

# WHY LIVE A LIE?

*A BALLAD with a  
Fox Trot Melody*

Words by  
**L. WOLFE GILBERT**  
Music by  
**TED KOEHLER**

"You can't go wrong  
with any FEIST song!"



*Leo Feist  
1934*

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Moderato

The piano introduction is in 3/4 time, marked Moderato. It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The piece begins with a forte (f) dynamic and includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

I want the world to know I'm glad to re-pent—  
We both de-ci-ded that in time we'd for-get,—

The piano accompaniment continues with a piano (p) dynamic for the first part and a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic for the second part. It features a steady accompaniment in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

The lone-some wea-ry days and nights that I spent;— For I once knew and felt what  
We tried to act as if we nev-er had met;— And our re-ward was on-ly

The piano accompaniment includes a crescendo (cresc.) marking. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and accents, while the left hand provides harmonic support.

hap-pi-ness meant— To-day this mes-sage I sent My dar-ling:—  
pain and re-gret;— Have we learned our les-son yet? My dar-ling,

The piano accompaniment includes a rallentando (rall.) marking and a ritardando (rit.) marking. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and accents, and the left hand has a bass line with slurs.

CHORUS

*a tempo*

Why live a lie? \_\_\_\_\_ When I'm crav-ing and long - ing for you \_\_\_\_\_

*mf a tempo*

Why live a lie? \_\_\_\_\_ When my heart's still be-long - ing to you \_\_\_\_\_

Why try de-ny \_\_\_\_\_ what's true, dear, All you and I \_\_\_\_\_ went thru', dear,

We live a lie \_\_\_\_\_ and I tell you it's wrong, \_\_\_\_\_ all wrong, dear,

*rit.*

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 A SONG FOLIO AS WELL AS A DANCE FOLIO, AND ONLY 50 CENTS FROM  
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BE SURE TO GET IT — YOU'LL NOT REGRET IT!

*a tempo*

Deep in my heart \_\_\_\_\_ there's a room which is bar - ren and bare, \_\_\_\_\_

*a tempo*

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in G major (one flat) with lyrics: "Deep in my heart \_\_\_\_\_ there's a room which is bar - ren and bare, \_\_\_\_\_". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in G major, featuring a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. The tempo marking "a tempo" appears at the beginning and in the middle of the piano part.

Peep in my heart \_\_\_\_\_ See the emp-ti-ness there, \_\_\_\_\_

*cresc.*

Detailed description: This system contains the second two staves of music. The vocal line continues with lyrics: "Peep in my heart \_\_\_\_\_ See the emp-ti-ness there, \_\_\_\_\_". The piano accompaniment continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. A "cresc." (crescendo) marking is placed in the piano part. The system ends with a double bar line.

Let's put a-side \_\_\_\_\_ and ban-ish, all fool-ish pride \_\_\_\_\_ must van-ish, Why live a lie? \_\_\_\_\_

*f*

Detailed description: This system contains the third two staves of music. The vocal line has lyrics: "Let's put a-side \_\_\_\_\_ and ban-ish, all fool-ish pride \_\_\_\_\_ must van-ish, Why live a lie? \_\_\_\_\_". The piano accompaniment features a more active bass line. A forte "f" marking is present in both the vocal and piano parts.

— Fool-ing just you and I. —

*rall.*

1 2

Detailed description: This system contains the final two staves of music. The vocal line concludes with lyrics: "— Fool-ing just you and I. —". The piano accompaniment features a slower, more melodic line. A "rall." (rallentando) marking is present in both parts. The system concludes with a double bar line and first/second endings marked "1" and "2".