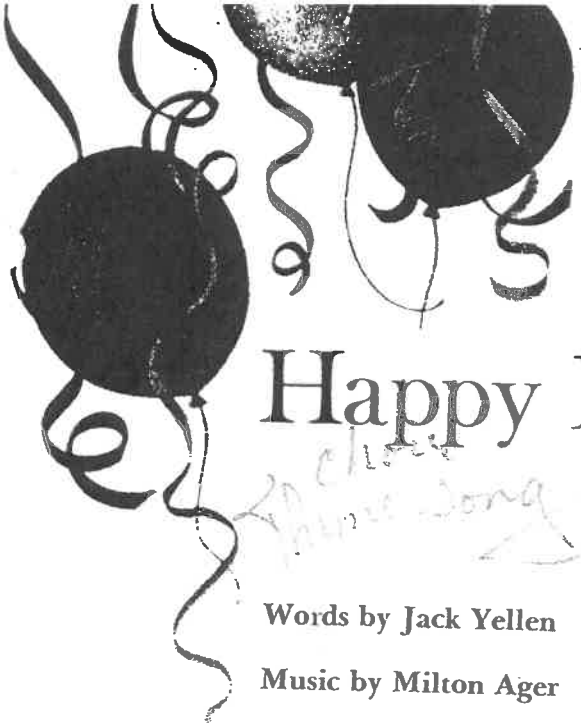
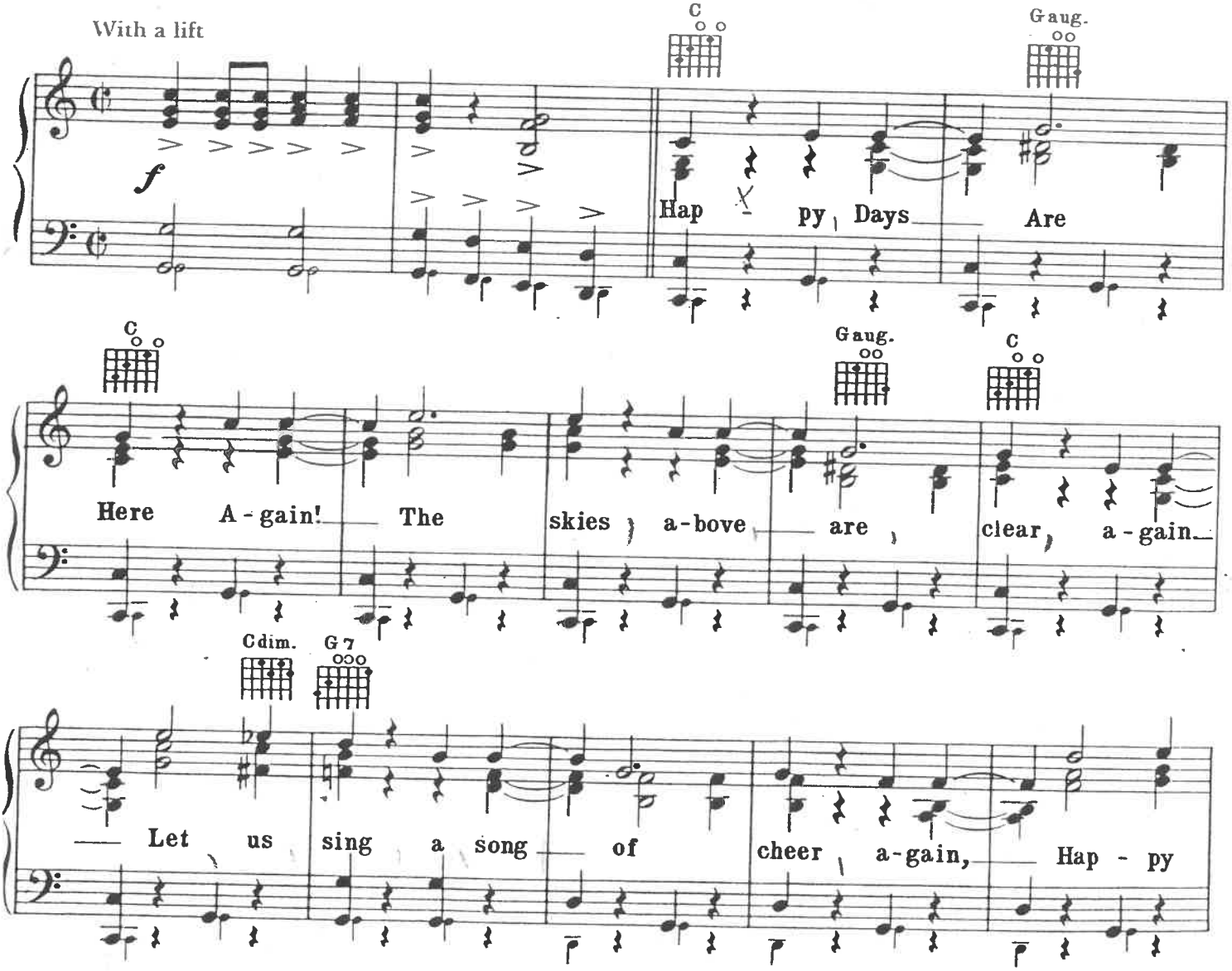


