

LEO

Oh!

MAX

I know what you're thinking. How dare you condemn me without knowing all the facts?

LEO

Mr. Bialystock, I'm not con ...

MAX

Shut up! I'm having a rhetorical conversation. Do you know who I used to be?

LEO

Yes, you're Max Bialystock. The king of Broadway.

MAX

No! I'm Max Bialy-! That's right. That's right.

LEO

May I say, Mr. Bialystock, and please don't take this the wrong way, you're not just a dirty old man ...

MAX

Thank you.

LEO

... you're also a great Broadway producer. And there's something about me you should know. When I was a kid, I had the good fortune to be taken to "Bialy-Hoos of 1942". I still have the ticket stub and ever since I've had this secret desire to be a Broadway produ - a Broadway produ - a Broadway produ -

MAX

Producer?

LEO

Yes sir.

MAX

A secret desire, huh? Well kid, can I give you a little advice.

LEO

Yes sir.

MAX

Keep it a secret. Do the books, do the books.

LEO

Yes, sir.

HE sits and begins doing the books as MAX wanders over to the French door, upstage right, and gazes idly out

MAX

Oh my God, will you look at that. There's a great big gorgeous blonde stepping out of a white Rolls Royce limo.

(flinging open the French door and shouting out to the street below)

That's it, baby, when you got it, flaunt it! Flaunt it! Ha ha.

(closing the French door and stepping back into the room)

LEO

Mr. Bialystock.

MAX

Yeah?

LEO

May I speak to you for a minute?

MAX

A minute?

LEO

Yes, a minute.

MAX

(pulling out a pocket watch)

Okay. One minute.

LEO

In glancing at

MAX

Go. You have 58 seconds left. You've wasted two seconds.

LEO

Well, in glancing at your books, I notice that in the columns marked...

MAX

You have 48 seconds left, hurry, hurry.

LEO

(flustered)

Oh! Uh, in the columns marked monies received ...

MAX

28 seconds. You're running out of time.

Tick-tock. Tick-tock. Tick-tock. Tick-tock

17 seconds. 15 seconds.

LEO

There's a discrepancy between the figures

I can't make the figures add up...

If I can have a moment...

I think I can explain

LEO, beyond the point of endurance, pulls a piece of blue material from his pants pocket.

LEO

Mr. Bialystock, I cannot function under these conditions. You're making me extremely nervous.

MAX

What is that? A handkerchief?

LEO

No, It's nothing. It's nothing.

MAX

(grabbing the material from LEO)

If it's nothing, why can't I see it?

LEO

(reaching for the material to get it back from MAX)

My blanket! My blanket! My blue blanket. Give me back my blue blanket!

(mumbling, moaning)

MAX

(giving the blue blanket back)

Shhh. Here, here, here, here. Don't panic. Don't panic.

LEO

Ahhhhhhh. I'm sorry. It's just I don't like people touching my blue blanket. It's not important. It's a minor compulsion. I've had it ever since I was a baby and I find it very comforting ... I need to lie down for a minute.

(HE gets down on the floor and curls up in the fetal position, moaning to himself)

MAX

They come here. They all come here. How do they find me?

(crossing to stand over him, leaning down to help him up)

Oy, would you look at this... How can I help you?

LEO

(terrified)

Ahhhhhh!

MAX

What now?

LEO

You're going to jump on me!

MAX

What?

LEO

OUR LEADING MAN WAS SO GAY
HE NEARLY FLEW AWAY
WHERE DID WE GO RIGHT?

MAX

A SHOW SO EASY TO DESPISE ...

LEO

NOW IT'S UP FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE!

MAX & LEO

OH, WHERE, OH, WHERE, TELL US WHERE
DID WE GO RIGHT?

MAX

(reading yet another review)

"The best new musical of the decade! Max Bialystock is a theatrical genius!" Now they like me.

MAX

OH, WE KNEW WE COULDN'T LOSE,

MAX & LEO

HALF THE AUDIENCE WERE JEWS!

