



When I Grow Too Old to Dream

Words by Oscar Hammerstein II; Music by Sigmund Romberg

The success of this tender waltz — first sung by that idol of the silents Ramon Novarro in the 1935 film *The Night Is Young* — came as a surprise to its lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II. He felt that the opening lines — “When I grow too old to dream, I’ll have you to remember” — didn’t quite make sense, but he loved them; they felt right. But what did they mean? Nevertheless, it soon became apparent that the public had accepted the words in the special sense that when a person grows too old to dream of a future love, he can still recall a love of the past. This had been Hammerstein’s subconscious meaning all along.

Slowly and simply

3/4

p

F

Gm7/C

When I grow too old to dream, I'll have

F

F7 Bb Bb/C C7

you to re - mem - ber. When I grow too

This image shows a handwritten musical score for a vocal and guitar piece. The vocal part is in treble clef, 3/4 time, with dynamic 'p' (piano). The guitar part is in bass clef, with chords indicated above the staff: F, Gm7/C, F, F7, Bb, Bb/C, and C7. The lyrics are: 'When I grow too old to dream, I'll have', followed by a break, then 'you to re - mem - ber. When I grow too'. The score includes a guitar chord chart on the left and a piano chord chart on the right.

old to dream, Your love will live in my heart. So,

Am/C Gm/C Am/C F F

kiss me my sweet, And so

A7/E Dm F7/C Bb Bdim

let us part, And when I grow too

F/C Dm7 D♭7 F/C Gm7/C C7 F

old to dream, That kiss will live in my heart.