

# Straighten Up And Fly Right

## Take 6

From the album *The Standard*  
Transcribed by Svante Strandberg for

***So What!?***



**"Straighten Up and Fly Right"** is a 1943 song written by Nat King Cole and Irving Mills and performed by The King Cole Trio. The single was the trio's most popular single reaching number one on the Harlem Hit Parade for ten non consecutive weeks. The single also peaked at number nine on the pop charts. "Straighten Up and Fly Right" also reached number one for six non consecutive weeks on the Most Played Jukebox Hillbilly Records.

The song was based on a black folk tale that Cole's father had used as a theme for one of his sermons. A buzzard takes different animals for a joy ride. When he gets hungry, he throws them off on a dive and eats them for dinner. A monkey who had observed this trick goes for a ride; he wraps his tail around the buzzard's neck and gives the buzzard a big surprise by nearly choking him to death.

#### **ORIGINAL LYRICS:**

A buzzard took a monkey for a ride in the air  
Monkey thought that everything was on the square  
The buzzard tried to throw the monkey off his back  
But the monkey grabbed his neck and said "Now listen, jack"

Straighten up and fly right  
Straighten up and stay right  
Straighten up and fly right  
Cool down papa, don't you blow your top  
Ain't no use in divin'  
What's the use of jivin'  
Straighten up and fly right  
Cool down papa, don't you blow your top.

The buzzard told the monkey "You are chokin' me  
"Release your hold, and I will set you free"  
The monkey looked the buzzard right dead in the eye  
And said "Your story's so touching but it sounds like a lie"

Straighten up and fly right  
Straighten up and stay right  
Straighten up and fly right  
Cool down papa don't you blow your top

Straighten up and fly right  
Straighten up and stay right  
Straighten up and fly right  
Cool down papa don't you blow your top

Ain't no use in divin'  
What's the use of jivin'  
You better, straighten up and fly right  
Cool down papa don't you blow your top

Fly right

# Straighten Up And Fly Right

by Take 6

Nat King Cole  
Transcription by Svante Strandberg

♩ = 142

Susan

Anna

Ann

Hasse

Svante

Stefan

Yeah, I wish You would

You should dm dm dm fly right You should dm dm dm fly right You should dm dm

6

SB

AW

AP

HS

SS

SW

Fly, \_\_\_\_\_ You straigh-ten up

Fly, \_\_\_\_\_ You straigh-ten up

Fly, \_\_\_\_\_ You straigh-ten up

Straigh-ten up You bet-ter fly \_\_\_\_\_ an' straigh-ten up, Straigh-ten up You bet-ter

fly \_\_\_\_\_ right Yeah, I wish You would fly \_\_\_\_\_ righ Yeah, I wish You would

dm fly right You should dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm You should dm dm

# Straighten Up And Fly Right

2  
10

SB  
an' stay right, Fly, You straighten up an' stay right,

AW  
an' stay right, Fly, You straighten up an' stay right,

AP  
an' stay right, Fly, You straighten up an' stay right,

HS  
8 fly an' straighten up, Straighten up You better fly an' straighten up,

SS  
fly right Yeah, I wish You would fly right

SW  
dm fly right You should dm dm dm fly right

13

SB  
da - rah da - rah da - rah - rah da - rah - rah da - rah da - rah Stayright!

AW  
da - rah da - rah da - rah - rah da - rah - rah da - rah da - rah Stay right!

AP  
da - rah da - rah da - rah - rah da - rah - rah da - rah da - rah Stay right!

HS  
8 da - rah da - rah da - rah - rah da - rah - rah da - rah da - rah Stay right!

SS  
A

SW  
da - rah da - rah ba - du du dut du du dut du dut du - duh du-duh ba-du-bu-du Stay right!

