

THE BANANA BOAT SONG

Words and Music by ERIK DARLING,
BOB CAREY and ALAN ARKIN

Arrangement by DON GRAY

Intro *freely*

Tenor Lead

8

1 (leads only) Day - o, me say day - o. 2 3 (baritones and basses only) Day - light — come, — and — me

Bari Bass

**measures 1-2 and 5-6 may be sung by leads only or a soloist*

4 wan' go home. — 5 (no basses) Day, me say day - o. 6 3 (all parts) Day-light — come — and — me 7

Verse 1 *Calypso rhythm*

8 wan' go home. 9 Doo - doom, — da - doom, doom Doom, da - doom, — da - doom. — 10

Work all night for a drink of — rum. —
Doo - doom, — da - doom, doom Doom, da - doom, — da - doom.

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The Banana Boat Song

11 12 13

Day - light — come — and — me wan' go home. —

Doo-doom, — da - doom, doom.

Pack ba - na - na 'til the

Doo-doom, — da - doom, doom.

14 15 16

Doom, da - doom, — da - doom.

morn - in' — sun. —

Doom, da - doom, — da - doom.

Day - light — come — and — me wan' go home.

Chorus

17 18 19

Come Mis - ter Tal - ly man, tal - ly me ba - na - na. Day - light — come — and — me

20 21 22

wan' go home. — Come Mis - ter Tal - ly man, tal - ly me ba - na - na.

Verse 2

to coda  Doo-doom,— da-doom, doom.

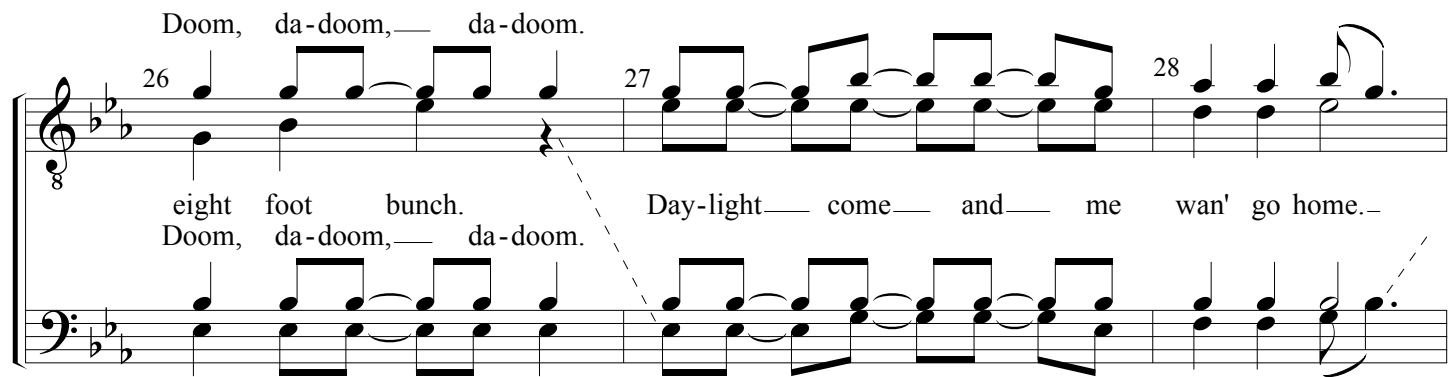
23 Day-light— come— and— me wan' go home. 24 25 Six foot, sev - en foot, Doo-doom,— da-doom, doom.



Doom, da-doom,— da-doom.

26 eight foot bunch. 27 Day-light— come— and— me wan' go home.— 28

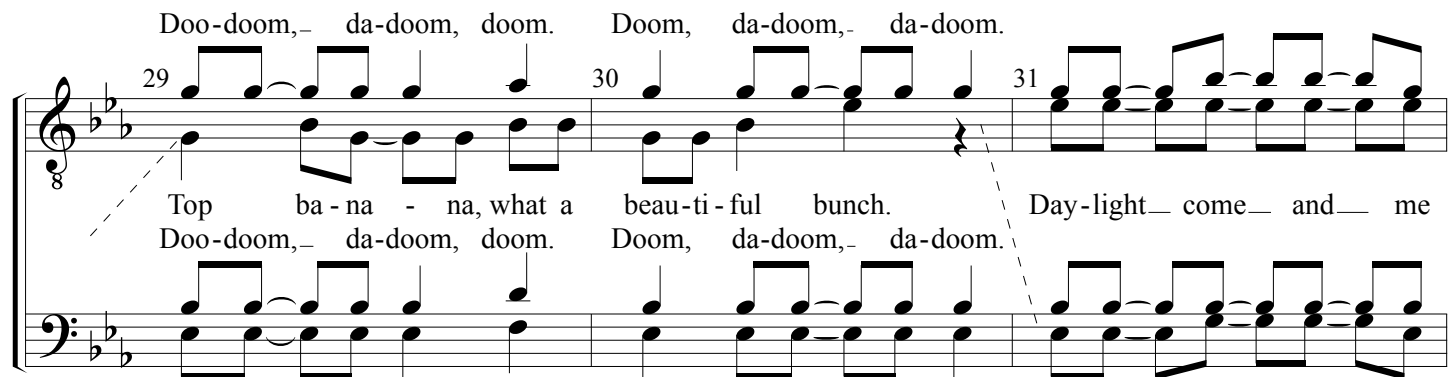
Doom, da-doom,— da-doom.



