

# WHEN WORDS FAIL

from *Shrek the Musical*

Words and Music by Jeanine Tesori  
and David Lindsay-Abaire

Moderately fast

Piano introduction in G major, 3/4 time. The music is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The right hand features a melodic line with eighth notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line with quarter notes. Chord symbols G, D, G, D, and C(add2) are placed above the staff.

G(add2) D G(add2) D

**SHREK:**

I picked this flow - er; right o - ver there — is

Vocal line for Shrek with piano accompaniment. The vocal melody is in G major, 3/4 time. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Chord symbols G, D, G(add2), and D are placed above the vocal staff.

C(add2) G(add2) C(add2)

where it grew. And I don't real - ly like it, but it

Vocal line for Shrek with piano accompaniment. The vocal melody continues in G major, 3/4 time. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. Chord symbols C(add2), G(add2), and C(add2) are placed above the vocal staff.

G(add2) C(add2)


made me think of you, be - cause it's pret - ty, — is



The first system of the musical score features a vocal line in G major with lyrics "made me think of you, be - cause it's pret - ty, — is". The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The system is marked with the chords G(add2) and C(add2).

G(add2) C(add2) G(add2) C(add2)

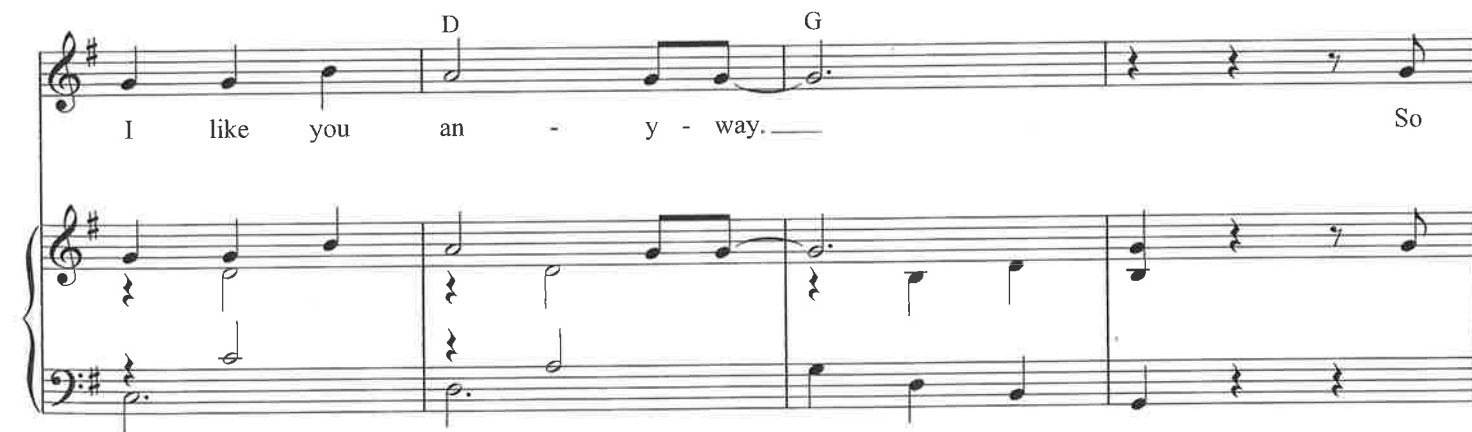
what I'm try'n' to say. — And you are al - so pret - ty, but



The second system continues the vocal line with lyrics "what I'm try'n' to say. — And you are al - so pret - ty, but". The piano accompaniment continues with the same melodic and harmonic structure. The system is marked with the chords G(add2) and C(add2).

D G

I like you an - y - way. — So

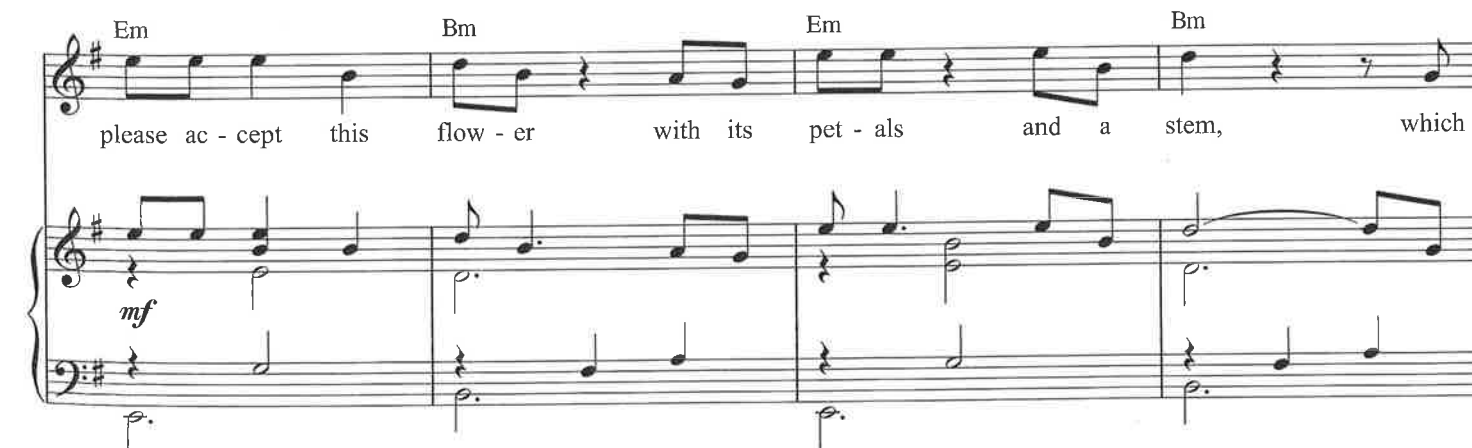


The third system features the vocal line with lyrics "I like you an - y - way. — So". The piano accompaniment continues. The system is marked with the chords D and G.

