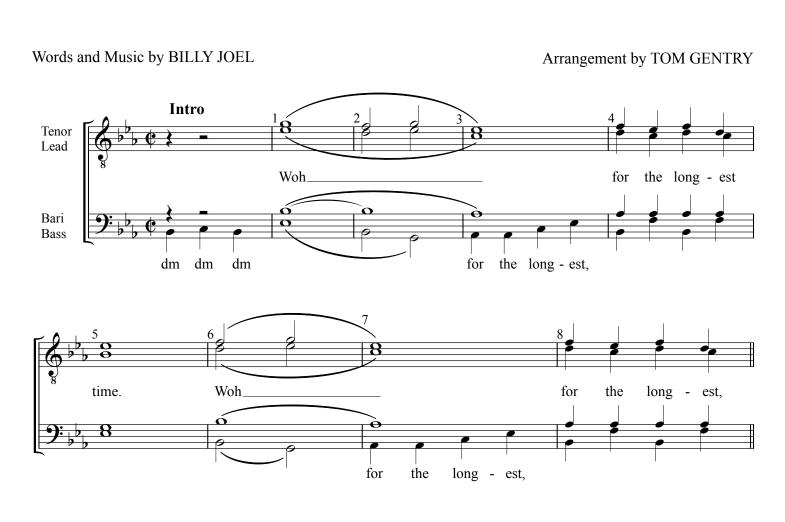
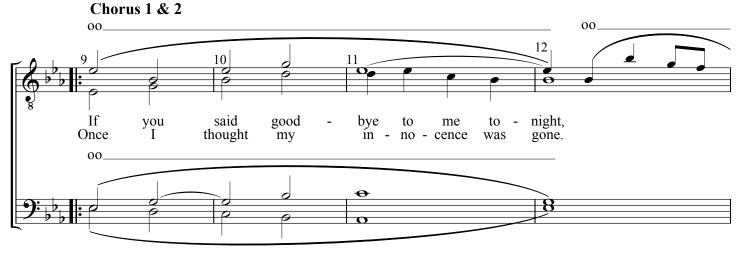
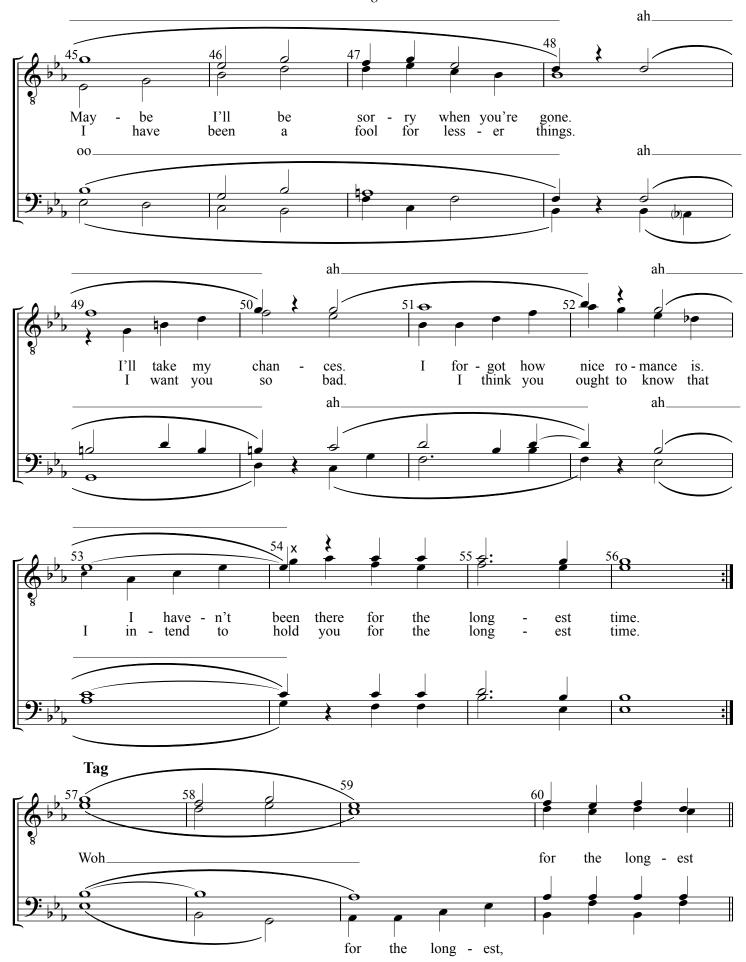
THE LONGEST TIME

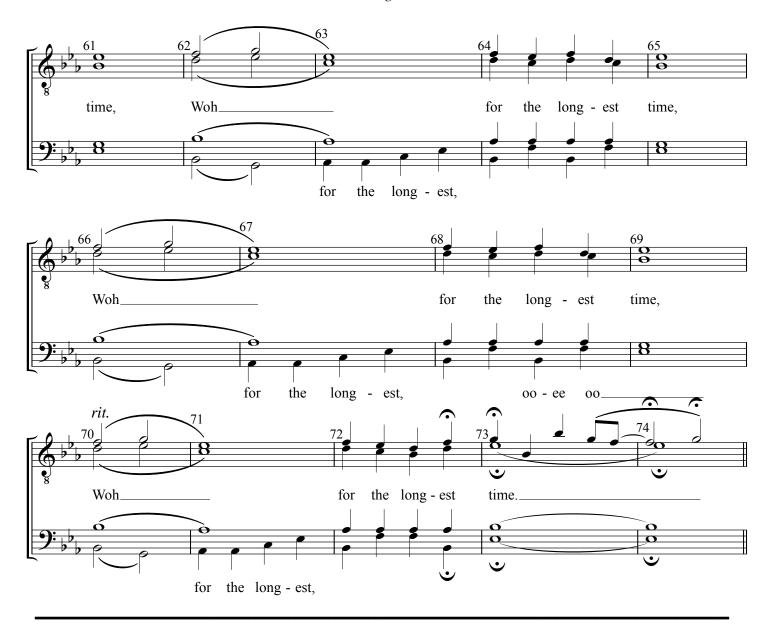












Performance Notes

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.