Doo-doom,— da-doom, doom. Doom, da-doom,— da-doom.

29 Top ba - na - na, what a beau-ti - ful bunch. 30 Day-light— come— and— me 31

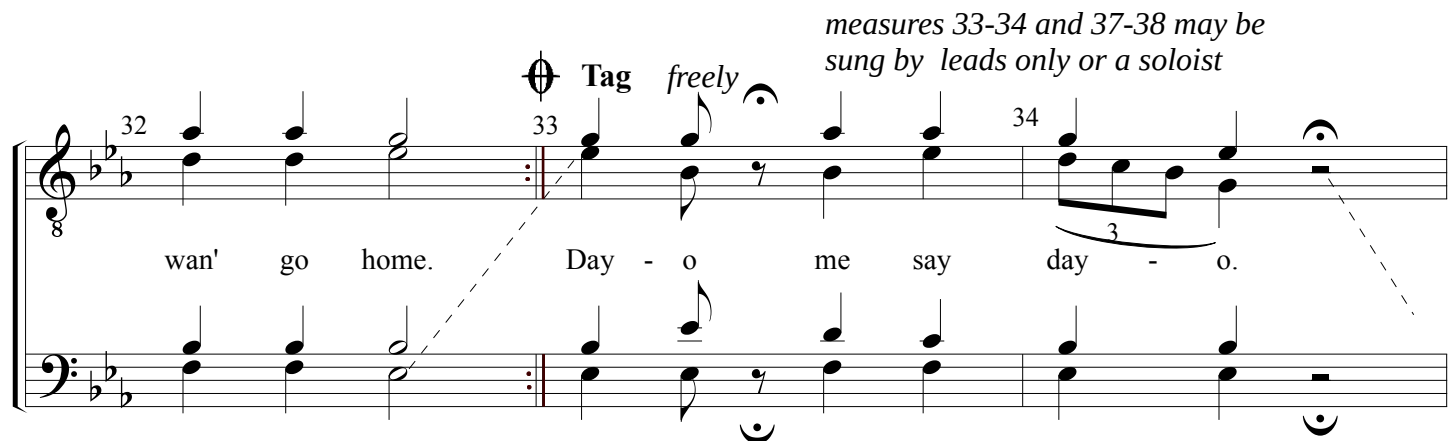
Doo-doom,— da-doom, doom. Doom, da-doom,— da-doom.



measures 33-34 and 37-38 may be sung by leads only or a soloist

 Tag freely

32 wan' go home. 33 Day - o me say 34 day - o.



The Banana Boat Song

The musical score is written for two voices, Treble and Bass, in a key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of staves. The first system covers measures 35 to 37. Measure 35 has a vocal line with eighth notes and a piano accompaniment of eighth notes. Measure 36 continues the vocal line with quarter notes and the piano accompaniment. Measure 37 features a vocal line with a half note and a piano accompaniment with a half note. The lyrics for measure 37 are "Day, (no breath) me say". The second system covers measures 38 to 40. Measure 38 has a vocal line with a half note and a piano accompaniment with a half note. Measure 39 continues the vocal line with quarter notes and the piano accompaniment. Measure 40 features a vocal line with a half note and a piano accompaniment with a half note. The lyrics for measure 40 are "Day - light come and me wan' go home.".

35 Day - light — come — and — me wan' go home. — Day, (no breath) me say

38 day - o. 39 Day - light — come — and — me wan' go home. 40

Performance Notes

In the late 1950s, calypso music experienced a wave of popularity in the United States. This song was one of the most frequently heard, made popular by Harry Belafonte. The writers Darling, Carey and Arkin are fairly obscure, not known for any popular songs other than *The Banana Boat Song*.

Don Gray is one of the Society's most prolific arrangers, also well known for arranging the barbershop musical setting to *Irish Blessing*. His classic arrangement of *My Wild Irish Rose* has been frequently performed in contests.

In performing this arrangement, try to achieve the feeling of a calypso rhythm — smooth (non-percussive), soft and steady. Pay particular attention to balance so that the shift in melody between lead and bass voices is almost unnoticed by the listener.

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