LEO

IT'S THE END OF OUR CAREERS,

MAX

IT'LL RUN FOR TWENTY YEARS!

MAX & LEO

TELL US WHERE ...

DID WE GO RIGHT?!

LEO goes to the safe and takes out two large accounting ledgers. HE closes the safe and heads for the door.

MAX

What are you doing? What are you doing?

LEO

I'm taking these books and I'm leaving. Don't try to stop me. I've made up my mind.

MAX

Where do think you're going?

LEO

I'm turning myself in. It's the only way. I'm going to cooperate with the authorities. They'll reduce my sentence and then there's time off for good behavior. Maybe I'll get a good job in the prison library.

(again heading for the door)

Keep in touch. It's been very nice working with you.

MAX

Leo, Leo, Leo, Leo. Frightened Leo, nervous Leo. Relax, take it easy, you're overwrought. You don't know what you're doing. You're acting out of panic.

(yells)

Gimme Those Books!

(HE starts to wrestle the books away from LEO)

LEO

I never should have listened to you. I was an honest man before I met you.

MAX

An honest man! You were an honest mouse!

LEO

Ooohhhhh, how I hate you!

MAX

Double, double, double!

(MAX succeeds in ripping the books out of LEO's hands.)

Haaaaa! Ha-ha haaaaa!

LEO

Fat! Fat! Fat! Fat! Fatty!

(LEO strikes MAX on the head. MAX falls to the floor. LEO jumps on MAX's back and grapples to get the books back)

Just gimme those fat books, you fat walrus!

MAX

Never!

MAX and LEO are on the floor, fighting, as ROGER now bursts in with CARMEN. THEY are in joyous and triumphant spirits.

LEO

Give it to me you fatty!

ROGER

Congratulations!

CARMEN

Congratulations!

LEO

Give it to me!

Give it to me!

Give it to me!

ROGER

Now that's what I call celebrating!

MAX

(to ROGER; shouting from the floor)

You lousy fruit, you ruined me!

CARMEN

Why you ungrateful breeder, after he stepped in and saved your show!

FRANZ enters on one crutch, with his right leg in a cast, brandishing a Luger.

FRANZ

Aah! You haf broken the Siegfried Oath! You all must die!

ALL now scramble for safety as FRANZ starts wildly shooting and bullets fly in all directions. ALL shriek with fear and race about like poulets with their tetes cut off.

ROGER

What are you doing, you neo-Nazi nitwit? Your show's a hit!

FRANZ

Who cares? You made a fool out of Hitler!

ROGER & CARMEN

He didn't need our help!

FRANZ continues wildly shooting but missing. ROGER, CARMEN, and MAX exit out onto the balcony, FRANZ follows. LEO opens the stage left patio door and MAX, CARMEN, ROGER and FRANZ enter. ROGER and CARMEN cross to the stage right closet. MAX and LEO duck under the desk.

ROGER

(opens closet door for CARMEN)

Darling, back in the closet.

CARMEN

Okay.

FRANZ

All right, Bialystock und Bloom, now I got you. Say your prayers.

5

We Can Do It!

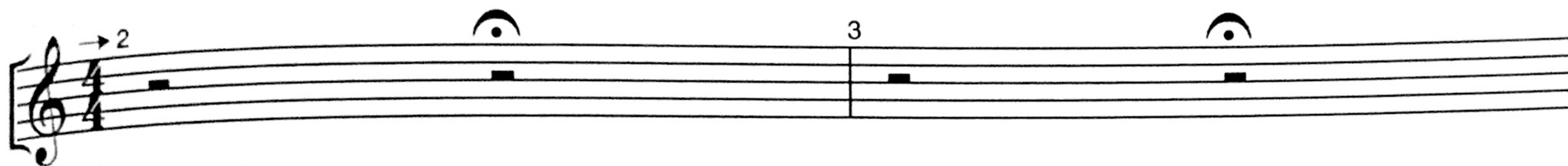
Leo: "I merely posed a little academic accounting theory. It was just a thought."

