

The Masochism Tango

Words and Music by Tom Lehrer

Painstakingly

The first system of musical notation is for a piano accompaniment. It features a treble and bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter and eighth notes, while the bass clef provides a steady accompaniment of quarter notes.

The second system continues the piano accompaniment from the first system. It maintains the same 4/4 time signature and B-flat key signature. The melody in the treble clef continues with quarter and eighth notes, and the bass clef accompaniment remains consistent.

The third system introduces the vocal refrain. The top staff shows the vocal line with lyrics: "I ache for the touch of your lips, dear, But much more for the touch of your". Above the notes are the chord symbols *Dm*, *Gm*, and *C7*. The piano accompaniment below is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) and features a steady bass line with chords in the treble clef.

The fourth system continues the vocal refrain. The top staff shows the vocal line with lyrics: "whips, dear. You can raise welts like no - bo - dy else, As we". Above the notes are the chord symbols *F*, *A7*, and *Dm*. The piano accompaniment below continues with the same *mf* dynamic, featuring triplets in the treble clef and a steady bass line.

A7 Dm tacet

dance to the Mas-o-chis-m Tan-go. Let our (Your)

The first system of music features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a half note 'dance' under an A7 chord, followed by a quarter note 'to' and a half note 'the Mas-o-chis-m' under a Dm chord. The piano accompaniment consists of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand. The system ends with a 'tacet' instruction over a half note.

♩ Dm Gm C7

love be a flame, not an em-ber, Say it's me that you want to dis-
eyes cast a spell that be-witch-es, The last time I need-ed twen-ty

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter note 'love' under a Dm chord, followed by a quarter note 'be a flame, not an em-ber,' under a Gm chord, and a quarter note 'Say it's me that you want to dis-' under a C7 chord. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth and quarter notes.

F A7 3 Dm 3 Gm

mem-ber, Black-en my eye, set fire to my tie, As we
stitch-es, To sew up the gash you made with your lash, As we

The third system features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter note 'mem-ber,' under an F chord, followed by a quarter note 'stitch-es,' under an A7 chord with a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment includes triplet markings over the eighth notes in the right hand.

A7 Dm tacet Gm C7

dance to the Mas-o-chism Tan-go. At your com-mand be-fore you here I
danced to the Mas-o-chism Tan-go. Bash in my brain, and make me scream with

The fourth system concludes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter note 'dance to the Mas-o-chism' under an A7 chord, followed by a quarter note 'danced to the Mas-o-chism' under a Dm chord, a quarter note 'Tan-go.' under a 'tacet' instruction, and a quarter note 'At your com-mand be-fore you here I' under a Gm chord. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth and quarter notes.

F Dm Gm C# dim

stand, pain, My heart is in my hand, (Spoken) Ecch! (Sung) It's here that I must
 Then kick me once a - gain, And say we'll nev - er

poco rit. a tempo

D D7 Gm C7 F Dm

be. My heart en-treats, Just hear those sav-age beats, And go put on your
 part. I know too well I'm un-der-neath your spell, So, dar-ling, if you

Gm C7 F A7 Dm

cleats and come and tram-ple me. Your heart's hard as stone or ma-
 smell some-thing burn-ing, it's my heart. Excuse me! Take your cig-a-rette from its
 (Spoken) (Sung)

Gm C7 F

hog - an-y, That's why I'm in such ex - qui - site ag - on - y. My
 hold - er, And burn your i - ni - tials in my shoul - der.

A7 3 Dm 3 Gm

soul is on fire, It's a - flame with de - sire. Which is
 Frac - ture my spine, And swear that you're mine, As we

1 A7 Dm tacet To Interlude

why I per - spire when we tan - go. You caught my

a tempo

2 A7 Dm Fine

dance to the Mas-o - - chis - m Tan-go.

a tempo poco a poco cresc. ff

INTERLUDE (somewhat slower)

Bb Bb7 Eb

nose in your left cas - ta - net, love, I can feel the pain
 (Alternate:) I can nev - er for -

a tempo poco rit. a tempo

A7 Dm

yet, love, Ev-'ry time I hear drums.
 get, love, How this pas - sion was born.

tacet Bb Bb7

And I en - vy the rose That you held in your
 How I en - vied the rose That your teeth used to

mf poco rit.

Eb A7

teeth, love, With the thorns un - der - neath, love,
 clench, love, When I tried some - thing French, love,

a tempo

Somewhat faster (as before) D.S. al Fine

Stick - ing in - to your gums. Your
 All I got was a thorn.