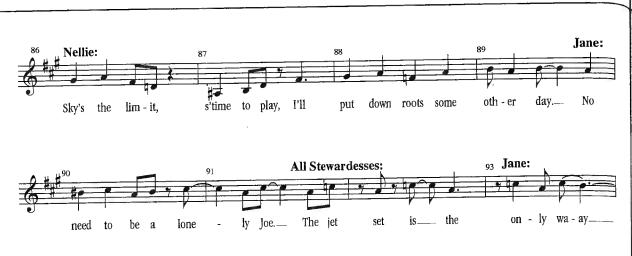


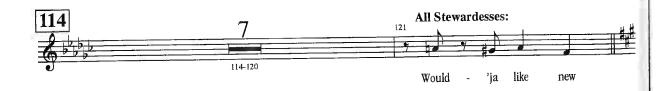


#4-Jet Set













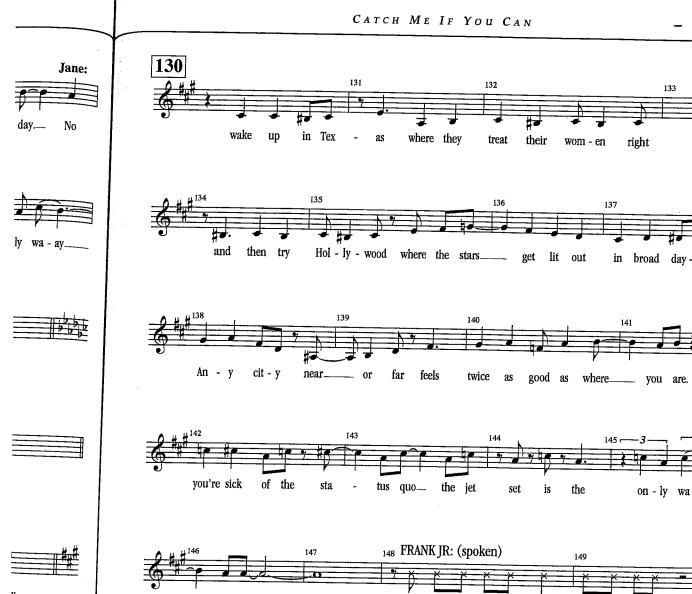
#4-Jet Set

right

in broad day - light.

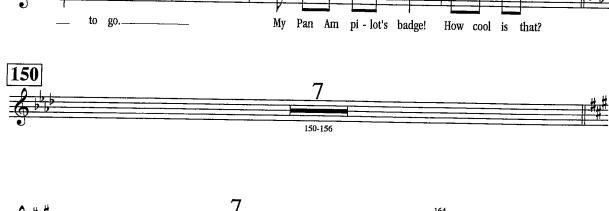
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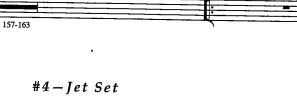
When



me old

And



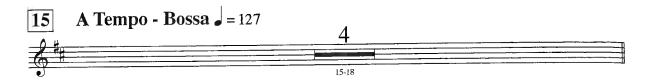


Paula, Frank Sr.

Don't Be A Stranger

13















#13 - Don't Be A Stranger







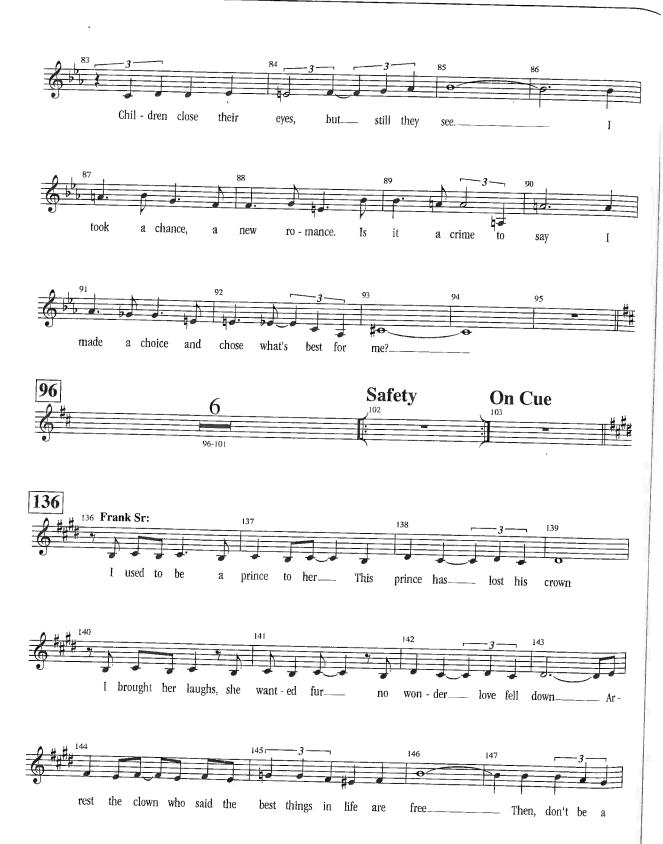








#13 - Don't Be A Stranger



#13-Don't Be A Stranger

all's

in love



#13 - Don't Be A Stranger

Brenda 3 Women (Backup)

