

MY GAL SAL

1905

Paul Dresser, born in Terre Haute, Indiana, was the older brother of the great American novelist, Theodore Dreiser. He changed the spelling of his name when he went to New York, where he became an actor, playwright, publisher and producer of plays and musical shows. Dresser gave "My Gal Sal" an unhappy ending, a not unusual feature of many of the favorite songs of the 1890s and 1900s. To us, almost a century later, these sentiments seem overly contrived and much too obvious; perhaps this is why the second verse of "My Gal Sal" is almost unknown today.

From 1895 to 1900 Dresser was at the top of his profession, successful in every way, known and loved from one end of Broadway to the other. His songs were innocent and sincere, touching the hearts of all who heard them. His "On The Banks Of The Wabash, Far Away," the state song of Indiana, is one of the best American songs. Success and fame were short-lived, however, as his gift for composing waned. Just before he died . . . his business a failure, his money gone, deserted by his friends . . . he composed what may be his greatest song, "My Gal Sal." Its bittersweet lyric may be a reflection of his own life story. He didn't live to enjoy its success.

By **PAUL DRESSER**
(1857-1906)

VERSE:

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first four measures of the verse, and the second system contains the next four measures. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Ev - 'ry - thing is o - ver and I'm feel - ing bad, I lost the best pal that I ev - er had;". Measure numbers 1 through 8 are indicated above the notes. There are some performance markings, including a 'b' in parentheses above measure 3 and below measure 7, and a fermata over the final note of measure 8.

1
Ev - 'ry - thing is o - ver and I'm feel - ing bad,

2 3 (b) 4

5
I lost the best pal that I ev - er had;

6 7 (b) 8 (b):

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9 10 11 (b) 12

8 'Tis but a fort - night since she was here,

Musical notation for measures 9-12, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

13 14 15 16

8 Seems like she's gone though for twen - ty year.

Musical notation for measures 13-16, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

17 18 19 20 21

8 Oh, how I miss her, my old pal, Oh, how I'd

Musical notation for measures 17-21, including vocal line and piano accompaniment. Dynamics include (p).

22 23 24 (b) 25

8 kiss her, my gal Sal; Face not so

Musical notation for measures 22-25, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

26 27 28 29

8 hand - some, but eyes, don't you know, That shone just as

Musical notation for measures 26-29, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

CHORUS:

8
30 bright as they did years a - go. They called her

31 (b) 32 33

Detailed description: This system contains measures 30 through 33. It features a treble and bass staff with a common time signature. Measure 30 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. Measure 32 includes a first ending bracket with a repeat sign and a key signature change to one flat. Measure 33 begins with a 3/4 time signature.

8
34 friv - o - lous Sal, a pe - cu - liar

35 friv - o - lous Sal, Sal,

36 37

Detailed description: This system contains measures 34 through 37. It features a treble and bass staff with a common time signature. Measure 34 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. Measure 35 includes a first ending bracket. Measure 36 includes a second ending bracket. Measure 37 includes a third ending bracket.

8
38 sort of a gal; With a heart that was

39 sort of a gal; 40 41

Detailed description: This system contains measures 38 through 41. It features a treble and bass staff with a common time signature. Measure 38 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. Measure 39 includes a first ending bracket. Measure 40 includes a second ending bracket. Measure 41 includes a key signature change to two sharps.

8
42 mel - low, an all 'round good fel - low was my

43 44 45 (b)

Detailed description: This system contains measures 42 through 45. It features a treble and bass staff with a common time signature. Measure 42 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. Measure 45 includes a first ending bracket with a key signature change to one flat.

8
46 old pal. my pal. Your trou - bles, sor - rows and

47 (b) 48 49 50

Detailed description: This system contains measures 46 through 50. It features a treble and bass staff with a common time signature. Measure 46 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. Measure 47 includes a first ending bracket with a key signature change to two flats. Measure 48 includes a second ending bracket. Measure 50 includes a key signature change to one flat.

51 52 53 54

care she was al - ways will - ing to
sor - rows and care

55 56 57 58

share; A wild sort of dev - il, but
share, she would share;

59 60 61 62 63

dead on the lev - el, was my gal Sal.

TAG:

64 65 66 67 68

She was my one and on - ly pal. my pal.

Additional verse:

Brought her little dainties just afore she died,
 Promised she would meet me, on the other side;
 Told her how I loved her; she said, "I know, Jim,"
 Just do your best, leave the rest to Him.
 Gently I pressed her to my breast,
 Soon she would take her last long rest,
 She looked at me and murmured "Pal,"
 And softly I whispered, "Goodbye, Sal."