

# Once Upon a Time

Words by  
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Music by  
John Rogers Thomas

**Moderato**

Piano introduction in G major, 2/4 time. The melody is in the right hand, starting with a quarter note G, followed by eighth notes A-B, C-D, E-F, and a half note G. The bass line consists of chords: G (two notes), G/B (two notes), C (two notes), C#dim7 (two notes), G/D (two notes), D7 (two notes), and G (two notes). The introduction ends with a ritardando (rit.) marking over the final chords.

6

G G/B C C#dim7 G/D D7 G

*dim.*

I. Oh! who, when youth's en - chant - ed hours, Like Sum - mer birds have flown, Draws

The first system of the song. The vocal line (treble clef) begins at measure 6 with a half note G, followed by eighth notes A-B, C-D, E-F, and a half note G. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with chords: G (two notes), G/B (two notes), C (two notes), C#dim7 (two notes), G/D (two notes), D7 (two notes), and G (two notes). The vocal line ends with a half note G, and the piano accompaniment ends with a half note G.

11

G G/B C C#dim7 G/D D7 G

not from mem' - ry's per - ished flow'rs A fra - grance all their own! Sweet

*dolce*

The second system of the song. The vocal line (treble clef) begins at measure 11 with a half note G, followed by eighth notes A-B, C-D, E-F, and a half note G. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with chords: G (two notes), G/B (two notes), C (two notes), C#dim7 (two notes), G/D (two notes), D7 (two notes), and G (two notes). The vocal line ends with a half note G, and the piano accompaniment ends with a half note G. The word "dolce" is written below the piano accompaniment.

15

D Em/G D/A A7 D A D7  $\frac{G}{B}$  Cdim

15

dreams of days long past when we Some friend-ly knee would climb And lis-ten to the

20

G/B D7/A G B Em B D7 G G/B C C#dim7

20

won-drous tales Of "Once up-on a time." And lis - ten to the won - drous tales Of

*f*

*p*

*f*

25

G/D D7 G

25

"Once up-on a time."

*f*

*dim.*

32 *f*

2. We do not climb up bean-stalks now, Nor with Old Sin-bad sail, In I-ron ships the

32

*dim.* *p*

38

deep we plough, Out-strip the wind "by rail" Re-al-i-ty has chased Ro-mance, Gone

38

*p*

43

is Life's gold-en prime For eve-ry-thing was pos-si-ble In "Once up-on a time" For

43

*f*

49

eve - ry thing was pos - si - ble In "Once up-on a time."

49

*f*

55

3. And if we've some - times cause to sigh In

55

*dim.*

61

man - hood's stern - er hours, We hand in hand with mem - o - ry Should tread life's path of

61

66

flow'rs. The ret - ro - spect may gild the gloom of sor - row's win - try clime And

71

make us prize the hap - pi - ness Of "Once up-on a time" And make us prize the

76

hap - pi - ness Of "Once up-on a time."