

HELLO! MY BABY

1899

The popular entertainer Joe Howard, at the ripe old age of 21, and his wife, Ida Emerson, a star in her own right, created the first telephone song that became a hit, and it was a magnificent kind of spoof on that new miracle. It is also probably the best of many songs about that invention. Only a clever wordsmith could think of the problems affecting a romance described in the second verse. We hope it all turned out well and the fellow married his Bess.

It is also one of the first real ragtime songs published. Listeners thought the highly syncopated rhythm of this new music sounded "ragged" and the style soon came to be known as ragtime. 1899 also saw the publication of the most famous ragtime composition of all time, "Maple Leaf Rag," by Scott Joplin.

By JOE HOWARD and IDA EMERSON
(1878-1961) (-)

INTRO:

VERSE:

Hel - lo, hel - lo, hel - lo! I've got a lit - tle ba - by, but she's

out of sight, I talk to her a - cross the tel - e -

talk a - cross, a -

talk a - cross, a -

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment and vocal lines. The first system includes an 8-measure introduction and the first three measures of the verse. The second system continues the verse from measure 4 to measure 5. The piano part features a syncopated, ragtime-style accompaniment with a steady bass line and a more active treble line. The vocal line is simple and follows the melody of the piano accompaniment.

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cross the tel - e - phone;

8 phone;

cross the tel - e - phone; I've nev - er seen my hon - ey but she's

8 mine, all right; So take my tip and leave this gal a -

So take and leave, so

10 lone. all a - lone. Ev - 'ry sin - gle morn - ing you will

8 lone. all a - lone. leave her all a - lone.

12 hear me yell, "Hey Cen - tral! fix me up a - long the

14 line." He con - nects me with my hon - ey, then I

16 ring the bell, And this is what I say to ba - by

18 mine: to ba - by mine: CHORUS: Hel - lo! my ba - by, Hel - lo! my hon - ey,

21 Hel - lo! my rag - time gal; 22 23 Send me a kiss by

24 by wire, 25 Ba - by, my heart's on 26 fire!

27 If you re - fuse me, 28 Hon - ey, you'll lose me, 29 Then you'll be left a -

30 lone; Ba - by, Tel - e - phone and tell me I'm your

31

32

33 own, your own; TAG: Tel - e - phone and

34

35

36 tell me I'm your own, your own!

37 own, I'm your own!

38 own!

Additional verse:

This morning through the 'phone she said her name was Bess,
 And now I kind of know where I am at;
 I'm satisfied because I've got my babe's address
 Here pasted in the lining of my hat.
 I am mighty scared 'cause if the wires get crossed,
 'Twill separate me from my baby mine;
 Then some other guy will win her and my game is lost;
 And so each day I shout along the line: