

The Grapes of Wrath Act I

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Music by
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1. The Last Time There Was Rain (No. 1 from Act I of *The Grapes of Wrath*)

The curtain rises to the sound of soft rain. The stage is filled with a growing field of healthy corn in the gray morning mist, dozens upon dozens of stalks each shoulder height to a man. A woman appears standing among the stalks, then a man, Oklahoma tenant share croppers of the early 1930s. More and more appear remembering how it was before the rain stopped.

With quiet majesty ♩ = 66

Chorus

Woman 2:
The last time there was rain I

Piano

With quiet majesty ♩ = 66

mp

7

Chorus

Woman 1:
smelt it in the air, and filled a pail to wash my hair. My

Pno.

mf

mp

8^{va}

11

Chorus

kids was in the yard. I made 'em play in-side. The smal-lest one, the boy, he cried...

Man 1:
The

Pno.

mp

8^{va}

No. 1: The Last Time There Was Rain

16 **Più mosso** ♩ = 72

Chorus

last time there was rain the rich red earth was soaked, n' up them ba-by corn shoots poked. _ The

Man 2:

Pno.

mp

20

Chorus

spil - loff from the ditch made gul - lies in the ground, and birds which ate the bugs made such a

Pno.

mp cresc. poco a poco

23 *The rain stops. The sun comes out.* **All: f**

Chorus

When the last rain came and the

pret-ty sound. _ When the last rain came (When the last rain came) and the

Pno.

(cresc.) f

27

Chorus

sky turned blue_ it was gone for good,_ (it was

sky turned blue_ (and the sky turned blue)_ it was gone for good,_ (it was

Pno.

Add tilt/shape

30

Chorus

gone for good)_ on - ly no one knew._ (on - ly no one knew.)_ We en -

gone for good)_ on - ly no one knew._ (on - ly no one knew.)_ We en -

Pno.

Let it flow

33

Chorus

joyed the shade with a cher-ry fizz_ when it's warm, like O - kla - ho - ma is... When it's

joyed the shade with a cher-ry fizz_ when it's warm, like O - kla -

Pno.

(l.h.)

No. 1: The Last Time There Was Rain

rit.
The sun beats down harshly.
Lightning turns the green stalks brown. **Woman 2:**

36

Chorus

warm like O - kla - ho - ma is... → wait for "s"

- ho - ma is...

Pno.

sub. mp

rit.

40

Poco più mosso ♩ = 76

Chorus

last time there was rain my wash got soak - in' wet. The fi - nal rinse them sheet - s'd

Pno.

mp

8va

43

Chorus

get.

Man 3:

It came right through the roof. "I'll fix it," I tol' her.

Pno.

mf

46

Chorus

Woman 2:
The

Man 1:
The

No rush to patch it now, what fer?

Pno.

mp

49

Chorus

pigs put up a squeal and wal-owed in the trough. Them pigs to - day is all died off. —

Man 2:
I

pigs put up a squeal and wal-owed in the trough.

Pno.

53

Chorus

Woman 1 and 2:
It made it through the rain. What wrecked it

Man 1, 2, and 3:
It made it through the rain. What wrecked it

reck - oned my old truck would hun - ker down and rust.

Pno.

mp cresc. poco a poco

No. 1: The Last Time There Was Rain

56

Chorus

was the dust... When the wind rose up... (When the

All: *f*

Pno.

(cresc.)

59

Chorus

and the sun bore down, (and the

wind rose up) and the sun bore down,

Pno.

61

Chorus

as the earth turned hard (as the

sun bore down) as the earth turned hard (as the

Pno.

63

Chorus

earth turned hard) and the corn went brown (and the

earth turned hard) and the corn went brown (and the

Pno.

65

Chorus

corn went brown) in a dust so thick and a sky so cloaked

corn went brown) in a dust so thick and a sky so cloaked

Pno.

Wind howls. The earth and sky swirl gray. The dead stalks of corn sink into the stage and vanish, leaving a barren acre in a raging dust storm. The creation of "The Dust Bowl" is being dramatized before our eyes.

67

Chorus

if the Lord was look-in' he'd of choked! The

if the Lord was look-in' he'd of choked! The

Pno.

