# GOODBYE, MY CONEY ISLAND BABY / WE ALL FALL Medley

Arrangement by the BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY



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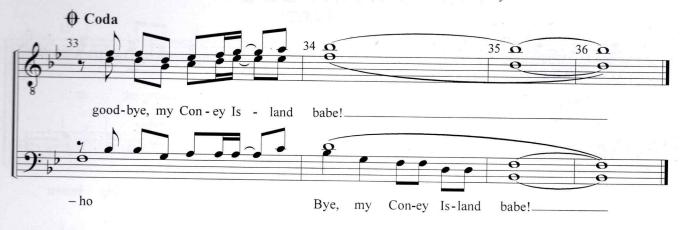
#### Goodbye, My Coney Island Baby / We All Fall Medley



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## Performance Notes

Joe Goodwin (1889-1943) and George Meyer (1884-1959) wrote We All Fall in 1911. Goodwin also wrote Baby Shoes; Gee, But I Hate To Go Home Alone; I'm Knee Deep In Daises; When You're Smiling; and Everywhere You Go. Meyer gave us When You're a Long, Long Way From Home; My Mother's Rosary; Where Did Robinson Crusoe Go with Friday on Saturday Night?; For Me and My Gal; Mandy, Make Up Your Mind; and many others.

Les Applegate is best known noted for writing *Coney Island Baby.* Applegate was a professional entertainer in vaudeville, minstrel shows, burlesque shows, radio and movies. He sang bass in a number of quartets, developing and coaching many others, years before the Barbershop Harmony Society was formed.

A 1945 issue of the Society's official magazine, *The Harmonizer*, contained this letter from Les: "I swell with pride when I come to *Coney Island Baby*. It was not unusual back in tabloid show days to frame a song to fit a certain situation in a play, not originally written by the author. Sometimes a tune was 'framed up' overnight to feature a certain character doing a lead part and tried out the next day in the show.

"Such a situation arose in Muncie [Indiana] in 1924, when we were doing a condensed version of the musical comedy No, No, Nanette. The second act called for the male performers to bid Nanette a mock farewell on the beach and it seemed better theatre for them to sing it rather than speak it. Nanette, being a swell baby—on a beach—and the only beach we knew of being Coney Island, I put them together and the result was Coney Island Baby. When it was rehearsed and revamped a bit it made a very appropriate number. In later years I used the song with numerous quartets at a faster tempo and for comedy effects."

What Applegate doesn't tell us is that We All Fall is another song that had been written by Goodman and Meyer back in 1911. He had "borrowed" it and used it in his medley. We don't know if permission was granted or not for incorporating We All Fall, but this medley has become one of the most popular barbershop arrangements ever.

This medley—one which Applegate may have put together himself—has become one of the most popular barbershop arrangements of all time. The traditional way of interpreting it is to keep a steady tempo the first time through. On the repeat, be sure to slow measures 11-12, holding the last chord in 12. Sing measures 13-14 freestyle, going back to tempo at the bass pickup to measure 15.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any other song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest guidelines. Ask before you sing.