



Scenes From An Italian Restaurant

Billy Joel

♪ Niveau 64/100 (Gevorderd)

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SCENES FROM AN ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Words and Music by Billy Joel

“Scenes from an Italian Restaurant” is one of Billy Joel’s epic “story” songs, falling in line with “The Ballad of Billy The Kid” and “Miami 2017” as a multi-movement work using many characters and a stretching timeline. This song uses flashbacks to reminisce about the old neighborhood and the gang over a couple of bottles of wine at the Italian bistro in the title. Joel’s vivid memories of his “sweet romantic teenage nights” lead to a vignette about Brenda and Eddie, the “popular steadies” whose changing lives are symbolic of their class and generation.

Figure 30—Intro and Verse 1

Joel introduces the song with simple chords in F. At the beginning of the verse, he helps establish the Italian restaurant vibe with the addition of an accordion sound. He continues comping on piano throughout and fills in between vocal phrases.

44 Full Band
45 Slow Demos:
meas. 1-4, 8

Fig. 30

Intro
Moderately ♩ = 66

1 F Gm7 C7

mf

8vb

Verse

4 Bb/F F C7 F Gm7/F

A bot-tle of white, — a bot-tle of red, —

8vb

Accordion