Max: "Bloom, worlds are turned on such thoughts. Don't you see, Bloom. Darling Bloom, glorious Bloom, it's so simple."

Step one: **[Music in]**

We find the worst play ever written...

...Step two: **[Music in]** We hire the worst director in town.



Step three: **[Music in]** I raise two million dollars"

Leo: "Two?"

Max: "Yes! One for me, one for you. There's a lot of little old ladies out there."

Step four: **[Music in]** We hire the worst actors in New York and open on Broadway. And before we can say...



Step five, **[Music in]** we close on Broadway, take our two million dollars and go to Rio."

Leo: "Rio? It will never work." Max: "Oh, ye of little faith!"

6 A tempo, Slow 4



What did Lew - is say to Clark when ev - 'ry - thing looked bleak?



What did Sir Ed-mund say to Ten-zing as they strug-gled t'ward Ev-er-est's peak?



What did Wash-ing-ton say to his troops when they crossed — the Del-a-ware? —

Leo: "What did they say?"

15 (Max:) I'm sure you're well a-ware!— We can

17 Slow 2

18 do it! 19 We can do it! 20 We can do it, 21

22 me and you! 23 24 25 26 *accel. poco a poco* We can do it! We can

27 do it! 28 We can make our dreams come true! 29 30 31 32 Ev - 'ry -

33 A tempo

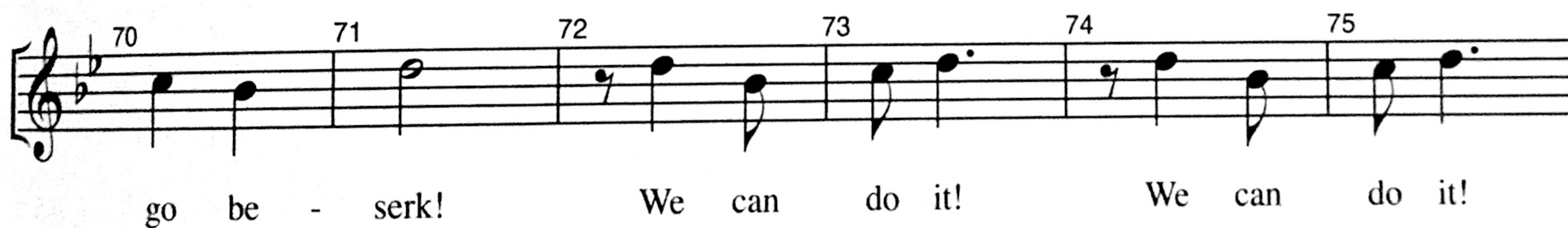
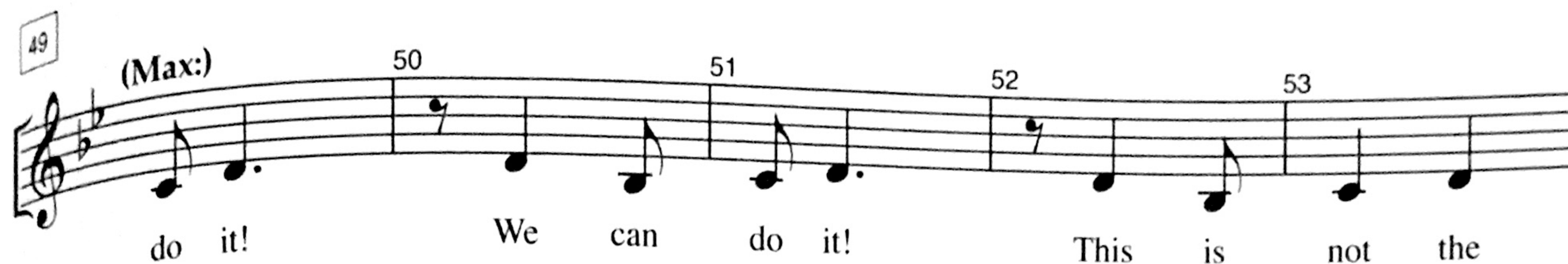
34 - thing you've 35 ev - er want - ed 36 is just

