

# The Darktown Strutters' Ball

Words and Music by Shelton Brooks

Arranged by Ron Zuckerman

Dulcimer Melody

C G C G

I've got some good news, Hon- ey, An in- vi- ta- tion to the Dark- town Ball, - It's a  
 We'll meet our high- toned neigh- bors, An ex- hi- bi- tion of the "Ba- by Dolls,"- And each

1 D 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 3 3 3 3 3 3 5 3 3 3 3 3

A 4 4 4 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 3 3 3 3

D 6 6 6 6 5 4 3 3 4 5 6 7 6 5 4 5 3 3 4

E Am Bm G C

ver- y swell- af- fair, All the "high- browns" will be there, - I'll wear my high slik hat, and a  
 one will do - their best, Just to out- class all the rest, - And there'll be danc- ers from ev- 'ry

6 T 3 3 3 3 7 3 5 5 8 4 4 2 2 3 9 3 3 3 10 3 3 3 3 3

A 3 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 4

B 5 4 5 4 5 5 5 6 6 5 4 3 3 4 5 6 6 6 6 4

Am E7 Am G

frock- tail coat, - You wear a Par- is gown, and your new silk shawl, - There ain't no doubt a-  
 for- eign land, - The class- ic, buck and wing, and the wood- en clog: - We'll win that fif- ty

11 T 4 4 4 12 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 13 4 4 4 4 14 3 3 3 3

A 4 4 4 4 4 3 4 5 6+ 5 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 3 3 3

B 6 5 4 0 4 3 4 5 6+ 5 4 6 5 4 4 5 4 5 4

Em E Am Bm G Chorus C

bout it babe, - We'll be the best dressed in the hall. - I'll be down to get you in a  
 dol- lar prize, - When we step out and "Walk the Dog." -

15 T 3 3 5 5 5 5 16 4 4 2 2 3 17 1 1 1 1 1 1

A 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 3 3 18 1+ 1+ 1+ 1+ 1+ 1+

B 5 4 5 5 4 5 6 6 5 4 3 1 0 1 1 3 3 4 3

A7 D7 G

Tax-i hon-ey You bet-ter be read-y a-bout half past eight. - Now dear-ie,

19 T 3 3 1 1 1 20 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 21 0 0 0 22 3 3 3  
 A 4 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 6+ 0 0 0 3 3 3  
 B 6 4 4 3 1 1 0 0 2 4 4 5 6 5 4 3 4 5

C Am D7 G C A7

don't be late, - I want to be there when the band starts play-ing Re-mem-ber when we got there, Hon-ey, The

23 T 3 3 3 3 3 3 24 4 4 4 4 25 3 3 3 3 26 1 1 1 1 27 3 3 1 1 1  
 A 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 5 3 3 3 3 1+ 1+ 1+ 1+ 4 4 0 0 0  
 B 6 5 4 3 4 5 6 4 6 4 6 5 4 3 1 1 3 4 6 4 3 1 1

D7 G B C E7

two steps I'm goin' to have 'em all, - Goin' to dance out both my shoes: - When they play the "Jel-ly Roll

28 T 0 0 0 0 0 29 0 0 0 0 0 30 5 5 5 5 5 31 5 5 32 6 5 6 6 5  
 A 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 6 6 6 6 5 5 5 4 4 4 6+ 4  
 B 0 2 4 5 5 6 5 4 6 6+ 7 6 7 6 5 4 5 6 5 6 5

A7 D7 G 1C 2C

Blues" To-mor-row night, - at the Dark-town Strut-ters' Ball. -

33 T 4 4 34 0 0 0 0 0 35 5 5 3 3 3 36 37 38 3 3 3 3  
 A 4 4 0 0 0 0 0 6 6 3 3 4 3 4 4 4 4  
 B 4 3 4 5 6 8 6 7 5 4 3 6 3 4 5 6

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Dulcimer Harmony

C G C G

1  
D 2 3 4 5  
A 4 4 4 4 1 1 1 1 4 4 4 1 1 1  
D 3 3 3 3 3 3 0 0 3 3 3 3 3 3 1 2

E Am Bm G C

6  
T 0 0 0 0 7 0 1 1 8 1 1 2 2 3 9 3 3 3 10 4 4 4 4  
A 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 4 4 4 4  
B 3 2 3 2 3 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 3 3 3

Am E7 Am G Em E

11  
T 1 1 1 1 12 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 13 1 1 1 1 14 0 0 0 0 15 1 1 1 1  
A 0 0 0 2 1 2 1 1 1 2 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1  
B 1 1 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 3 2 3 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

