

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

And whoa there! Well done. Hello?

(ARTHUR reins in the "horse" and surveys the Castle.

A GUARD appears through a window of the castle wall)

ROBIN

Hello?! Who goes there?

#3 King Arthur's Song

ARTHUR

I AM ARTHUR KING OF THE BRITONS
LORD AND RULER OF ALL
OF ENGLAND, AND SCOTLAND
AND EVEN TINY LITTLE BITS OF GAUL

ROBIN

And I'm the Emperor of Norway. Bugger off.

PATSY

HE IS ARTHUR KING OF THE BRITONS
AND WE ARE OUT SEEKING MEN
VERY STRONG MEN
AND VERY ABLE

SIDE #1

ARTHUR

TO SIT AROUND OUR VERY, VERY ROUND TABLE

Start

ROBIN

What is it you want?

ARTHUR

I am looking for men.

ROBIN

I had a feeling.

ARTHUR

We have ridden the length and breadth of the land in search of knights to join me in my court at Camelot. I must speak with your lord and master.

ROBIN

What, ridden on a horse?

ARTHUR

Yes!

ROBIN

You're using coconuts!

ARTHUR

What?

ROBIN

You've got two empty halves of coconut and you're banging them together.

ARTHUR

So? We have ridden since the snows of winter covered this land, through the kingdom of Mercia, through...

ROBIN

Where'd you get the coconut?

ARTHUR

We found them.

ROBIN

Found them? In *Mercia*? The coconut's tropical!

ARTHUR

What do you mean?

ROBIN

Well, this is a temperate zone.

ARTHUR

The swallow may fly south with the sun or the house martin or the plover may seek warmer climes in winter yet these are not strangers to our land.

ROBIN

Are you suggesting coconuts *migrate*?

ARTHUR

Not at all, they could be carried.

ROBIN

What? A swallow carrying a coconut?

ARTHUR

It could grip it by the husk!

ROBIN

It's not a question of where he grips it! It's a simple question of weight ratios! A five ounce bird could not carry a one pound coconut.

ARTHUR

Well, it doesn't matter. Will you tell your master that Arthur from the Court of Camelot is here?

ROBIN

Listen, in order to maintain air-speed velocity, a swallow needs to beat its wings 43 times every second, right?

ARTHUR

Please!

ROBIN

Am I right?

ARTHUR

I'm not interested!

(LANCE appears at the opposite window)

LANCE

It could be carried by an African swallow!

ROBIN

Oh, yeah, an African swallow, maybe, but not a European swallow, that's my point.

LANCE

Oh, yeah, I agree with that... Beautiful bird, the African swallow. Lovely plumage.

ROBIN

The plumage don't enter into it. And besides, African swallows are non-migratory.

LANCE

Oh, yeah...

ROBIN

So they couldn't bring a coconut back anyway...

ARTHUR

Will you ask your master if he wants to join my court at Camelot?

LANCE

Wait a minute, supposing two swallows carried it together?

ROBIN

No, they'd have to have it on a line.

LANCE

Well, simple! They'd just use a strand of creeper!

ROBIN

What, held under the dorsal guiding feathers?

(ARTHUR, despairing of any further sensible conversation
gallops off left with PATSY)

End

SIDE #2

Scene Two: A very expensive Forest

(KING ARTHUR rides in with PATSY)

ARTHUR

This is a total bloody disaster! All my Knights have fled and we're lost in a dark and extremely expensive forest.

(\$ signs — or local currency — appear projected in the trees)

FX Ch-ching [Cash register])

PATSY

Well, it could be worse.

ARTHUR

How could it *possibly* be worse?

VOICE

Ni!

ARTHUR

Oh, no.

VOICE

Ni!

VOICES

Ni Peng! Ni Wom! Ni.

(The KNIGHTS OF NI wear furry cloaks and distinctive helmets with huge antlers. [They are played by the GIRL DANCERS.]

THE PRINCIPAL KNIGHT OF NI stands on stilts, hidden by his long robe. He carries a staff with an owl's head to support himself)

ARTHUR

Who are you?

NI KNIGHT:

We are the Knights Who Say... Ni!

ARTHUR

No! Not the Knights Who Say Ni!

NI KNIGHT

The same! We are the keepers of the sacred words: Ni Peng, and Ni-wom!

VOICE

Ni-wom!

Start

ARTHUR

Those who hear these words seldom live to tell the tale!

PATSY

Oh, great.

NI KNIGHT

The Knights Who Say Ni demand a sacrifice!

ARTHUR

Oh, Knights of Ni, we are but simple travelers lost in these woods.