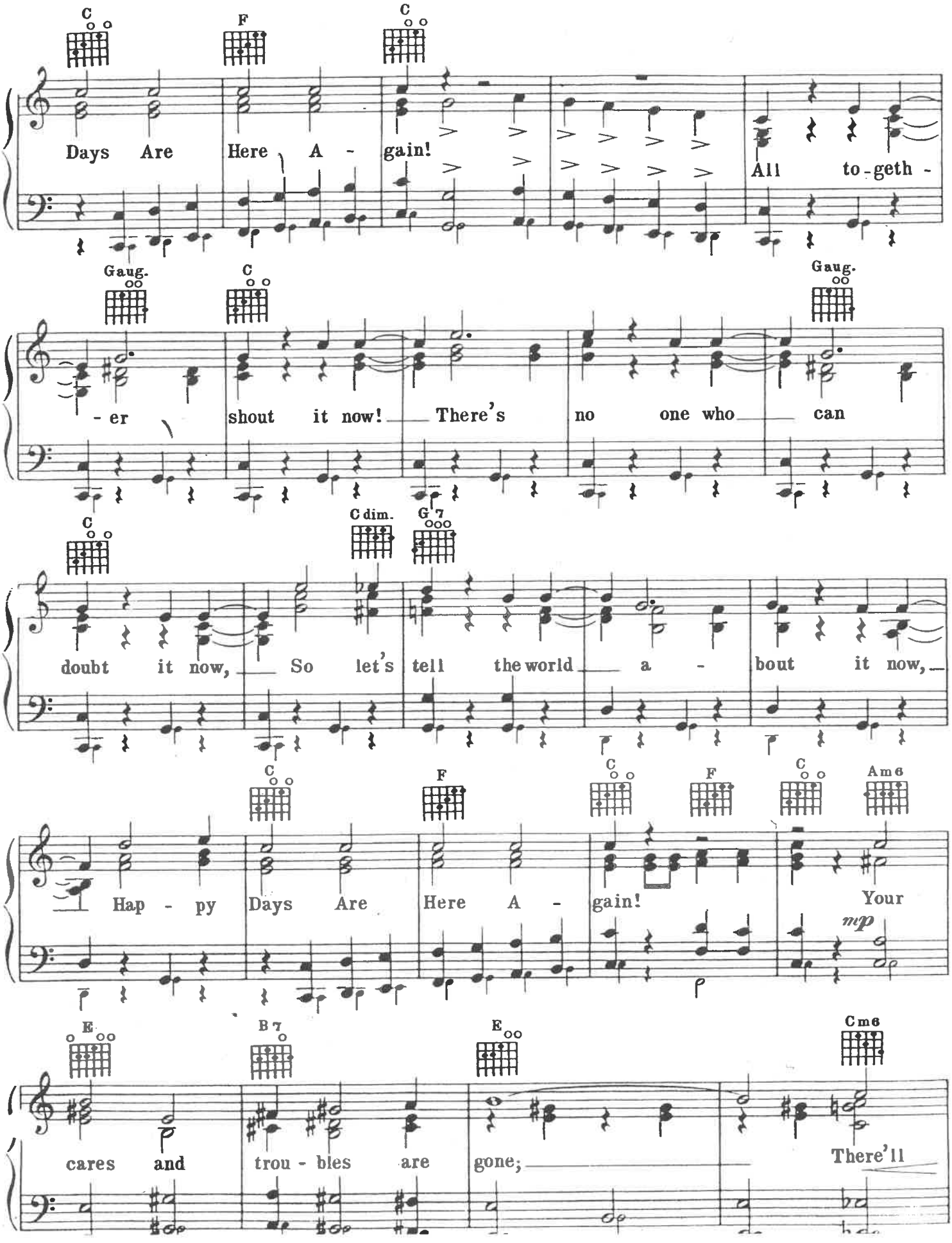
In 1929, as part of their score for an early "talkie" called Chasing Rainbows, *Yellen and Ager wrote "Happy Days Are Here Again" to be sung by a group of American doughboys upon receiving news of the armistice. On the night of the Wall Street crash, before the film was released, the writers took the music to George Olsen, then leading his dance orchestra at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York. As the vocalist sang, the dispirited diners, according to Yellen, stopped what they were doing and "joined in sardonically, hysterically, like doomed prisoners on their way to the firing squad." The song was quickly picked up as a genuine rallying cry of the Depression years and, in 1932, became the official theme of Franklin D. Roosevelt's victorious campaign for the Presidency.*

