

Hard Times (No One Knows Better Than I)

Words & Music by Ray Charles

Slow blues
N.C.
ad. lib.

A tempo ♩ = 58

My moth-er told me,

Chord diagrams: E^b7 (4fr), A^b7 (4fr)

'fore she passed a - way; said, "Son when I'm gone,

Chord diagrams: G⁷ (3fr), Bdim⁷, Cm (3fr), B^{aug}

don't for-get to pray. 'Cos there'll be hard times, Lord,

Chord diagrams: B^bm⁷, E^b9 (5fr), E^baug (4fr), A^b7 (4fr), Adim⁷ (4fr)

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Eb7 C9 B9 Bb7(b13)

those hard times. Whoah, yeah. Who knows. bet-ter than I?"

Eb6 Bb7(b13) Eb Ab7

Well I soon found out

G7 Bdim7 Cm Baug

just what she meant. When I had to pawn my clothes.

$B^{\flat}m^7$ $E^{\flat 9}$ $E^{\flat aug}$ $A^{\flat 7}$ $Adim^7$

8 just to pay my rent. Talk-in''bout hard _____ times, hard.

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The vocal line starts with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes for 'just to pay my rent.' and 'Talk-in''bout hard'. A long horizontal line indicates a sustained note for 'times, hard.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

$E^{\flat 7}$ C^9 B^9 $B^{\flat 7}(b13)$

8 _____ times. Whoah, yeah. _____ Who knows a-well a bet-ter than!?.

Detailed description: This system contains the next two measures. The vocal line has a quarter rest, then eighth notes for 'times. Whoah, yeah.' and 'Who knows a-well a bet-ter than!?.'. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the vocal line and a four-measure rest in the piano part.

$E^{\flat 6}$ $B^{\flat 7}(b13)$ $E^{\flat 6}$

Sax Solo

3 4 10

Detailed description: This system contains the final two measures. It features a 'Sax Solo' section with a 3-measure rest in the vocal line and a 4-measure rest in the piano part. The piano accompaniment includes a 10-measure rest in the right hand and continues in the bass line.

G⁷ Cm Baug

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble clef with a 3-measure phrase, a piano accompaniment with a 10-measure chordal pattern, and a bass line with a 3-measure phrase.

E^b E^b9 A^b13 Adim⁷

Musical notation for the second system, including a treble clef with a 3-measure phrase, a piano accompaniment with a 10-measure chordal pattern and a "Piano Solo" section, and a bass line with a 3-measure phrase.

E^b/B^b C⁹ B⁷b⁵ B^b13

Musical notation for the third system, featuring a treble clef with a 6-measure phrase, a piano accompaniment with a 9-measure phrase, and a bass line with a 3-measure phrase.

E^b6 6fr F⁹ 4fr E⁷b5 5fr E^b6 6fr A^b7 4fr

8 I had a wo - man love_____

12/8

3 3 3

2

ped.

G⁷ 3fr Bdim⁷ Cm 3fr Baug

8 who was al-ways a - round._____ But when I lost my mon-ey,_____

2

4 4

B^bm⁷ E^b9 5fr E^baug 4fr A^b7 4fr Adim⁷ 4fr

8 and she_ put me down... Talk-in' 'bout hard_____ times,_____ you know those_

E^b7 4fr C⁹ B⁹ B^b7(b13)

8 *falsetto* 2 7 7 7

hard... Yeah, Lord, who knows bet-ter than

E^b6 A^b9 10fr G^b9 8fr E⁹ 6fr E^b6 6fr A^b7 4fr

8 *falsetto* 1? 7 7 7

Yeah, Lord, yeah,

G⁷ Bdim⁷ Cm 1fr Baug

8 2 7 7 7

one of these days, there'll be no more sor - row;

B^bm⁷ E^b9 E^baug⁹/G A^b7 Adim⁷

when I _____ pass a - way. And no more hard _____ times, I said no more

E^b7 C⁹ B⁹ B^b7(b13)

falsetto

hard... _____ Yeah, _____ Lord, _____ who knows, _____ hey _____ Lord, _____

Ped.

Slightly hurried

E^b6 F⁷ E⁷ E^b6

bet - ter than I? _____

rubato

8va

Ped.