

Matilda, Matilda!



"Matilda," a West Indian calypso, is identified almost exclusively with singer Harry Belafonte. If Harry may be said to have a theme song, this is it. He recorded it first in 1953, and then several times later. His live performances of the number sometimes run as long as 15 minutes as he winds up a concert exercising all his considerable charm and humor to make his audience sing the chorus. "And now—all the big spenders!" or "All ladies over 40!" The latter usually draws a complete silence, followed by a gust of laughter and another—this time successful—appeal to the ladies to sing.

Words and Music by: Norman Span

Moderate Calypso tempo

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes. The music is marked with a forte (f) dynamic.

C

CHORUS

F

G7

The vocal line for the chorus is written on a single staff. It features the lyrics "Ma - til - da" repeated three times. The melody is simple and catchy, with a slight rise and fall. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note rhythm.

C

G7

C

G7

C

(No chords)

C

The second part of the vocal line includes the lyrics "take me mon - ey and run Ve-ne-zue - lah. Ev-'ry-bod - y! Ma - til - da". The melody continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. The piano accompaniment remains consistent with the previous sections.

Ma - til - da Ma - til - da She

take me mon - ey and run Ve - ne - zue - lah. Five hun - dred

dol - lars friends... I lost what made me sell me cat and horse Hey - a

Ma - til - da She take me mon - ey and run Ve - ne - zue - lah. Ev - 'ry - bod - y!

Verse 2. (Well, de money was) just inside me bed,
 Stuck up in de pillow beneath me head. Don't you know
 CHORUS

Verse 3. (Well, me friends) nevah to love again,
 All de money gone in vain, Hey-a
 CHORUS