37 wait - ing 38 to be 39 had— 40

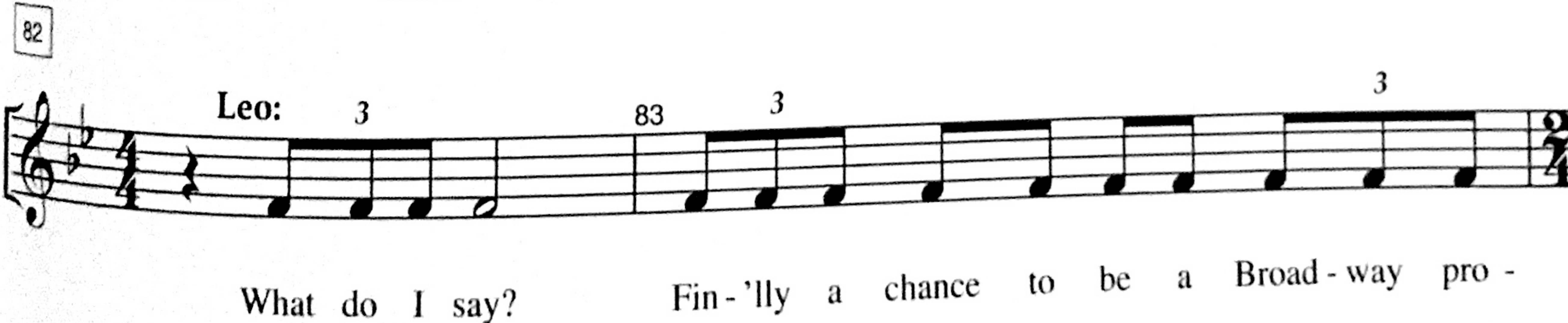
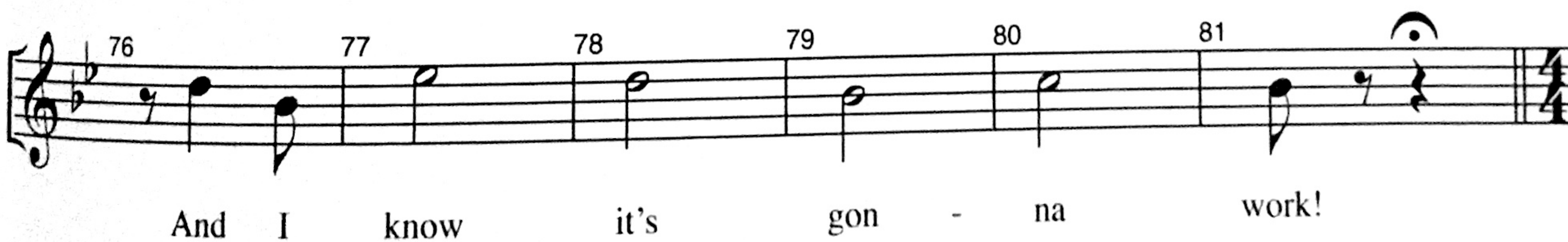
41

42 Beau - ti - ful girls— 43 wear - ing 44 no - thing but pearls— Ca -

45 - ress - ing you un - dress - ing you and 46 47 driv - ing you mad!— 48 We can



Max: "Whataya say, Bloom?"



21

Betrayed!

[Cue] Max: "Dear Max. Rio is everything you said it was and more. [Music in]

Dictated

Ulla and I think of
you every chance we
get. [Music in]

In the morning when we
have breakfast on our
terrace. Many different
herrings [Music in]

