

The Black Ball

8

Music and Lyrics
by PETER MILLS

Cue:

J.P.: What would I have to do?

SCOTT: It's simple: This week we go around to a few of the clubs and meet with the members. They ask us some questions to get to know us better, and then they decide if they want to invite us to join.

J.P.: Well... I suppose that doesn't sound too awful.

SCOTT: Good. Now, if you want to be a B.M.O.C, you have to make friends with the C-O-M-B.

J.P.: C-O-M-B...?

SCOTT (pulling out a comb): May I?

(Exit SCOTT, EDMUND and J.P. Enter the BOYS.)

Stately Ragtime ♩ = 72

VAMP

BOYS

7
8

Up-per-class-men, one and all, — Are you read-y for the big black ball? Don-cha know that it's the

12
8

so-cial e-vent of the sea - son? You got-ta be there. Se-niors ju-niors, save that date.

17

8

Think of some-one that you love to hate. Who's the soph-o-more who can off-er more rea - son

22

8

for you to... Black - ball! Black - ball the bas-tard! Make him pay!_ To-night you get to

27

8

have your say. To-night you'll make him rue the day_ he treat-ed you that way.

31

8

Bad blood, Bad blood be-tween you Now it's time_ to re - call. 'Cause

35

ev - 'ry - one jud - ges and car - ries their grud - ges to the big Black Ball.

(J.P.'s hair is now slicked, and it doesn't suit him!

SCOTT and J.P. are being interviewed separately by two groups of COTTAGERS.)

SCOTT: Sure, I went around to a few of the other clubs, mostly out of politeness.

But just between us—I'm going to be bringing Ginevra King to the Prom.

I can't take a girl like that to any old barn afterwards. Nothing less than Cottage Club will do.

J.P.: I was reminded of Wordsworth's poem—"The Ruined Cottage."

And I was thinking what a very different sort of cottage this is.

I mean, it's... uh... much bigger... better furniture. Have any of you read that poem?

39

p

46

CONTINUE ON:

"...have any of you read that poem?"

53

VAMP

BOYS

59

Who's your fath-er? Who's your moth-er? Where did you prep? How is your rep? Can you do a two-step?

63

Do the la - dies like you much? And who have you kissed? Play a - ny whist?

66

Did you make the Dean's List? Are you on the pa-per? Do you play a-ny sport? Tell us, in short,

70

are you one of our sort? What is your o - pi - nion of the new Mo-del T's?_

73

Do you have a view a-bout the war o-ver-seas? Do you have an at-ti-tude that ful-ly a-grees with our

77

own? Drunk-ards, Odd Birds, Par-lor Snakes, Ap - ple Pol-ish-ers and

82

Out-right Fakes, You can bet if there's a suit-a-ble set to put you in— you're gon-na be-there!

87

Ath - letes, Aes - thetes, Men of Rank, Don't as-sume your bid is in the bank.

91

Know-ing a se - nior won't al - ways mean you're a shoo - in. Some-one might

TRIP: All right, then. Ferrenby is blackballed. Moving on, that brings us to Scott Fitzgerald... *(Some groans and other noises of disapproval)*

95

black - ball!

TRIP: I know that he can rub people the wrong way, but I think he'd be an asset to the Club—

ELLIS: Or just an ass.

HAM: His stock's been rising. Next year he'll be playing the lead for Triangle.

ELLIS: The leading lady!

WILTON: If this were a sorority at Vassar, I'd say he's perfect. But this is a gentlemen's club.

TRIP: Look, boys—the fact of it is, if he's good enough for Ginevra King, then—

(ad lib. general outcry: dispute over Scott's claims...)

TRIP: We'll put it to a vote. But let me say this: I will take it as a personal affront if anyone decides to blackball Mr. Fitzgerald. All right—hands in!

(They each put a hand in and then open it. All of them are empty.)

102

Musical score for measures 108-111. The score is written for piano in G major and 3/4 time. It features a complex texture with many chords and moving lines in both the treble and bass staves.

Musical score for measures 112-115. The score continues with dense piano accompaniment, including various chord voicings and melodic fragments.

TRIP: Thank you, fellows. Next up we have J.P. Bishop—what do we think of him?

VAMP

Musical score for measures 116-121. This section is a vamp, consisting of a repeating rhythmic and harmonic pattern. The notation includes many rests and repeated chords.

Musical score for measures 122-125. This section includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "He's the one who's writ - ten all the stuff in the Lit. The flow - er - y bit. Talk a - bout a mis - fit!"

HAM WILTON ELLIS

accel.-----

138

out in the cold... So it all de-pends on what the lot of us hold in our hands.

This musical system covers measures 138 to 142. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'accel.' with a dashed line extending to the right. The lyrics are: 'out in the cold... So it all de-pends on what the lot of us hold in our hands.' The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

143

a tempo

Black - ball! Black - ball the high-brow! Down he goes.

This musical system covers measures 143 to 147. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'a tempo'. The lyrics are: 'Black - ball! Black - ball the high-brow! Down he goes.' The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

148

We can't have a-ny men like those. The type that's look-ing down his nose and wri-ting

We can't have a-ny men like those. The type that's look-ing down his nose and wri-ting

We can't have a-ny men like those. The type that's look-ing down his nose and wri-ting

152

pur-ple prose. Bye Bye! Don't cry a-bout it He was ripe_ for the

pur-ple prose. Bye Bye! Don't cry a-bout it He was ripe_ for the

pur-ple prose. Bye Bye! Don't cry a-bout it He was ripe_ for the

156

fall. 'Cause ev - 'ry - one jud - ges and

fall. 'Cause ev - 'ry - one jud - ges and

fall. 'Cause ev - 'ry - one jud - ges and

8va

159

car - ries their grud - ges. 'Cause all of us hank - er for ma - lice and ran - cor. A

car - ries their grud - ges. 'Cause all of us hank - er for ma - lice and ran - cor. A

car - ries their grud - ges. 'Cause all of us hank - er for ma - lice and ran - cor. A

(8va)

(8va)

162

chip on the should - er of ev - e - ry hold - er of a Big Black

chip on the should - er of ev - e - ry hold - er of a Big Black

chip on the should - er of ev - e - ry hold - er of a Big Black

166

Ball!

Ball!

Ball!