Fly, Fly Away

17















#17-Fly, Fly Away













#17 - Fly, Fly Away



#17-Fly, Fly Away

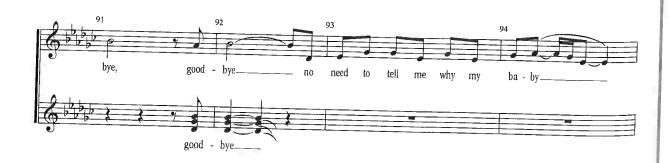


#17-Fly, Fly Away









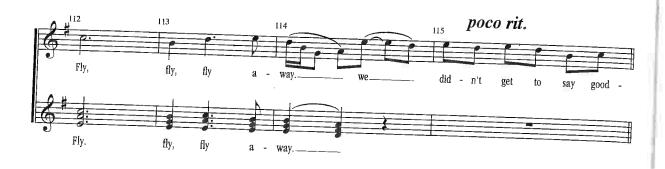
#17-Fly, Fly Away

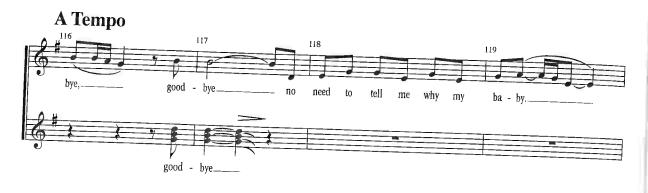






#17-Fly, Fly Away



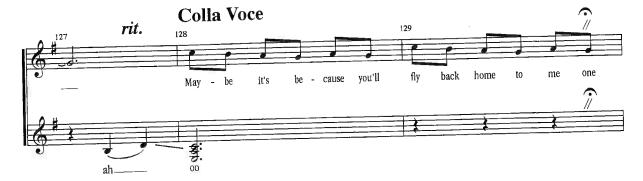






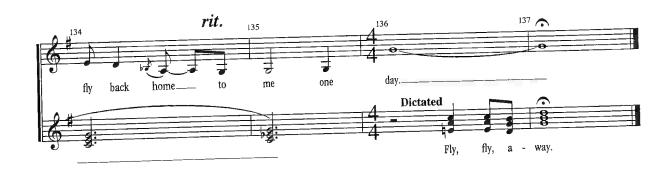
#17-Fly, Fly Away





Rubato al fine





Scene 6: The Strong House, New Orleans

(As the Strong Family Dining/Living room forms around them, Frank Junior and Carol Strong have a moment. Brenda and her father, Roger Strong enter a few steps behind and take their seats at the dinner table)

#15b - Intro to Strong Family

CAROL STRONG

Family is important to us, Dr. Conners. You might say it's everything. Brenda's great grandmother, Anna Mae Lulu Jean Abernathy, was married in the front parlor to her great grandfather, Jean Paul David Abraham Fort, f-o-r-t, which is French for "strong". We're an old New Orleans family with just a dab of Jewish. How else do you explain the Abraham? Brenda is our only child. We are very particular about who she brings home.

BRENDA

So is Brenda, mother.

(Frank Jr and Carol are seated)

ROGER

So, before Atlanta, you were in California?

FRANK JUNIOR

Yes, sir. Death Valley Children's Hospital.

ROGER

They have a Children's Hospital in Death Valley?

FRANK JUNIOR

Yes, sir. Right behind the Macy's.

CAROL

Well goddamn and gumbo, Brenda, I think you landed one this time. Much better than that ratty little Delacroix boy. This one's a hunky hunk of you-betcha.

BRENDA

Mother.

ROGER

Doctor Conners. Do you come from a large family?

FRANK JUNIOR

Please, sir, call me Frank. I'm an only child, but I hope to have lots of kids. Family is the most important thing.

CAROL

Ding ding! Correct answer. But now the make-or-break round. Don't lie to me, now. Are you. A Lutheran?

FRANK JUNIOR

Why, yes, I am a Lutheran.

ROGER

Well then, Frank, would you like to say grace?

