

THE BAND PLAYED ON

1895

John Palmer, a New York actor, was unsuccessful in finding a publisher for his song, so he sold it to Charles Ward, a Londoner acting, composing, and publishing music in New York. Ward made a few changes in the song and published it. He promoted it heavily, and the song finally caught on. Little else is known about the writers. Very likely this was their only song to achieve such popularity.

The humorous lyric and catchy melody made it a great favorite of vaudeville performers, and its popularity continues today. Perhaps Matt Casey was modeled after a friend of the composer. If so, he must have been quite a ladies' man, but he eventually met his downfall in his blonde dancing partner.

By JOHN F. PALMER and CHARLES B. WARD
(-) (1865-1917)

VERSE:

8

1 2 3

Matt Ca - sey formed a so - cial club that beat the town for

8

4 5 6 7

style And hired for a meet - ing place a hall.

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8 9 10 11

When pay - day came a - round each week they greased the floor with

8

Detailed description: This system contains measures 8 through 11. The music is written in a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 8 starts with a whole rest in the treble and a half note G2 in the bass. Measures 9-11 feature a steady accompaniment of quarter notes in the bass and chords in the treble.

12 13 14 15

wax And danced with noise and vig - or at the ball.

8

Detailed description: This system contains measures 12 through 15. Measure 12 begins with a whole rest in the treble and a half note G2 in the bass. Measure 13 has a treble clef change to C-clef (soprano) and a flat sign (B-flat) above the staff. Measures 14-15 continue the accompaniment, with measure 15 ending in a whole note chord in the treble and a half note G2 in the bass.

16 17 18 19

Each Sat - ur - day you'd see them dressed up in Sun - day

8

Detailed description: This system contains measures 16 through 19. Measure 16 starts with a whole rest in the treble and a half note G2 in the bass. Measures 17-19 continue the accompaniment with quarter notes in the bass and chords in the treble.

20 21 22 23

clothes; Each lad would have his sweet - heart by his side. by his

8

Detailed description: This system contains measures 20 through 23. Measure 20 starts with a whole rest in the treble and a half note G2 in the bass. Measure 21 has a treble clef change to C-clef (soprano). Measure 22 has a flat sign (B-flat) above the staff. Measure 23 ends with a whole note chord in the treble and a half note G2 in the bass.

side. 24 25 26 27

side. When Ca - sey led the first grand march they all would fall in

8

Detailed description: This system contains measures 24 through 27. Measure 24 starts with a whole rest in the treble and a half note G2 in the bass. Measures 25-27 continue the accompaniment with quarter notes in the bass and chords in the treble.

28 29 30 31

line Be - hind the man who was their joy and pride.

8

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of musical notation, measures 28 through 31. It features a treble and bass clef staff with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. Measure 28 starts with a whole note chord. Measures 29-31 continue with a series of chords and single notes, ending with a final chord in measure 31.

CHORUS:

32 33 34 35 36

Oh, Ca - sey would waltz with the straw - ber - ry blonde and the

8

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of musical notation, measures 32 through 36, which is the beginning of the chorus. It features a treble and bass clef staff with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. Measure 32 starts with a whole note chord. Measures 33-36 continue with a series of chords and single notes, ending with a final chord in measure 36.

37 38 39 40 41

band played on! and on! He'd glide 'cross the

8

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of musical notation, measures 37 through 41. It features a treble and bass clef staff with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. Measure 37 starts with a whole note chord. Measures 38-41 continue with a series of chords and single notes, ending with a final chord in measure 41.

42 43 44 45 46

floor with the girl he a - dored and the band played

8

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth system of musical notation, measures 42 through 46. It features a treble and bass clef staff with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. Measure 42 starts with a whole note chord. Measures 43-46 continue with a series of chords and single notes, ending with a final chord in measure 46.

47 48 49 50 51

on! and on! But his brain was so load - ed it near - ly ex -

8

Detailed description: This block contains the fifth system of musical notation, measures 47 through 51. It features a treble and bass clef staff with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. Measure 47 starts with a whole note chord. Measures 48-51 continue with a series of chords and single notes, ending with a final chord in measure 51.

52 53 54 55 56

plod - ed, The poor girl would shake with a - larm. He'd

57 58 59 60 61 62

ne'er leave the girl with the straw - ber - ry curls and the band played

63 64 mel. 65 66 67 68

TAG: on! on and on; The band played on and on!

Additional verses:

Such kissing in the corner and such whisp'ring in the hall,
 And telling tales of love behind the stairs.
 As Casey was the favorite and he that ran the ball,
 Of kissing and lovemaking did his share.
 At 12 o'clock exactly they all would fall in line,
 Then march down to the dining hall and eat.
 But Casey would not join them although ev'rything was fine,
 But he stayed upstairs and exercised his feet.

Now when the dance was over and the band played "Home Sweet Home,"
 He thanked them very kindly for the favors they had shown,
 They played a tune at Casey's own request.
 Then he'd waltz once with the girl that he loved best.
 Most all the friends are married that Casey used to know,
 And Casey too has taken him a wife.
 The blonde he used to waltz and glide with on the ballroom floor
 Is happy Missis Casey now for life.