MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS, LOUIS
1904

The story goes that Andrew B. Sterling, a New Yorker, and Kerry Mills, a Philadelphian, while trying to make ends meet in New York City, hit upon the idea of composing a song to tie in with the St. Louis Exposition commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. The Exposition was being publicized heavily around the U.S. The result of their effort was "Meet Me In St. Louis, Louis," and it was far more successful than either writer dreamed it could ever be. The song is bright and sassy, and the use of current slang made it all the more appealing and attractive. Its popularity has continued undiminished almost since the day it was written.

Sterling eventually composed many well-known songs and created special material for vaudeville acts, while Mills, whose real name was Frederick Allen, became a music publisher in New York. Prior to that, Allen/Mills, who had an extensive musical education, taught violin at the University of Michigan.

Words by ANDREW B. STERLING
(1874-1955)  Music by KERRY MILLS
(1869-1948)

VERSE:

When Lou - is came home to the flat, He hung up his coat and his hat. He gazed all a-round but no

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wif-ey he found, So he said, "Where can Flos-sie be at?"

"Where's she at?"

A note on the table he spied, He read it just how he cried.

once, then he cried. how he cried. It ran, "Lou-is, dear, it's too slow for me here, So I think I will go for a ride."

INTERLUDE:

The note he held tight in his hand as once more its in his hand
CHORUS:

message he scanned. It said, "Meet me in St. Louis, Louis, Meet me at the fair. Don't tell me the lights are shining any place but there.

We will dance the Hooch-ee Kooch-ee, I will be your toot-sie woot-sie; If you will meet me in St. Louis,
INTERLUDE:

Louis, Meet me at the fair." He called on the old telephone,
Said, "Why did you leave me alone?"
telephone,

CHORUS:

She said, "Meet me in St. Louis, Louis, Meet me at the fair."
Don't tell me the lights are shining anywhere but there.
We will dance the
Hooch-ee Kooch-ee, I will be your toot-sie woot-sie;
If you will meet me in St. Lou-is, Lou-is, Meet me
at the fair."
"Meet me, Hon-ey, bring lots of
mon-ey; Meet me at the fair."

Additional verse:
The dresses that hung in the hall were gone, she had taken them all;
She took all his rings and the rest of his things; the picture he missed from the wall.
“What! Moving!” the janitor said. “Your rent is paid three months ahead.”
“What good is the flat?” said poor Louis, “Read that.”
And the janitor smiled as he read.