

# Back To Before

(Mother, Ensemble Women)

Cue:  
FATHER: "Everything will be fine, Mother."  
(FATHER exits.)

*In "I"*

*mp*

*Ubiq*

8A 9

V.S.

(Simply, conversationally)

MOTHER:

There was a time our hap - pi - ness seemed ne - ver - en - ding.

*Solo harp:*

*p a capella*

I was so sure that where we were heading was right.

Life was a road so cer - tain and straight and un - ben - ding.

Our lit - tle road with ne - ver a cross-road in sight.

*Harp* *Orchestration* *(Orch in:)*

Back in the days when we spoke in ci - vi - lized voic - es,

35

wo - men in white and stur - dy young men at the oar.

41

Back in the days when I let you make all my choic - es...

47

*poco rit.*

We can ne - ver go back to be -

53

*(roll down)*

*(A Tempo)*

*poco rit.*

*A Tempo*

fore. *W. A. Mozart*

57

There was a time my feet were so so - lid - ly plant - ed.

63

You'd sail a - way while I turned my back to the sea.

69

I was con - tent, a prin - cess a - sleep and en - chant - ed.

75

If I had dreams, then I let you dream them for me.

81

Back in the days when ev - ry - thing seemed so much clear - er.

87

Wo - men in white who knew what their lives held in store.

93

Where are they now, those wo - men who stared from the mir -

99

-5-

ror? We can ne - ver go back to be -

*poco rit.*

104

*A Tempo poco piu mosso*

fore.

*poco piu mosso*

109

**MOTHER:**

**ENSEMBLE WOMEN: (Offstage:)**

There are

*p*  
(Ah)

113

peo - ple out there un - a - fraid of re -

(Ah)

117

veal - ing that they might have a

(Ah)

121

feel - ing, or they might have been

div.

(Ah)

125

wrong. There are

129

peo - ple out there un - a - fraid to feel

(Ah)

133

sor - row, un - a - fraid of to -

div.

(Ah)

137



141

mor - row, un - a - fraid to be

(Ah) (Ah)

*poco a poco cresc.*

145

weak... un - a - fraid to be

(Ah)

*poco a poco cresc.*

*subp*

149

strong.

*poco rall.* *rall.*

*div.* *rall.*

(Ah) (Ah)

*cresc.* *rall.*

*A Tempo*

There was a time when you were the per-son in mo-tion.

(Ah)

153

- I was your wife. It nev-er oc-curred to want more.

159

*A Little Slower*

*colla voce*

*poco rit.*

*mp* You were my sky, my moon and my stars and my o-cean.

*mp* *poco rit.*

165

*A Tempo*  
(Slightly Faster than Tempo Primo)

(roll down) *f* We can ne - ver go back to be -

fore

*poco rit.* We can nev - er go back to

*poco rit.* (*colla voce*)

184

be fore.

*gliss.*

*(Tempo)*

*poco rall.*

185 186 187 188

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 184 to 188. The vocal line consists of five dotted quarter notes with the lyrics "be fore." The piano accompaniment features a complex texture with many sixteenth notes and chords. A glissando is indicated in the right hand at the start of measure 185. A tempo change to "(Tempo)" is marked at the beginning of measure 185, and "poco rall." is marked at the start of measure 187. The system ends with a double bar line.

189

*sfz*

190 191 192 193

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 189 to 193. The vocal line has four dotted quarter notes. The piano accompaniment continues with dense sixteenth-note patterns. A fortissimo (*sfz*) dynamic marking is present in measure 192. The system concludes with a double bar line.