

House of the Rising Sun

Moderately

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The right hand (RH) staff is in treble clef, and the left hand staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The right hand starts with a *mf* dynamic, followed by a *p* dynamic, and then returns to *mf*. The left hand has a *p* dynamic. Pedal markings include a half bar line with a triangle and the text "Ped." and a full bar line with a triangle and the text "Ped. simile".

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The right hand staff is in treble clef, and the left hand staff is in bass clef. The right hand starts with a *p* dynamic and ends with a *mf* dynamic. The left hand has a *p* dynamic. There are various musical markings including slurs, ties, and a fermata over a chord in the right hand.

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves. The right hand staff is in treble clef, and the left hand staff is in bass clef. The right hand starts with a *poco rit.* marking, followed by a *a tempo* marking, then an *Expressively* marking, and finally a *simile* marking. The right hand has a *mp* dynamic. The left hand has a *p* dynamic. There are various musical markings including slurs, ties, and a fermata over a chord in the right hand.

The fourth system of musical notation consists of two staves. The right hand staff is in treble clef, and the left hand staff is in bass clef. The right hand has a *mf* dynamic. The left hand has a *p* dynamic. There are various musical markings including slurs, ties, and a fermata over a chord in the right hand.

First system of a musical score. The right hand (RH) plays a melodic line with slurs and ties, marked *rit.* and *a tempo*. The left hand (LH) provides a harmonic accompaniment. The dynamic marking *mp* is present.

Second system of a musical score. The right hand (RH) features a triplet of eighth notes, marked *Decisively*. The left hand (LH) continues the accompaniment. The dynamic marking *mp* is present.

Third system of a musical score. The right hand (RH) has a triplet of eighth notes, marked *rit.* and *Slowly*. The left hand (LH) has a triplet of eighth notes, marked *ff*. The system ends with a double bar line and the words *LH* and *RH* indicating the end of the line.

Fourth system of a musical score. The right hand (RH) has a melodic line with slurs and ties, marked *rit.*. The left hand (LH) has a melodic line with slurs and ties, marked *p*. The system ends with a double bar line and the words *LH* and *RH* indicating the end of the line.

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Dm F G Bb Dm F A7

N.C. Dm F G Bb Dm A7 Dm

The traditional folk song “The House of the Rising Sun” is sometimes called “Rising Sun Blues.” It tells of a person’s life gone wrong in the city of New Orleans. It was first collected in Appalachia in the 1930’s but probably has its roots in traditional English folk song. A successful commercial version of the song was recorded in 1964 by a British rock group The Animals. It has been described as the “first folk rock hit” – a traditional folk song recorded by an electric rock band.

This arrangement focuses on varying dynamics in the righthand melodic expression combined with left hand mostly alternating root note and broken chord accompaniment. The first simple statement of the melody is in the middle range. The second statement is a variation of the melody with softer dynamics in a higher octave using eighth notes. The third statement is a variation of the melody with stronger dynamics combined with chords beginning in the middle range. It is followed by alternating higher and lower range block chords in a slower tempo to emphasize the harmonic progression. The last phrase of the song is varied softly in this tempo for an ending.

Lyrics, Verse 1 (from *The Folk Songs of North America* by Alan Lomax)

There is a house in New Orleans,
They call the Rising Sun,
It’s been the ruin of many poor girls,
And me, O Lord, for one.