

*The Banana Boat Song*

Musical score for measures 35-37. The score is written for voice and piano. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. Measure 35 starts with a treble clef and a piano dynamic marking. The melody consists of eighth notes with ties. The lyrics are: "Day - light — come — and — me wan' go home. — Day, me say".

Musical score for measures 38-40. The score continues from the previous system. Measure 38 begins with a treble clef and a piano dynamic marking. It features a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "day - o. Day - light — come — and — me wan' go home.". Measure 40 ends with a double bar line.

## *Performance Notes*

In the late 1950s, calypso music experienced a wave of popularity in the United States. This song was one of the most frequently heard, made popular by Harry Belafonte. The writers Darling, Carey and Arkin are fairly obscure, not known for any popular songs other than *The Banana Boat Song*.

Don Gray is one of the Society's most prolific arrangers, also well known for composing the barbershop musical setting to *Irish Blessing*. His classic arrangement of *My Wild Irish Rose* has been frequently performed in contests.

In performing this arrangement, try to achieve the feeling of a calypso rhythm — smooth (non-percussive), soft and steady. Pay particular attention to balance so that the shift in melody between lead and bass voices is almost unnoticed by the listener.