NI KNIGHT

Ni! Ni! Ni! Ni!

ARTHUR

Oh, ow!

NI KNIGHT

We shall say 'ni' again to you if you do not appease us.

ARTHUR

Well, what is it that you want?

NI KNIGHT

We want... a shrubbery!

NI KNIGHTS

A shrubbery! A shrubbery!

ARTHUR

Where the hell are we going to find a shrubbery?

NI KNIGHT

If you do not find us a shrubbery, you must cut down the mightiest tree in the forest with... a herring.

(The KNIGHT produces a large herring from his costume)

NI KNIGHTS

A Herring! Herring! Herring!

(PATSY and ARTHUR exchange glances)

ARTHUR

All right. We'll find you a shrubbery.

NI KNIGHT

Good! You must return here with a lovely shrubbery or else you will never pass through this wood alive!

(The KNIGHTS all EXIT)

ARTHUR

Where are we going to find a shrubbery?

PATSY

Well, maybe we can build one? Out of cats.

ARTHUR

Don't be ridiculous. Where are we going to find cats? This is a total disaster. You think it would be easy: one, round up a bunch of knights; two, seek and find the Holy Grail; and five...

PATSY

Three, sir.

#18 Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life

ARTHUR

Three, go home. But no. I'm so depressed.

PATSY

Cheer up, Sire. You know what they say...

ARTHUR

What do they say, Patsy?

PATSY

SOME THINGS IN LIFE ARE BAD,
THEY CAN REALLY MAKE YOU MAD.
OTHER THINGS JUST MAKE YOU SWEAR AND CURSE.
WHEN YOU'RE CHEWING ON LIFE'S GRISTLE,
DON'T GRUMBLE, GIVE A WHISTLE!
AND THIS'LL HELP THINGS TURN OUT FOR THE BEST...
AND...

ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE!

(Whistles)

ALWAYS LOOK ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF LIFE...

(Speaks:)

You try it...

(ARTHUR fails to whistle)

PATSY (CONT'D)

(Sings:)

IF LIFE SEEMS JOLLY ROTTEN,
THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'VE FORGOTTEN!
AND THAT'S TO LAUGH AND SMILE AND DANCE AND SING,
WHEN YOU'RE FEELING IN THE DUMPS,

End

Scene Four: The Black Knight

(KING ARTHUR rides in with PATSY holding the shrubbery.
The BLACK KNIGHT bars his way)

Start

ARTHUR

Good Sir Knight. I am King Arthur looking for my men. Would you care to join us?

BLACK KNIGHT

None shall pass!

ARTHUR

I see. Well, good sir knight I have no quarrel with you, but I must pass this way.

BLACK KNIGHT

Then you shall die.

ARTHUR

I command you as King of the Britons to stand aside!

BLACK KNIGHT

I move for no man.

#19A The Black Knight

ARTHUR

So be it!

(KING ARTHUR draws his sword and after a short battle chops
the BLACK KNIGHT'S left arm off)

ARTHUR

Now yield, worthy adversary.

BLACK KNIGHT

'Tis but a scratch.

ARTHUR

A scratch? Your arm's off!

BLACK KNIGHT

No, it isn't.

ARTHUR

Well, what's that then?

BLACK KNIGHT

I've had worse.

ARTHUR

You liar!

BLACK KNIGHT

Come on, you pansy!

(The fight continues. Soon ARTHUR chops the BLACK KNIGHT'S right arm off.

ARTHUR makes a triumphant gesture and then kneels in prayer)

ARTHUR

Victory is mine! We thank thee Lord, that in thy mercy —

(The armless BLACK KNIGHT kicks ARTHUR in the buttocks while he is praying)

BLACK KNIGHT

Come on then.

ARTHUR

What?

BLACK KNIGHT

Have at you!

ARTHUR

You are indeed brave, good Sir Knight, but the fight is mine.

BLACK KNIGHT

Oh, had enough, eh?

ARTHUR

Look, you stupid bastard, you've got no arms left.

BLACK KNIGHT

Yes, I have.

ARTHUR

Look!

BLACK KNIGHT

It's just a flesh wound. You yellow bastard! I'll bite your legs off! You chickenshit, lily-livered, upper class twit.

(The BLACK KNIGHT backs up to the comparative darkness of the Gateway, where he hides the lower part of his body behind a trick door while the MONK ENTERS with a large basket distracting the attention of the audience)

MONK

Alms for the poor! Alms for the poor!