(off Frank Junior's hesitation:)

Unless you're not comfortable.

FRANK JUNIOR

Oh, no, absolutely.

(folds hands, bows head, thinks)

Two little mice fell into a bucket of cream. The first mouse quickly gave up and drowned but the second mouse, he struggled so hard that he eventually churned that cream into butter and he walked out. Amen.

ROGER & BRENDA

Amen.

CAROL

Amen and God damn! That was just beautiful. Where did you learn that, you pious piece of cutie-pie?

FRANK JUNIOR

The, ah, First Lutheran Church of Death Valley.

ROGER

Frank, have you decided which hospital you want to work at here in New Orleans?

FRANK JUNOR

Well, to be quite honest, I'm thinking about getting back into law

ROGER

Are you a doctor or a lawyer?

FRANK JUNIOR

Before I went to medical school, I passed the bar in California. I practiced law for one year, then I decided, why not try my hand at pediatrics.

BRENDA

You're just full of surprises.

FRANK JUNIOR

(a look to us: he's surprised himself)

Yes I am

ROGER

Awfully young to be a lawyer, aren't you?

FRANK

I get that a lot.

CAROL

Sakes alive, the yummy Yankee is a doctor and a lawyer! Oh, Brenda, darlin', you hit the jackpot with this one!

ROGER

Where did you go to law school? Harvard, Yale, Columbia...?

FRANK JUNIOR

Berkeley.

BRENDA & CAROL

Berkeley!

BRENDA

That's where daddy went!

FRANK JUNIOR

Oh! Wow. Fantastic.

ROGER

So. Frank. Was that snake Hollingsworth still teaching there when you went through Berkeley?

FRANK JUNIOR

Hollingsworth...yes. Grumpy old Hollingsworth, right? I tell ya, meaner than ever.

ROGER

And that dog of his? Tell me Frank, what was the name of his little dog?

FRANK JUNIOR

(works the problem, then:)

I'm sorry. The dog was dead when I got there.

ROGER

How unfortunate. A doctor, a lawyer, a Lutheran. So what are you, Frank? 'Cause I think you're about to ask my daughter's hand in marriage, and I have a right to know.

FRANK JUNIOR

Know what, sir?

ROGER

The truth. What are you doing here? What is a man of your accomplishments doing with Brenda?

FRANK JUNIOR

Brenda's the best girl I've ever known, sir.

ROGER

But who are you Frank? If you want my blessing...If you want my daughter...I'd like to hear the truth from you now.

FRANK JUNIOR

The truth? The truth, sir...is...The truth is I'm not a lawyer. I'm not a doctor. I'm nothing, really. I'm just a kid who's in love with your daughter.

ROGER

No. I know what you are.

(pause)

You're a romantic.

FRANK JUNIOR

I am?

ROGER

Yes you are. Men like us are nothing without the women we love.

FRANK JUNIOR

Well goddamn and gumbo! May I hug you?

(All laugh.)

BRENDA

Oh, Frank!

(Brenda and Frank kiss, at length. Roger clears his throat to no avail. Finally, Carol jumps up.)

CAROL

Oh, Daddy!

ROGER

Oh, Mommy!

CAROL

Would you look at the time!

ROGER

Is it seven-thirty already?

BRENDA

Is it time for Mitch?

FRANK JUNIOR

Mitch, who's Mitch?

ROGER

Mitch Miller

#16 - (Our) Family Tree

CAROL, ROGER & BRENDA

And the Sing Along Gang!

(They all head for the couch and click the TV on.

ROGER

Take it, Mother.

(PROJECTIONS of The Strong Family Singers "singing" along as Carol sings.)

CAROL

I FEEL A MIGHTY QUAKE THE SOUTH BEGINS TO SHAKE UNDER OUR FAMILY TREE

THE LEAVES BEGIN TO BLOW GONE WITH THE WIND THEY GO ALL THROUGH OUR FAMILY TREE

UP TOP MAGNOLIAS BLOOM
THEY SPREAD THEIR SWEET PERFUME
FOR THIS ANCESTRAL JUBILEE

NOW EVERY BOUGH MUST PULL ITS WEIGHT ITS TIME TO PRUNE AND PROPAGATE SO WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY TREE

Come on Daddy!

ROGER

Oh no I coul—alright then I will!

Scene 3

The Barnes House and A Bar, New Rochelle

PAULA

I haven't seen Frankie, since he ran away.