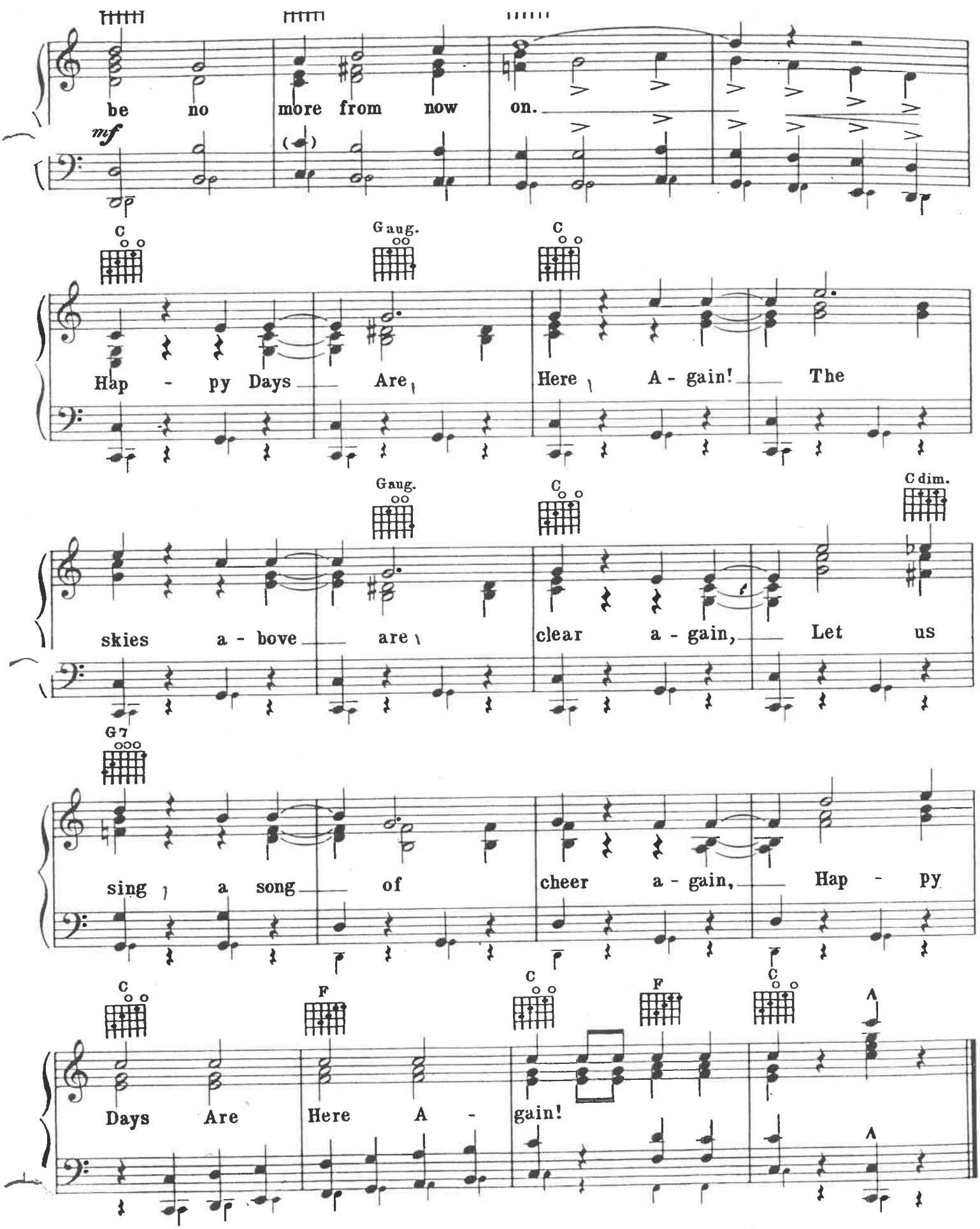
Happy Days Are Here Again

Words by Jack Yellen

Music by Milton Ager




C
F
C
Days Are Here A - gain!
All to-geth -
Gaug.
C
Gaug.
- er shout it now! There's no one who can
C
C dim.
G 7
doubt it now, So let's tell the world a - bout it now,
C
F
C
F
C
Am6
Hap - py Days Are Here A - gain! Your
mp
E
B 7
E
Cm6
cares and trou - bles are gone; There'll


be no more from now on.
mf
C
Gaug.
C
Hap - py Days Are Here A - gain! The
Gaug.
C
C dim.
skies a - bove are clear a - gain, Let us
G7
sing a song of cheer a - gain, Hap - py
C
F
C
F
C
Days Are Here A - gain!