

48

Goodnight Irene

1 1/2

For years this was the theme song of Huddie Ledbetter, better known as Leadbelly, King of the Twelve-String Guitar. The Weavers

sang with him many times and learned many songs from him, such as this ballad of the girl who married a rounder and a bounder.

Words and music by Huddie Ledbetter and John Lomax

Chorus Vigorously sentimental

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The piano part consists of chords and single notes, often with a 'z' symbol indicating a specific articulation. The vocal line includes lyrics and rests. Chord symbols (G, D7, G7, C) are placed above the vocal line. The score ends with 'FINE' in the piano part of the third system.

System 1: The vocal line begins with 'I - rene, good night;' followed by a long rest. The piano part starts with a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic. Chord symbols G and D7 are present.

System 2: The vocal line continues with 'rene, good night;' followed by a rest, then 'Good night, I - rene, good'. The piano part continues with chords and single notes. Chord symbols G and G7 are present.

System 3: The vocal line concludes with 'night, I - rene, I'll see you in my dreams.' followed by a rest. The piano part ends with a *FINE* marking. Chord symbols C, D7, and G are present.

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Verse

1. Last Sat - ur - day night I got mar - ried, _____ Me and my
2. Some - times I live in the coun - try, _____ Some - times I

wife set - tled down, _____ Now me and my wife _____ are
live in town, _____ Some - times I take a great

part - ed, _____ I'm gon-na take an-oth-er stroll down - town. _____
no - tion _____ To jump in - to the riv - er and drown. _____

D. C. al FINE

3. She caused me to weep, she caused me to mourn,
Caused me to leave my home,
But the very last words I heard her say
Was, "Please sing me one more song." (*Chorus*)

4. Stop ramblin', stop your gamblin',
Stop stayin' out late at night;
Go home to your wife and your family;
Stay there by your fireside bright. (*Chorus*)