

To the lady with the brown hair,  
red lips, black eyes and tender heart

# My Lady

Paul Laurence Dunbar

Refrain by W. M. C.

Will Marion Cook

Sadly - In moderate time

Voice

1. De breeze is blow - in'  
2. Ob co'se I knows dat

Piano

cross - a de bay, My La - dy, — my La - dy! — De ship hit takes me.  
you'll — be true, My La - dy, — my La - dy! — But den I doan' know

far — a - way, My La - dy, — my La - dy! — Ol' mars' done sol' me  
what — to do, My La - dy, — my La - dy! — I knowed some day we'd

down-a de stream, Dey tell me 'taint so bad as hit seems,  
 have\_ to part, But den it put' nigh breaks my heart,

But day an' night ob you\_ I'll dream, My La-dy,— my La - dy!\_ *rit.*  
 I jes' can't sing 'cause tears will start, My La-dy,— my La - dy!\_

**Refrain**

Brighter, but tenderly

1-2. La - dy, la - dy wid de hair ob brown, Curl - in' roun',

fall-in' down, Lips as red\_ as ru - by lips kin be,— Jes' seems to

be a - say-in', Come on, hon-ey, tas'e ob mel\_ Eyes as black as an-y

blue-black coal, Seem to draw my ver-y heart an' soul;

Will you miss me when I'm far a - way, — O my La-dy, my La-dy, my

*rit.*

1. La-dy? 2. La-dy?

*a tempo* *rit.*

Slower - with deeper pathos

3. De day is long, de night\_ is black, My La - dy, - my La - dy! -

The first system of the musical score features a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are "3. De day is long, de night\_ is black, My La - dy, - my La - dy! -". The piano accompaniment is shown in grand staff notation (treble and bass clefs), with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a steady bass line.

I know you'll wait t'well I\_ come back, My La - dy, my La - dy!

The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "I know you'll wait t'well I\_ come back, My La - dy, my La - dy!". The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support, featuring chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

I'll stan' de ship, I'll stan' de chain, I'll stan' de sun-shine same as de rain,

The third system has the lyrics "I'll stan' de ship, I'll stan' de chain, I'll stan' de sun-shine same as de rain,". The piano accompaniment includes some melodic movement in the right hand, particularly in the second and third measures.

But I'll come back to you a - gain, - My La - dy, - my La - dy! -

The fourth system concludes with the lyrics "But I'll come back to you a - gain, - My La - dy, - my La - dy! -". The piano accompaniment features a prominent melodic line in the right hand. A "rit." (ritardando) marking is placed above the final notes of the vocal line and the piano accompaniment.

### Refrain

Brighter, but tenderly

La - dy, la - dy wid de hair ob brown, Curl - in' roun',

fall - in' down, Lips as red\_ as ru - by lips kin be, - Jes' seems to

be a - say - in', Come on, hon - ey, tas'e ob me! Eyes as black as an - y

blue-black coal, Seem to draw my ver-y heart an' soul;

The first system of the musical score features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "blue-black coal, Seem to draw my ver-y heart an' soul;". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

Will you miss me when I'm far a - way,— O my La-dy, my La-dy, my

*rit.*

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line includes the lyrics: "Will you miss me when I'm far a - way,— O my La-dy, my La-dy, my". A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is placed above the vocal line. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines.

La - dy?\_

*a tempo* *rit.*

The third system concludes the musical score. The vocal line has the lyrics: "La - dy?\_". The piano accompaniment includes markings for *a tempo* and *rit.* (ritardando). The system ends with a double bar line.