I ALWAYS KNEW I'D SEE THIS DAY I CAN'T SAY IT'S A SHOCK WHAT'S THAT EXPRESSION? QU'EST-CE QUE C'EST? HE'S "A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK" BUT IF YOU SEE HIM PLEASE PASS ON THIS PLEA DON'T BE A STRANGER TELL HIM THAT FOR ME

HANRATTY

If I could just look at a photo...

PAULA

I don't have a recent one. Here...his junior class yearbook...

(One of the Handsome Dancing Men hands her the yearbook. She opens the book up, and Hanratty grabs it.)

HANRATTY

That's him. Heavens to Betsey, that's him.

(reads from yearbook)

Class Treasurer?

PAULA

Is my Frankie in some sort of trouble?

HANRATTY

Ma'am, your son's in a great deal of trouble. He's passing bad checks, forging government documents -

(Paula takes the yearbook back from him and gives it back to one of the Handsome Men.)

PAULA

Half of the kids his age are on dope but you chase after Frankie because he made a little mistake? Tant pis. Tell me how much, I'll write you a check—

HANRATTY

So far it's one-point-four million dollars.

PAULA

Ce n'est pas possible.

HANRATTY

Oh, it's possible. Unlikely, but possible.

PAULA

He must be good at this.

HANRATTY

If you were trying to raise a crook, you should be very proud.

PAULA

MY FRANKIE HAD A CLEVER MIND
HE COULD SPEND HOURS ALL ALONE
I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SURPRISED TO FIND
HE CHANGED HIS DIAPER ON HIS OWN
COULD I HAVE BEEN THERE MORE?
WELL, C'EST LA VIE
DON'T BE A STRANGER
TELL HIM THAT FOR ME

HANRATTY

You haven't heard from him since you left your husband?

PAULA

I'm to blame. Is that what you're saying?

HANRATTY

I don't do blame, ma'am. I just catch the bad guys.

PAULA

Frankie was the result of a night of passion in a fourth rate hotel in Normandy. Two adults who should have known better. Nobody wins. Least of all Frankie.

THOUGH I TRIED, I COULDN'T HIDE
WHEN LOVE HAD FLOWN AWAY
CHILDREN CLOSE THEIR EYES
BUT STILL THEY SEE
I TOOK A CHANCE, A NEW ROMANCE
IS IT A CRIME TO SAY
I MADE A CHOICE
AND CHOSE WHAT'S BEST FOR ME

HANRATTY

How might I locate your son?

PAULA

Ask his father. He says Frankie writes to him.

HANRATTY

And where can I find his father?

PAULA

Check the bars in town.

HANRATTY

Okay then.

(Split scene: The Barnes living room splits the stage with a dive bar and Frank Senior on a barstool.

Paula continues to dance with the THREE ATTRACTIVE MEN in the background.)

FRANK SENIOR

I USED TO BE A PRINCE TO HER
THIS PRINCE HAS LOST HIS CROWN
I BROUGHT HER LAUGHS, SHE WANTED FUR
NO WONDER LOVE FELL DOWN
ARREST THAT CLOWN WHO SAID
THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE
THEN, DON'T BE A STRANGER
TELL HER THAT FOR ME

(Both parents are isolated in spots)

ONE MORE ROUND AT THE LOST AND FOUND, THAT'S IF YOU'VE GOT THE DOUGH HAPPY HOUR IS SUDDENLY LAST CALL

PAULA

MY EYES ARE DRY, I SAID GOODBYE SO MANY TEARS AGO

BOTH

THE PAST IS JUST A PHOTO ON THE WALL

FRANK SENIOR

I GUESS TO YOU I SEEM A SCHMUCK WELL, I'LL JUST BIDE MY TIME

PAULA

IN LOVE, ALL'S FAIR

FRANK SENIOR

'CAUSE I BELIEVE THAT LADY LUCK CAN STILL TURN ON A DIME

PAULA

COMME A LA GUERRE

FRANK SENIOR

AND MAYBE ONE WILL ONCE AGAIN BE THREE

PAULA

C'EST C'QUE J'AI TOUJOURS DIT

FRANK SENIOR

DON'T BE A STRANGER
TELL THEM THAT FOR ME

PAULA

DON'T BE A STRANGER TELL HIM THAT FOR ME

BOTH

DON'T BE A STRANGER TELL THEM THAT FOR ME.

HANRATTY

Do you have any idea where your child is?

FRANK SENIOR

He's always in the air. He's a pilot with Pan Am! What a life!

(He lifts an envelope from the bar, toys with it.)

HANRATTY

He's not a pilot anymore, Mister Abagnale. Never was. He's a counterfeiter and con man.

FRANK SENIOR

I knew that. I just wanted to see what you knew.

(looks Hanratty over)

You expect a father to give up his son.

