

# I CAN'T DO IT ALONE

Words by FRED EBB  
Music by JOHN KANDER

**Slowly**  
A/E A+/E A6/E A7/E E A A+/E

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth notes and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with quarter notes and half notes. Chord changes are indicated above the staff.

**Freely, rubato**  
A6/E A7 E VELMA: A Esus4 A

My sis - ter and I had an act that could - n't flop. My

The first line of the song features a vocal melody starting with a fermata on the word "VELMA". The piano accompaniment includes triplets and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "My sis - ter and I had an act that could - n't flop. My".

Esus4 B/F# B6/F# F#7sus4

sis - ter and I were head - ed straight for the top. My sis - ter and I earned a thou a week at

The second line continues the vocal melody with triplets. The piano accompaniment features a mix of chords and triplets. The lyrics are: "sis - ter and I were head - ed straight for the top. My sis - ter and I earned a thou a week at".

G#m/F# E7 A E7 A E7 A

least. But my sis - ter is now, un - for - tu - nate - ly, de - ceased. It's

The third line concludes the vocal melody with a fermata and a triplet. The piano accompaniment includes a piano (*p*) dynamic section. The lyrics are: "least. But my sis - ter is now, un - for - tu - nate - ly, de - ceased. It's".

F#m B7 E C#m7b5 F#9

sad, of course, but a fact is still a fact. And now all that re-mains is the re-mains of a

Bm B Ab

per - fect dou - ble act. *(Spoken:) Watch this! Now, you have to imagine it with two people.*

Moderately bright 4 (♩ =  $\overset{3}{\text{J}}$ )

Bb6 Gb7 F7 Bb6

*mf*

Gb7 F7 Bb6

First I'd... *(Choreography)*

Gb7

Then she'd...

The first system of music shows a vocal line starting with a whole rest, followed by a half note Gb and a half note Eb. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand, including a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure.

Bb6

Bb/A

Then we'd...

The second system features a vocal line with a whole rest followed by a half note Bb and a half note Ab. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note bass line and chords, including a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure.

Bb/Ab

G7

C9

Gb7

F7

But I can't do it a - lone. —

The third system features a vocal line with a whole rest followed by a half note Bb, a half note Ab, a quarter note G, and a half note F. The piano accompaniment includes a steady eighth-note bass line and chords, with a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure.

Bb6

Then she'd...

The fourth system features a vocal line with a whole rest followed by a half note Bb and a half note Ab. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note bass line and chords, including a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure.

Gb7

Then I'd...

This system contains the first two measures of music. The vocal line starts with a whole note G4 and a half note Bb4. The piano accompaniment features a bass line with a dotted quarter note Gb3 and a half note Bb3, followed by a treble line with a quarter rest, a quarter note Gb4, and a triplet of eighth notes (Ab4, Bb4, C5).

Bb6

Then we'd...

Bb/Ab Gm7 G+/D G7

This system contains the next two measures. The vocal line has a whole note Gb4 and a half note Bb4. The piano accompaniment continues with a bass line of a dotted quarter Gb3 and a half Bb3, and a treble line with a quarter rest, a quarter Gb4, and a triplet of eighth notes (Ab4, Bb4, C5).

C9 F7 Bb6 Eb6 Ebm

But I can't do it a - lone. — She'd say, "What's your sis - ter like?"

This system contains the next two measures. The vocal line has a quarter note Gb4, a quarter note Ab4, a quarter note Bb4, and a half note C5. The piano accompaniment features a bass line with a dotted quarter Gb3 and a half Bb3, and a treble line with a quarter rest, a quarter Gb4, and a triplet of eighth notes (Ab4, Bb4, C5).

Bb Gm7 C7

I'd say, "Men." (Yuk, yuk, yuk.) She'd say, "You're the cat's - me - ow."

This system contains the final two measures. The vocal line has a quarter note Gb4, a quarter note Ab4, a quarter note Bb4, and a half note C5. The piano accompaniment features a bass line with a dotted quarter Gb3 and a half Bb3, and a treble line with a quarter rest, a quarter Gb4, and a triplet of eighth notes (Ab4, Bb4, C5).

F7 Cm7/F F6 F7 Bb6 Bb

Then we'd wow the crowd a - gain\_ when she'd go...

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The vocal line starts with a quarter note 'Then', followed by a quarter note 'we'd', a quarter note 'wow', a quarter note 'the', a quarter note 'crowd', a quarter note 'a - gain\_', a quarter note 'when', a quarter note 'she'd', and a quarter note 'go...'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. Chord symbols F7, Cm7/F, F6, F7, Bb6, and Bb are placed above the staff.

Gb7 Gb

I'd go...

Detailed description: This system contains the next two measures. The vocal line has a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note 'I'd', and a quarter note 'go...'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same bass line and chord accompaniment. Chord symbols Gb7 and Gb are placed above the staff.

Bb6

We'd go...

Detailed description: This system contains the next two measures. The vocal line has a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note 'We'd', and a quarter note 'go...'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same bass line and chord accompaniment. Chord symbol Bb6 is placed above the staff.

And then those

Detailed description: This system contains the final two measures. The vocal line has a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note 'And', a quarter note 'then', and a quarter note 'those'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same bass line and chord accompaniment.

C9 F7 Bb

two - bit John - nies did it up brown - to cheer the best at -

Detailed description: This system contains the first three measures of the piece. The vocal line is in a B-flat major key signature. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. Chord symbols C9, F7, and Bb are placed above the staff.

G7 C9 C#dim7

trac - tion in town. — They near - ly tore the bal - co - ny down. —

Detailed description: This system contains the next three measures. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. Chord symbols G7, C9, and C#dim7 are placed above the staff.

F7 Repeat as needed

(Spoken:) And we'd say, "O.K. boys, we're goin' home, but before we go, here's a few more parting shots." And this we did in perfect unison.

Detailed description: This system is primarily a spoken section. The vocal line is empty. The piano accompaniment consists of a series of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present. The section ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. Chord symbols F7 and the instruction "Repeat as needed" are included.

N.C. Bb Bb/A Bb/Ab Eb7/G (F) Bb Bb/A

(percussion) mf

Detailed description: This system contains the final four measures of the piece. The piano accompaniment features a more active bass line. Chord symbols N.C., Bb, Bb/A, Bb/Ab, Eb7/G (F), Bb, and Bb/A are placed above the staff. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present.

Bb/Ab Eb7/G (F) Bb Bb/A Gm Bb/F Edim7 Cm9

Now you seen me go - in'

F7 Dm7 G7 Cm9

through it. You may think there's noth - in' to it. But I sim - ply can - not

F7 Bb6 Bb6/A

do it a - lone.

Bb6/Ab F7+ Bb