

# THE BEST OF TIMES

(From the Broadway Musical "La Cage Aux Folles")

Music and Lyric by  
JERRY HERMAN

Simply

mp

(h)

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand starts with a series of eighth notes in the treble clef, while the left hand provides a bass line with some rests and a half note. The tempo is marked 'mp' and the key signature has one flat.

F G#dim Gm7 Gm(add 9)

The best of times is now. —

(h)

This section features a vocal line with lyrics and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is on a single staff with guitar chord diagrams above it. The piano accompaniment is on two staves. The lyrics are "The best of times is now." followed by a line. The piano part includes a half note in the left hand and a series of chords in the right hand. The tempo is marked 'mp'.

C9 Fdim Fmaj7

What's left of summer but a faded rose? —

This section features a vocal line with lyrics and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is on a single staff with guitar chord diagrams above it. The piano accompaniment is on two staves. The lyrics are "What's left of summer but a faded rose?" followed by a line. The piano part includes a half note in the left hand and a series of chords in the right hand.

**D7-9** **Gm/E** **F#dim** **Gm(add 9)**

The best of times is now. —

**Gm7-5** **C9** **Fmaj7** **F7** **F6** **F+**

As for to - mor - row, well, who knows? Who knows? Who

**F** **C/E** **Ddim** **Gm7**

knows? So hold this mo - ment fast —

*a tempo*

**C9** **Fdim** **Fmaj7**

and live and love as hard as you know how. —

D7-9

Gm/E

F#dim

Gm(+7)

Gm7

And make this mo - ment last

Gm7-5

C9

F

Bb/F

be - cause the best of times is now, is now, is

F

Bb

Bb+

now. Now.

*Brighter*

Bb6

C7

Am

Am(+7)

not some for - got - ten yes - ter - day.

Am7 Am6 Dm Dm(+7)

Now,

Dm7 G7 Gm Eb/G

to - mor - row is too far a - way.

C7 F C/E G#dim Gm(add 9)

So hold this mo - ment fast,

*a tempo (More spirited)*

C9 Fdim Fmaj7

and live and love as hard as you know how.

07-9

And make this mo - ment last

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The vocal line starts with a whole note 'And' followed by a half note 'make', then a quarter note 'this', a quarter note 'mo -', a quarter note 'ment', and a half note 'last'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

Gm7-5 C9 F Bb/F

be - cause the best of times is now, is now, is

Detailed description: This system contains measures 3-6. The vocal line continues with 'be - cause the best of times is now,' followed by a quarter rest, then 'is now,' and another quarter rest, ending with 'is'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords corresponding to the chord symbols above.

F Am7 B7 D7 G/D D C/dim

now. The best of

*molto ritard.*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7-10. The vocal line has a quarter note 'now.', followed by a quarter rest, then a half note 'The', a quarter note 'best', and a quarter note 'of'. The piano accompaniment features a descending eighth-note line in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. A 'molto ritard.' marking is present.

Am7 D7sus D7 F#7

times is now. What's left of sum - mer but a

*Slower*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 11-14. The vocal line has a quarter note 'times', a quarter note 'is', a quarter note 'now.', followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note 'What's', a quarter note 'left', a quarter note 'of', a quarter note 'sum -', a quarter note 'mer', a quarter note 'but', and a quarter note 'a'. The piano accompaniment features a descending eighth-note line in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. A 'Slower' marking is present.