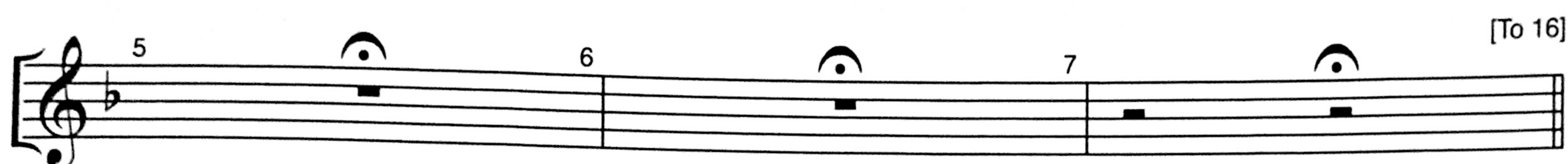
and in the evening when
we samba together in the
moonlight [Music in]



Sorry, must run. Ulla's waiting.
[Music in]

It's almost eleven.
[Music in]

Wish you were here, Leo."
[Music in]



[To 16]

16

Colla Voce

Max:



Just like Cain and A - bel you pulled a sneak at - tack I



thought that we were broth - ers then you stabbed me in the back Be -

Fast 4



- trayed _____ Oh boy I'm so be - trayed Like

24



Sam - son and De - li - lah your love be - gan to fade I'm



cry - ing in the hoose - gow you're in Ri - o get - ting laid Be -



- trayed _____ Let's face it I'm be - trayed

32



Boy, _____ have I been tak - en _____

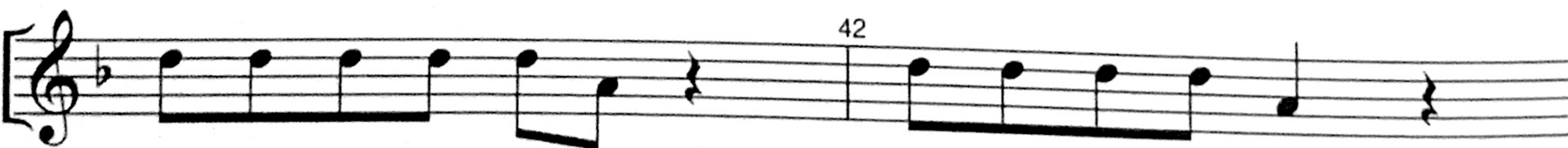


Oy, I'm so for - sak - en I



should have seen what came to pass I should have known to watch my ass

41



I feel like O - thel - lo Ev - 'ry - thing is lost



Le - o is I - a - go Max is dou - ble - crossed

(Max:)



I'm so dis - mayed

Did I men - tion I'm be - trayed?

I

48



used to be the king

but

now

I am the

fool

A

[To 57]



cap - tain with - out a ship

A

rab - bi with - out a

shul

Now

57



I'm a - bout to go to jail there's

no one who will pay my bail I

[To 108]

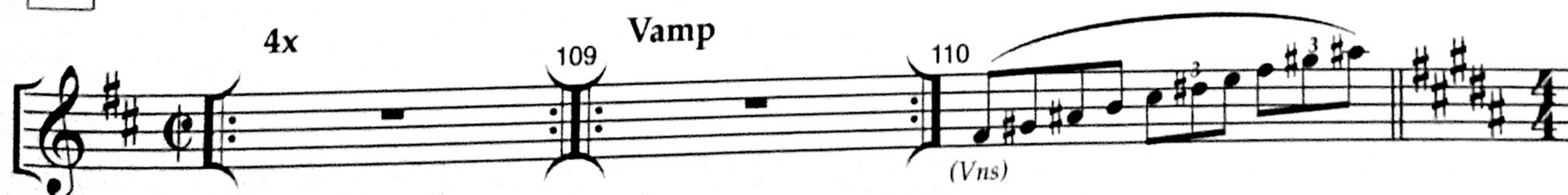


have no one who I can cry to

no one I can say good-bye to

Max: "I'm drowning! I'm drowning here!
I'm going down for the last time!"

108



I see a weathered old farmhouse, and a white picket fence. I'm running through fields of alfalfa with my collie, Rex. Stop it, Rex. And I see my mother, standing on the back porch, in a worn but clean gingham gown, and I hear her calling out to me, 'Alvin! Alvin! Don't forget your chores.

111

Bucolic, In 4

