

## The Weary Blues

Langston Hughes, 1902 - 1967

Droning a drowsy syncopated tune,  
Rocking back and forth to a mellow croon,  
    I heard a Negro play.  
Down on Lenox Avenue the other night  
By the pale dull pallor of an old gas light  
    He did a lazy sway . . .  
    He did a lazy sway . . .  
To the tune o' those Weary Blues.  
With his ebony hands on each ivory key  
He made that poor piano moan with melody.  
    O Blues!  
Swaying to and fro on his rickety stool  
He played that sad raggy tune like a musical fool.  
    Sweet Blues!  
Coming from a black man's soul.  
    O Blues!  
In a deep song voice with a melancholy tone  
I heard that Negro sing, that old piano moan—  
    "Ain't got nobody in all this world,  
    Ain't got nobody but ma self.  
    I's gwine to quit ma frownin'  
    And put ma troubles on the shelf."  
  
Thump, thump, thump, went his foot on the floor.  
He played a few chords then he sang some more—  
    "I got the Weary Blues  
    And I can't be satisfied.  
    Got the Weary Blues  
    And can't be satisfied—  
    I ain't happy no mo'  
    And I wish that I had died."  
And far into the night he crooned that tune.  
The stars went out and so did the moon.  
The singer stopped playing and went to bed  
While the Weary Blues echoed through his head.  
He slept like a rock or a man that's dead.