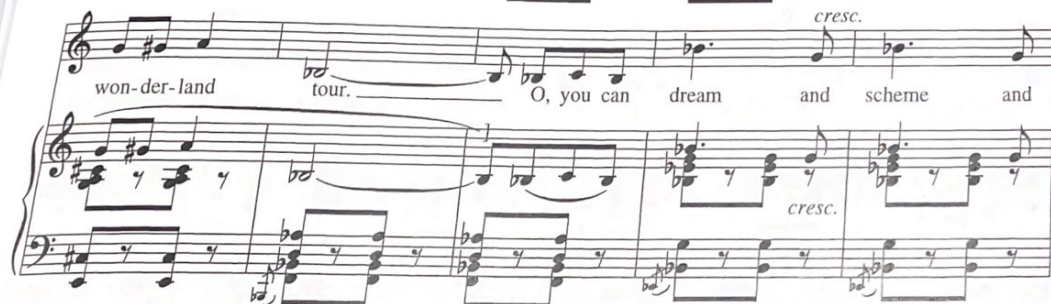
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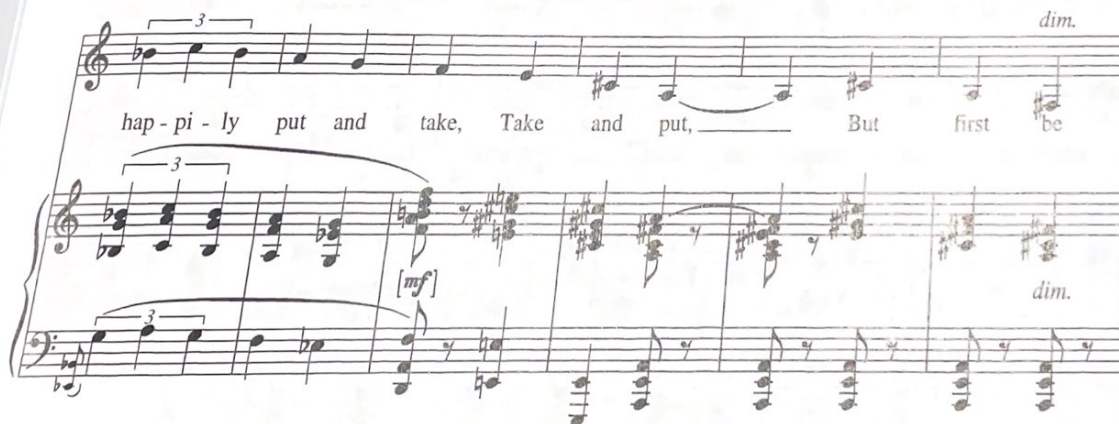
live like hearts and flow-ers — And ev-'ry day is a



won-der-land tour. — O, you can dream and scheme and



hap-pi-ly put and take, Take and put, — But first be



sure — the nick-el's un-der your foot. —

[that]



Go stand on some - one's neck while you're tak - in', Cut in - to some - bod-y's

throat as you put, For ev-'ry dream and scheme's de - pend-ing on

wheth - er all through the storm You've kept it warm

The nick-el un - der your foot. And if you're

[that]

[mf] [dim.] [p] [mp] [dim.] [mp]

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sweet then you'll gro

soot, And i

[Slower] [mp]

And o so

[pp]

that nick-el ur

[mp]

* Lower voice of R. H. may be

sweet then you'll grow rot - ten, Your pret - ty heart cov - ered o - ver with

soot, And if for once you're gay, And dev - il may care - less,

And o so hot, I know you've got

that nick - el un - der your * foot.

[mp] *[pp]* *[ff]* *[dim.]* *[colla voce]* *[Fl.]* *[P]*

cresc. *[ff]* *[rall.]* *[dim.]* *[P]*

* Lower voice of R. H. may be played *loco* or, if necessary *8va*.