

THE LONGEST TIME

Words and Music by BILLY JOEL

Arrangement by TOM GENTRY

Intro

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

dm dm dm

Woh _____

for the long - est

time.

Woh _____

for the long - est,

for the long - est,

Chorus 1 & 2

oo _____

oo _____

If you said good - bye to me to - night,
 Once I thought my in - no - cence was gone.

oo _____

The musical score is written for Tenor Lead and Bari Bass. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The Intro section consists of 8 measures. The Tenor Lead part starts with a whole rest in measure 1, followed by chords in measures 2, 3, and 4. The Bari Bass part starts with a whole rest in measure 1, followed by a bass line in measures 2, 3, and 4. The lyrics 'Woh' are written under the Tenor Lead staff in measure 2, and 'for the long - est' is written under the Bari Bass staff in measure 4. The second system continues from measure 5 to 8. The Tenor Lead part has a whole rest in measure 5, followed by chords in measures 6, 7, and 8. The Bari Bass part has a whole rest in measure 5, followed by a bass line in measures 6, 7, and 8. The lyrics 'time.' are written under the Tenor Lead staff in measure 5, 'Woh' in measure 6, and 'for the long - est,' in measure 8. The Chorus 1 & 2 section consists of 4 measures (9-12). The Tenor Lead part has a double bar line at the start of measure 9, followed by a long melodic line that spans across measures 10, 11, and 12. The Bari Bass part has a double bar line at the start of measure 9, followed by a long bass line that spans across measures 10, 11, and 12. The lyrics 'If you said good - bye to me to - night, Once I thought my in - no - cence was gone.' are written under the Tenor Lead staff in measures 9-12. There are 'oo' markings above the Tenor Lead staff in measures 9 and 12, and above the Bari Bass staff in measure 9.

The Longest Time

ah _____

13 14 15 16

there would still be mu - sic left to write.
Now I know that hap - pi - ness goes on.

oo _____ ah _____

ah _____ ah _____

17 18 19 20

What else could I do? I'm so in - spir - ed by you.
That's where you found me when you put your arms a - round me.

ah _____ ah _____

21 22 x 23 24

That has - n't hap - pened for the long - est time.
I have - n't been there for the long - est time.

Bridge 1 & 2 bung oo ah oo ah bung oo ah oo ah

25 26 27 28

May - be had this sec - ond last ver - y long, but
I had this sec - ond thoughts from the start. I

bung oo ah oo ah bung oo ah oo ah

bung bung

The Longest Time

29 *bung* oo ah oo ah 30 *bung* oo ah oo ah 31 *bung* oo ah oo ah 32

you said feel so right, and I could be wrong.
to my - self, "Hold on to your heart."

bung oo ah oo ah *bung* oo ah oo ah

bung *bung*

33 *bung* oo ah oo ah 34 *bung* oo ah oo ah 35 *bung* oo ah oo ah 36

May - be I've been hop - ing that to hard, but
Now I know the wo - man that you are. You're

bung oo ah oo ah *bung* oo ah oo ah

bung *bung*

37 *bung* oo ah 38 *bung* oo ah 39 40

I've gone this far, and it's more than I hoped for.
won - der - ful so far, and it's more than I hoped for.

bung oo ah

bung

Chorus 3 & 4

oo oo

41 42 43 44

Who knows how much fur - ther we'll go on?
I don't care what con - se - quence it brings.

oo

The Longest Time

ah _____

45 46 47 48

May - be I have I'll been a sor - ry fool for when you're gone. less - er things.

oo _____ ah _____

ah _____ ah _____

49 50 51 52

I'll take my chan - ces. I for - got how nice ro - mance is.
I want you so bad. I think you ought to know that.

ah _____ ah _____

53 54 x 55 56

I I have - n't been there for the long - est time.
I in - tend to hold you for the long - est time.

Tag

57 58 59 60

Woh _____ for the long - est
for the long - est,

time, Woh for the long - est time,
 for the long - est,
 Woh for the long - est time,
 for the long - est, oo - ee oo
 Woh for the long - est time.
 for the long - est,

Performance Notes

Born in 1949 on Long Island, Billy Joel dropped out of high school just short of graduation to follow his love of music. Joel's early bands proved less than successful, and he also endured stints as a lounge pianist and, later, a composer of commercial jingles. Finally Joel decided to go it on his own as a singer-songwriter.

His 1974 tune "Piano Man" was his first Top 40 hit, thus beginning his rise to the top. Five of Joel's songs became gold singles: "Just the Way You Are," "My Life," "It's Still Rock and Roll to Me," "Uptown Girl" and "We Didn't Start the Fire." In 1984 "The Longest Time" reached #1 on the Adult Contemporary charts.

He married supermodel Christie Brinkley, for whom he wrote "Uptown Girl," in 1985. The two were divorced in 1994. Joel received Grammy's Living Legends Award in 1990 and *Billboard's* Century Award in 1994. Although his considerable wealth and high-profile failed marriage might indicate otherwise, Joel has maintained his status as a working-class hero throughout his career.

The singer is invited to have a great deal of fun, both vocally and visually, performing this piece. Maintaining a steady tempo will be a help toward this end. When singing the various neutral syllables—*oo*, *ah*, *woh* and such—be sure to keep adding energy to the sound rather than letting it rest on a plateau.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any other arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask *before* you sing.