

# I Forgot What I Started to Say

(Intended for *Rosalie*)

Music and Lyrics by  
George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin

Brightly

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo/mood is marked 'Brightly'. The lyrics are: 'If I'm a guy who went to Bur - bank does - n't seem so mer - ry It's with a sol - id no - tion To just be - cause I'm so mis - un - der - stood. When cross a whale with a Long Is - land duck. He'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

11

I was young I ate a dic - tion - ar - y, And  
 loved it and he said with great e - mo - tion, "Sir,

15

that did not do me a bit of good. For  
 as a man of sci - ence you're no cluck." He

19

I've ab - sorbed so man - y words and phras - es They  
 want - ed just a day to think it o - ver Oh,

23

drive me diz - zy when I want to speak. I  
 things were great as he showed me the door. If

27

start ex - plain - ing but each per - son gaz - es As  
I'd kept qui - et, boy, I'd be in clo - ver, in But

31

if I talked in Lat - in or in Greek. For in - stance:  
like a sap I said "Look here, what's more- Now lis - ten-"

35

**Moderato**

Last January- it was February- it was March- no, it was warmer- it was June- It was to -  
Mussolini- Napoleon- I mean Fairbanks- no, Lincoln- Father- Dad- I mean the

38

day- I got a cable- a letter- a telegram- a summons- no, I'm wrong-  
chump- Lives on Fifth Avenue- no, Sixth Avenue- it's Brooklyn- humble neighborhood- well,

41

'twas a knock on my door— I was sleeping— no, drowsing—  
 not so hot— it's a dump— But he loves me— thinks I'm great— I'm his favorite—

44

I was walking— Daily dozen— I was shaving— I'm fun - ny that way—  
 Why only yesterday— he kicked me out— boy! he gave me hell—

47

I said "Come in!"— she tripped in— she fell in— she staggered— she hopped in— she was there on the  
 So I'm with friends now— treat me royally— clean linen— they got a bathtub— they charge me two bits— it's the Mills Ho-

50

floor— It was the collector— the landlady— she wanted rent— heavy pennies— the greenbacks—  
 tel— I gotta make good— I got a sweetie— she's pretty— a little stout— a trifle obese—

53

The cash-  
boy! the she's dough-  
thick!- I made up to her-  
I'm crazy for her-

56

tickled her- we were laughing- no, arguing- I socked her- but she didn't want to play-  
adore her- she follows me- she's wonderful- She's my intended- she makes me sick-

59

She blew a whistle, and in rushed a detective- a bull- He said "You're intoxicated- you're  
So Mr. Edison,- Marconi- er, Burbank- you see- But just then- those phrases- start - ed

62

cock-eyed- you're full-"  
work-ing on me- Gee, but it's fun - ny how  
Gee, but it's fun - ny how

64

my thoughts can stray- I for - got what I start - ed to  
 my thoughts can stray- I for - got what I start - ed to

66

say! I say!  
 say! I say!