Em Bm Em Bm

please ac - cept this flow - er with its pet - als and a stem, which

*mf*



The fourth system features the vocal line with lyrics "please ac - cept this flow - er with its pet - als and a stem, which". The piano accompaniment continues. The system is marked with the chords Em and Bm, and includes the dynamic marking *mf*.

C G Em

rep - re - sent my feel - ings and tells you

Bm N.C. Am/C D

how... *Oh, man, I'm in trouble.* When words fail, what will I do? \_

*mp*

G Am/C D

When words fail, how will she know \_

Em Bm Am/C To Coda ⊕ D

how I feel? When words fail, will I fail \_\_\_ too? \_

Csus2 G(add2) D

Hel - lo, fair prin - cess,

The first system of music features a vocal line in G major with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The right hand plays a simple melody, while the left hand features a triplet of eighth notes in the first two measures. Chord symbols C<sup>sus2</sup>, G(add2), and D are placed above the vocal line.

G(add2) D C(add2)

Oh, look! The moon is out to - night. You re -

The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "Oh, look! The moon is out to - night. You re -". The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and a steady bass line. Chord symbols G(add2), D, and C(add2) are indicated above the vocal line.

G(add2) C(add2) G(add2) C(add2)

mind me of that moon be - cause it's big and bright; and by

The third system contains the lyrics "mind me of that moon be - cause it's big and bright; and by". The piano accompaniment includes a long note in the right hand in the second measure. Chord symbols G(add2), C(add2), G(add2), and C(add2) are placed above the vocal line.

G(add2) C(add2) G(add2) C(add2)

big, I don't mean chub - by, ob - vi - ous - ly you're not fat, but your

The fourth system concludes with the lyrics "big, I don't mean chub - by, ob - vi - ous - ly you're not fat, but your". The piano accompaniment features a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand in the second measure. Chord symbols G(add2), C(add2), G(add2), and C(add2) are placed above the vocal line.

Em Bm C D

per - son - al - i - ty is big - gish, is what I meant by

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The vocal line starts with a quarter note on 'per', followed by eighth notes for 'son - al - i - ty', a quarter note on 'is', eighth notes for 'big - gish,', a quarter note on 'is', a quarter note on 'what', a quarter note on 'I', a quarter note on 'meant', and a quarter note on 'by'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line with quarter notes in the left hand. Chords are indicated above the staff: Em, Bm, C, and D.

G Em Bm

that. Sor - ry 'bout that fat thing. I'm on the

Detailed description: This system contains the next four measures. The vocal line has a quarter rest for 'that.', followed by eighth notes for 'Sor - ry', a quarter note on ''bout', eighth notes for 'that', a quarter note on 'fat', a quarter note on 'thing.', a quarter note on 'I'm', and a quarter note on 'on the'. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern. A dynamic marking of *mf* appears in the second measure. Chords are indicated above the staff: G, Em, and Bm.

Em Bm C(add2) G

heft - y side my - self. I have to blame the gene pool, which re -

Detailed description: This system contains the next four measures. The vocal line has eighth notes for 'heft - y', eighth notes for 'side', eighth notes for 'my - self.', a quarter note on 'I', eighth notes for 'have to blame', eighth notes for 'the gene', eighth notes for 'pool,', eighth notes for 'which re -'. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern. Chords are indicated above the staff: Em, Bm, C(add2), and G.

Em Bm N.C. D.S. al Coda

minds me of... Oh, where am I going with this? When words

Detailed description: This system contains the final four measures. The vocal line has a quarter note on 'minds', a quarter note on 'me', a quarter rest for 'of...', a quarter note on 'Oh,', eighth notes for 'where am I going with this?', a quarter note on 'When', and a quarter note on 'words'. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern. A dynamic marking of *mp* appears in the final measure. Chords are indicated above the staff: Em, Bm, N.C., and D.S. al Coda.

CODA

Triplet feel (♩ =  $\overset{3}{\text{♩}}$ )

D C(add2) G

I fail too? Do I have a snow-ball's chance?

C(add2) G

Are my prospects just too grim?

Em G/D

I spent my life stuck in the mud.

C(add2) G/B D N.C.

Now I'm crawl-ing out on a limb. If words

## Straight feel (♩ = ♪)

Am/C D G C/G G Am/C

fail, she'll know what I mean. If words fail, she'll

D Em Bm

just take my hand. She sees me like no one else has.

N.C. C(add2)

If words fail, she'll un - der - stand.

N.C. C(add2) D(add2) rit. G

She'll un - der - stand.