(The MONK picks up an arm and puts it in the basket. PATSY gives him the other arm)

MONK (CONT'D)

Arms for the poor! Arms for the poor!
(EXITS)

BLACK KNIGHT

The Black Knight always triumphs! I'm invincible!

ARTHUR

You're a loony.

(ARTHUR runs a sword through the BLACK KNIGHT'S chest pinning him to the castle door)

BLACK KNIGHT

Chicken-chicken-chicken-chicken.

(ARTHUR swipes at the BLACK KNIGHT'S legs)

BLACK KNIGHT (CONT'D)

Ha! You missed me!

(Both his legs flop on the stage)

ARTHUR

Come on, Patsy!

BLACK KNIGHT

All right, we'll call it a tie.

(Alt: All right, we'll call it a draw)

End

(ARTHUR rides off, leaving the legless, armless BLACK KNIGHT pinioned to the castle)

BLACK KNIGHT (CONT'D)

(Sings:)

ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE....

#19B Brave Sir Robin – Reprise

I'm All Alone

ARTHUR: So let me get this straight. I'm a King, without a single knight to command.
There's nobody...

Andante

Start

I'm absolutely alone. 2

ARTHUR:

I'm all a -

lone All by my - self There is no one here be - side me I'm all a -

lone Quite all a - lone No one to com - fort me or guide me Why is there

ARTHUR:

11 no one here with me 12 On the long and win - ding road? 13 To lift my hea - vy 14

15 load If there were some-one here with me 16 How hap - py I would be 17 But I'm a- 18 *a tempo*

a tempo

rit.

19 lone So all a - lone 20 Just by my-self I'm all 21 a - lone. 22 I'm all a-

a tempo

23 **PATSY (Singing full):** 24 25 26

He's all a-lone Ex-cept for me He can-not face it!

ARTHUR:

lone All by my - self I can - not face to - mor - row I'm all a-

mf

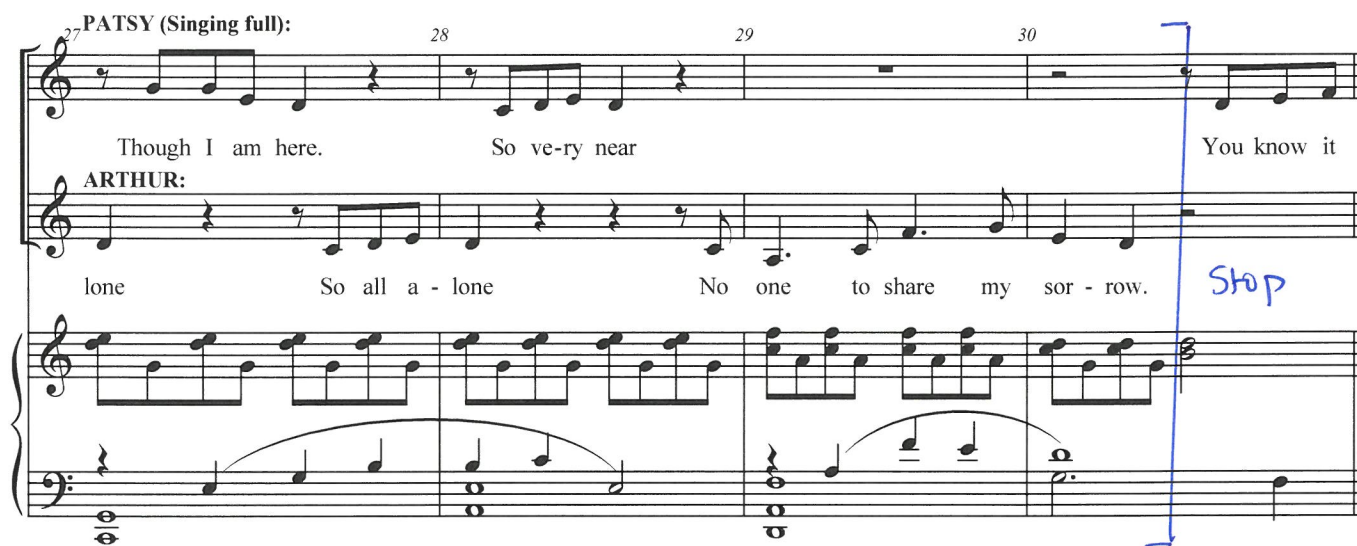


27 **PATSY (Singing full):** 28 29 30

Though I am here. So ve-ry near You know it

ARTHUR:

lone So all a - lone No one to share my sor - row. *Stop*



31 **PATSY (Singing full):** 32 33 34 35

seems quite clear to me Be - cause I'm wor-king class I am just the hor-se's ass He