HANRATTY

Yes. I would expect a father to do that. People get shot in my line of work. Real guns. Real bullets. I'd like to bring him in alive.

FRANK SENIOR

Okay. Here's the truth.

(waves the envelope)

Got a letter from him just today. He joined up. He's over in Viet Nam, serving his country.

HANRATTY

Can I see that letter?

FRANK SENIOR

(shakes his head, puts letter away)

No return address. He's in uniform, risking his life for you and me. Not a bad way to leave his troubles behind, I'd say. He got out of the game at just the right time.

HANRATTY

The game?

FRANK SENIOR

You know, the game. Don't let the bastards get the best of you. Look out for yourself, when the banks and the government and the big boys try to rob you blind.

HANRATTY

Is that what you taught your kid?

FRANK SENIOR

A man should go after what he wants in life.

HANRATTY

A man should face up to what he's done.

(Frank Senior throws back his drink and sings. A standoff, and then they turn back to their drinks. The BARTENDER turns to pour them another.)

Mister Abagnale.

FRANK SENIOR

Please - Frank.

HANRATTY

Frank. Your kid needs you now.

FRANK SENIOR

What can I do for him that he can't do better for himself?

HANRATTY

You can tell him to come in. You can tell him it's time to stop. You may be the only one who can.

FRANK SENIOR

Then I think we're all in trouble, Carl. Hell, the kid used to see me as Frank Sinatra, Jesus Christ, and JFK all rolled into one. I couldn't live up to that. I did the best I could. I told him I loved him—every day.

HANRATTY

Maybe you should've told him not to commit grand larceny.

‡14 – Little Boy Be A Man

FRANK SENIOR

Way of the world, Carl. Our fathers screw us up, we turn around and do the same to our kids. It's the eternal cycle.

HANRATTY

Until someone breaks it.

FRANK SENIOR

LITTLE BOY, BE A MAN YEAH, THAT WAS POP'S ONLY PLAN

(Frank Senior slams his glass on the bar; Hanratty switches glasses, giving Frank Senior the full drink.)

HE NEVER KISSED ME OR SANG "BABY MINE" SURE, I'D HAVE LOVED A HUG BUT HEY, I CAME OUT JUST FINE

AND IF I EVER WOULD CRY

HANRATTY

I bet I can guess what happened next...

FRANK SENIOR

HE'D SMACK THE TEAR FROM OUT MY EYE

HANRATTY

Badda-boom

FRANK SENIOR

HE TOLD ME "GROW UP, KID, YOU'RE NO PETER PAN. LITTLE BOY, BE A MAN."

(Frank Senior throws back the second drink, and Hanratty signals for the two more.)

Scene 7 The Plaza Hotel, Manhattan

(In the hotel corridor, Cheryl Ann senses Frank Junior and stops and turns.)

CHERYL ANN

Nice uniform.

FRANK JUNIOR

Um. Do I know you from somewhere?

CHERYL ANN

Maybe. I was on the cover of Seventeen...a few years ago.

FRANK JUNIOR

Oh, wow, yeah—you're that model! Cheryl Ann—something—in the Plaza. Gee, d'you think I could get an autograph?

CHERYL ANN

Do you have a pen...in your room?

FRANK JUNIOR

Um. I think I do.

CHERYL ANN

So. Captain.

FRANK JUNIOR

Oh – call me Frank.

CHERYL ANN

Frank. Are you going to make me an offer?

FRANK JUNIOR

I - I'm sorry - an offer for what?

CHERYL ANN

A man like you can buy anything he wants. What's a night worth? With me?

(She opens her fur coat to reveal to FRANK JR that she's naked underneath)

FRANK JUNIOR

I — gosh, I really don't know, Cheryl. Um. Three hundred?

(She closes her coat)

Five hundred?

(She starts down the hallway.)

A thousand?

' (She stops. Turns.)

CHERYL ANN

One thousand dollars.

FRANK JUNIOR

(he reaches in a pocket and grabs a wad of checks)

I have to cash a check.

CHERYL ANN

You think this hotel is going to cash a thousand dollar check at three a.m.?

FRANK JUNIOR

(rifling through the checks and pulling one out)

They've done it for me before. It's a cashier's check.

CHERYL ANN

(she takes it and inspects it)

Endorse it over to me.

FRANK JUNIOR

It's for fourteen hundred.

CHERYL ANN

You give me the check...

(pulling cash from her bust)

...and I'll give you four hundred dollars.

(She hands him the check and the cash and turns to go)

FRANK JUNIOR

Even better.

(MUSIC. He follows her off.)

#4b - Transition to Firing Range