

Piano Man

Words and Music by Billy Joel

When his debut album, *Cold Spring Harbor*, didn't do too well in the charts in 1971, Joel was forced to find work and played for six months at The Executive Room piano bar in Los Angeles. During this time, Joel got to know the regulars and wrote 'Piano Man' about his time in the residency, including stories of real people he met at the venue. The Executive Room has since been demolished and a strip mall built in its place.

Hints & Tips: This song is in 'three', so it feels a bit like a pop waltz. The left hand can be reduced to just one note in most bars if you find that easier, although take care in places where the left hand needs to supply a melody note, e.g. in bars 16-17.

With a lilt ♩ = 130

Musical notation for the first four bars of the piano introduction. The key signature is C major, and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'With a lilt ♩ = 130'. The dynamics are marked 'mf'. The right hand plays a simple melody, and the left hand provides a bass line. Chords are indicated above the staff: C, F/C, Cmaj7, and G7. The lyrics 'It's' are written under the final bar.

Musical notation for bars 5-8. The right hand melody continues with lyrics: 'nine o'clock on a Saturday... The'. The left hand provides a bass line. Chords are indicated above the staff: C, Em/B, Am, and C/G. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 2 and 1.

Musical notation for bars 9-12. The right hand melody continues with lyrics: 'regular crowd shuffles in... There's an'. The left hand provides a bass line. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, C/E, D7, and G7. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 2 and 2.

Musical notation for bars 13-16. The right hand melody continues with lyrics: 'old man sitting next to me... mak-in''. The left hand provides a bass line. Chords are indicated above the staff: C, Em/B, Am, and C/G. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 2 and 1.

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16 Billy Joel hits in easy-to-play arrangements for piano.
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Honesty

It's Still Rock and Roll to Me

Just the Way You Are

The Longest Time

Movin' Out (Anthony's Song)

My Life

New York State of Mind

Only the Good Die Young

Piano Man

The River of Dreams

She's Always a Woman

She's Got a Way

Uptown Girl

Vienna

We Didn't Start the Fire

You May Be Right

really easy piano BILLY JOEL



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She's Always a Woman

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Joel's relationship with first wife, Elizabeth Weber, started out as an affair, as Weber was married to Joel's drummer at the time, Jon Small. After Small discovered the affair, Weber wasn't seen for several weeks, leaving Joel heartbroken, before her return to him and their consequent marriage. This song was written about Weber, who rallied against traditional gender roles of the time, becoming Joel's manager and working in a male-dominated industry with great success for a number of years.

Hints & Tips: Once you're comfortable with the notes of this song, you can take it a little faster, so it feels like 'one-in-a-bar'. Take care with the flats at the bottom of the third page. It feels quite far away from the home key at this point. Listening to the song would be a good idea.

Moderately ♩ = 120

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39
40

C **Csus⁴** **C** **G**

C **F** **C** **G**

C **G** **C**

F

mf

She can kill with a

smile. She can wound with her eyes. more than the Gar - den of E - den. Then she'll

ru - in your faith with her care - less - ly cut you and cas - u - al lies. laugh while you're bleed -

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