No. 1: The Last Time There Was Rain

70

Chorus

dust was thick as stew but still kept pour - in' in, and

dust was thick as stew but still kept pour - in' in, and

Pno.

72

Chorus

what was left to breathe was thin. We

what was left to breathe was thin. We

Pno.

74

Chorus

board - ed up the house and stuffed the cracks with rags. The

board - ed up the house and stuffed the cracks with rags. The

Inst.

Pno.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 74 and 75. The Chorus part consists of two staves. The top staff is the vocal line with lyrics: "board - ed up the house and stuffed the cracks with rags. The" and "board - ed up the house and stuffed the cracks with rags. The". The bottom staff is the bass line. The Instrumental part (Inst.) has a single staff that is mostly empty. The Piano part (Pno.) has two staves. The right hand features a complex pattern of sixteenth notes with slurs and accents, and the number '6' is written above several measures. The left hand has a bass line with slurs and accents.

76

Chorus

store ran out of bur - lap bags.

store ran out of bur - lap bags.

Pno.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 76 and 77. The Chorus part consists of two staves. The top staff is the vocal line with lyrics: "store ran out of bur - lap bags." and "store ran out of bur - lap bags.". The bottom staff is the bass line. The Piano part (Pno.) has two staves. The right hand features a complex pattern of sixteenth notes with slurs and accents, and the number '6' is written above several measures. The left hand has a bass line with slurs and accents.

78 (All women)

Chorus

It weigh - ted down the trees, the

Pno.

80

Chorus

trees, the fence posts and the phone and the e - lec -

fence post and the signs, the phone and the e - lec - tric lines. —

fence post and the signs, the phone and the e - lec - tric lines. —

Pno.

82

Chorus

tric lines.

A man could take a walk and

Pno.

84

Chorus

A train could raise a cloud e-nough to swamp a street...

nev - er see his feet. A train could raise a cloud e-nough to swamp a street...

Pno.

Really feel the CLOAKED, fuzzy, dusty quality

No. 1: The Last Time There Was Rain

Woman 1:

mp

87 *molto rit.*

Chorus

In the
In the
In the

molto rit.

Pno.

Eerie ♩ = 63

89

Chorus

pitch black nights not a
pitch black nights not a
pitch black nights (In the pitch black nights) not a

Inst.

Eerie ♩ = 63

Pno.

mp (loco)

91

Chorus

star shone through. Not a

star shone through. Not a

star shone through. (not a star shone through.) Not a

Inst.

Pno.

loco

93

Chorus

light bulb lit. more'n a

light bulb lit. (Not a light bulb lit.) more'n a

light bulb lit. (Not a light bulb lit.) more'n a

Inst.

Pno.

loco

No. 1: The Last Time There Was Rain

95

Chorus

yard or two. more'n a yard or two.) And when

yard or two. more'n a yard or two.) And when

Inst.

Pno.

97

Chorus

unis. dawn would break, there would be no day, just a

(And when dawn would break.) (there would be no day.)

dawn would break, there would be no day, just a

Pno.

101

Chorus

dull red glow be - hind the gray.

unis.

dull red glow be - hind the gray.

Pno.

105

Chorus

At

Pno.

Ethereal, headier, more angelic atmosphere

soar up, little smile

110

Chorus

Ah, Ah, Ah,

last the wind died down when ev' - ry-thing was ruined, like be-in' on the moon...

Pno.

mp

No. 1: The Last Time There Was Rain

let it shimmer

115

Chorus

unis. Ah, Ma - rooned. The

ma - rooned. Ma - rooned.

Pno.

8^{va}

121

Chorus

wom-en watch the men to see what they can bear. The

Inst.

Pno.

mf

125

Chorus

corn can go; the house can go; The fam - 'bly will still be there. If some-thing

Pno.

129

Chorus

in their eyes, some sign of life re-mains if we're still

ten. div.

If we're still

Pno.

132

Chorus

here... the next time it rains. The next time it

unis.

here... the next time it rains. The next time it

Pno.

136

Chorus

rains. The next time it

rains. The next time it

Pno.

a tempo

mp

mf

No. 1: The Last Time There Was Rain

140

Chorus

rains. The next time...

rains. The next time...

Pno.

145

Chorus

The next time... The next time...

The next time... The next time...

Pno.

150

Chorus

The next time...

The next time...

Pno.

They vanish.