Am Bm G Chorus C A7 D7

16  
T 1 1 2 2 3 17 18 6 6 19 6 6+ 20 6 6  
A 0 0 1 1 1 1 6 6 6 6+ 0 0  
B 1 1 0 0 0 0 4 4 4 4 4 0 0

G C Am D7 G

21 T 6 22 5 5 23 6 6 24 1 0 25 3 3  
 A 0 3 3 4 4 0 0 1 1  
 B 0 3 3 4 4 1 2 0 0

C A7 D7 G

26 T 6 6 27 6 6+ 28 6 6 29 6 6 30 5 5  
 A 4 4 4 4 0 0 0 0 3 5  
 B 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

B C E7 A7 D7 G 1.C

31 T 5 32 6 5 33 4 34 6 6 35 5 5 36 6  
 A 5 4 4 4 0 0 3 3 4  
 B 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 3 4

2.C

37 T 6 38 3 3 3 3  
 A 4 4 4 4 4  
 B 3 4 5 6

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Dulcimer Bass

C G C G

The first system of musical notation for the Dulcimer Bass part. It consists of a treble clef staff with a common time signature (C) and a bass staff with strings D, A, and D. The treble staff shows a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bass staff shows the corresponding fretting: 3, 4, 5, 2, 6, 3, 3, 0, 3, 4, 6, 1, 5, 3, 0. A repeat sign is placed after the first four notes.

E Am Bm G C

The second system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the melody: G4, A4, B4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, G4, A4, B4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bass staff shows fretting: 3, 0, 7, 3, 2, 1, 1, 8, 4, 2, 9, 3, 3, 4, 5, 10, 6, 3. A sharp sign is placed above the notes G4 and F4 in the treble staff.

Am E7 Am G Em E

The third system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the melody: G4, A4, B4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, G4, A4, B4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bass staff shows fretting: 4, 1, 12, 5, 1, 13, 4, 1, 4, 14, 3, 0, 15, 1, 1. A sharp sign is placed above the note G4 in the treble staff.

Am Bm G Chorus C A7 D7

The fourth system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the melody: G4, A4, B4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, G4, A4, B4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bass staff shows fretting: 4, 2, 17, 3, 0, 3, 18, 6, 3, 19, 1, 4, 20, 0, 2. A sharp sign is placed above the note G4 in the treble staff.

G C Am D7 G

21 T 4 2 2 2 22 3 23 1 3 24 4 0 25 3 5

A

B

Detailed description: This system contains measures 21 through 25. The treble clef staff shows a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, G3. The guitar staff shows fret numbers: 4, 2, 2, 2, 3, 0, 1, 3, 4, 0, 3, 5. Chords G, C, Am, D7, and G are indicated above the staff.

C A7 D7 G

26 T 6 3 27 1 4 28 0 2 29 4 2 30 3 3

A

B

Detailed description: This system contains measures 26 through 30. The treble clef staff shows a melody of quarter notes: G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3. The guitar staff shows fret numbers: 6, 3, 1, 4, 0, 2, 4, 2, 3, 3. Chords C, A7, D7, and G are indicated above the staff.

B C E7 A7 D7 G

31 T 5 2 5 32 6 5 33 4 3 2 1 34 0 4 35 3 7

A

B

Detailed description: This system contains measures 31 through 35. The treble clef staff shows a melody of quarter notes: G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. The guitar staff shows fret numbers: 5, 2, 5, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0, 4, 3, 7. Chords B, C, E7, A7, D7, and G are indicated above the staff.

1C 2C

36 T 6 6 3 4 5 37 6 3 6 3 38 6 6

A

B

Detailed description: This system contains measures 36 through 38. The treble clef staff shows a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, G2. The guitar staff shows fret numbers: 6, 6, 3, 4, 5, 6, 3, 6, 3, 6, 6. Chords 1C and 2C are indicated above the staff.

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Dulcimer Drum

C G C G

Hit back of dulcimer

1 D Low (larger part)  
A High (smaller part)  
D

2 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 4 0 0 0 5 0 0 0

E Am Bm G C

6 T  
A  
B

7 0 0 0 8 0 0 0 9 0 0 0 10 0 0 0 0

Am E7 Am G Em E

11 T  
A  
B

12 0 0 0 13 0 0 0 14 0 0 0 15 0 0 0 0

Am Bm G Chorus C A7 D7

16 T  
A  
B

17 0 0 0 18 0 0 0 19 0 0 0 20 0 0 0 0

G C Am D7 G

21 T 0 0 0 0 22 0 0 0 23 0 0 0 24 0 0 0 25 0 0 0 0

C A7 D7

26 T 0 0 0 0 27 0 0 0 28 0 0 0 29 0 0 0 0

G B C E7 A7 D7

30 T 0 0 0 0 31 0 0 0 32 0 0 0 33 0 0 0 0 34 0 0 0 0

G | 1C | 2C

35 T 0 0 0 0 36 0 37 0 0 0 0 38 0 0 0 0