



She's Got A Way

Billy Joel

♪ Niveau 42/100 (Ambitieux)

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SHE'S GOT A WAY

Words and Music by Billy Joel

From the album *Cold Spring Harbor*, originally released in 1972, re-released in 1983.

This is one of Billy Joel's most gentle and effective ballads. He sings with an engaging emotional immediacy while he accompanies himself on the piano with simple but effective patterns.

Figure 17 – Intro/Verse 1/Verse 2/Bridge/Verse 3

The piano part consists primarily of triads played with the right hand (in the alto range) on each beat, while the left hand plays the bass roots in octaves in whole notes.

Each verse ends with a deceptive cadence. Instead of going to the I chord (i.e. G major) in measure 11, which is what the ear expects, the deceptive cadence inserts two extra chords between the V and I chords— \flat VI (E \flat maj7) and \flat VII (Fadd9). This style of deceptive cadence is considered standard in the cocktail piano repertoire and could be an influence from Joel's "Piano Man" days.

27 Full Band

Fig. 17

The musical score is presented in two systems. The first system covers the Intro and the beginning of the first verse. It starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked "Slow and steady" with a metronome marking of quarter note = 72. The piano part begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The right hand plays triads, and the left hand plays bass roots in octaves. The first measure of the Intro is a G major triad. The first verse begins with a G major chord, followed by a D/F# chord, an E minor chord, and a G7/D chord. The melody for the first verse is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The lyrics are: "She's got a way a - bout her." The second system covers the second verse, starting at measure 5. The piano part continues with triads in the right hand and bass roots in the left hand. The chords for the second verse are: C major, D major, C/E, D/F#, and D major. The melody for the second verse is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The lyrics are: "don't know what it is, but I know that I can't live with - out her."