# Straighten Up And Fly Right

17

SB  
du duh - du dut duh -

AW  
du duh - du dut duh -

AP  
du duh - du dut duh -

HS  
du duh - du dut duh -

SS  
buz-zard took a mon-key for a ride in the air, The mon-key thought that eve-ry thing was on square, The

SW  
du duh - du du-bu - dum dum ba-dum dum

21

SB  
duh du duh - du dah - ra-dah

AW  
duh du duh - du dah - ra-dah

AP  
duh du duh - du dah - ra-dah

HS  
duh du duh - du dah - ra-dah

SS  
buz-zard tried to throw the mon-key of his back, But the monkey grabbed his neck and said "Now \_\_\_ lis-ten, Jack":

SW  
duh dee-de-la - dum duh - dum ba-dum dum dum

# Straighten Up And Fly Right

SB  
— fly — right duh stay — right dut du-duh

AW  
— fly — right duh stay — right duh - duh

AP  
— fly — right duh stay — right dut du-duh

HS  
8 — ba - dum ba dum ba du ba-du ba dum ba dum ba dum ba-dut du-duh

SS  
Straigh-ten up an' fly — right, Straigh-ten up an' stay — right,

SW  
dum ba - du ba - du ba - du - ba-du - ba - dum ba - dum ba - dum ba - dut dut

SB  
an' fly — right oh, Cool — down, *n.b.* pa-pa don't You blow, *b.b.* blow Your

AW  
an' fly — right oh, Cool — down, *n.b.* pa-pa don't You blow, *b.b.* blow Your

AP  
an' fly — right oh, Cool — down, *n.b.* pa-pa don't You blow, *b.b.* blow Your

HS  
8 an' fly — right oh, Cool — down, *n.b.* pa-pa don't You blow, *b.b.* blow Your

SS  
Straigh-ten up an' fly — right, *n.b.* Cool — down, *b.b.* pa-pa don't You blow Your top.

SW  
dum ba - dum fly — right, ba-dum dum dum dum dum dum blow Your

Straighten Up And Fly Right

33

SB  
top, di - vin' no di-vin' ji - vin' dut du-duh

AW  
top, di - vin' no di-vin' ji - vin' duh - duh

AP  
top, di - vin' no di-vin' ji - vin' dut du-duh

HS  
top, du ba - dum ba - dum ba - du-ba - du-ba - dum ba - dum ba - dum ba - dut du-duh

SS  
Aint no use in di - vin', What's the use in ji - vin'?

SW  
top, ba - dum ba - dum ba - du-ba - du-ba - dum ba - dum ba - dum ba - dum dum

37

SB  
an' fly right, oh, Cool down, pa-pa don't You blow ah

AW  
an' fly right, oh, Cool down, pa-pa don't You blow ah

AP  
an fly right, oh, Cool down, pa-pa don't You blow ah

HS  
an fly right, oh, Cool down, pa-pa don't You blow ah

SS  
Now, straighten up an' fly right, Cool down pa-pa, don't You blow Your top. The

SW  
dum ba - dum ba - dum ba - dum dum dum dum dum dum ah

# Straighten Up And Fly Right

SB  
oh uh cho - kin' me uh I set You

AW  
oh uh cho - kin' me uh I set You

AP  
oh uh cho - kin' me uh I set You

HS  
oh uh cho - kin' me uh I set You

SS  
buz-zard told the mon-key, "You're cho-kin' me, Re - lease Your hold an' I set You free", The

SW  
dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum

SB  
free uh a - uh

AW  
free uh a - uh

AP  
free uh a - uh

HS  
free uh a - uh

SS  
mon-key looked the buz-zard right dead in the eye, He said, "Your sto-ry's touch-in' but it sounds just like a lie",

SW  
dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum



# Straighten Up And Fly Right

49

SB  
ho oh fly right uh oh stay right

AW  
ho oh fly right uh oh stay right

AP  
ho oh fly right uh oh stay right

HS  
8 ho oh fly right uh oh stay right

SS  
Straigh-ten up an' fly right, Straigh - ten up an' stay right,

SW  
dum ba-dum ba - dum ba-dum du-du - dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum

53

SB  
oh fly right uh pa-pa don't You blow Your

AW  
oh fly right uh pa-pa don't You blow Your

AP  
oh fly right uh pa-pa don't You blow Your

HS  
8 oh fly right uh pa-pa don't You blow Your

SS  
Straigh-ten up an' fly right, Cool down pa-pa, don't You blow Your top.

SW  
dum dum dum dum dum dum du-be-di dum dum dum pa - pa don't You blow ba

# Straighten Up And Fly Right

SB  
top duh - du dut duh - duh

AW  
top duh - du dut duh - duh

AP  
top du du duh - du dut duh - duh

HS  
top du du duh - du dut duh - duh

SS  
dum ba-deeahdahm - bee-ah bow ba pa pa-deeah-da-dm-bee-ah-du-dah bee - ba-badeeah-da - dm-

SW  
dum dum dum — dum dum ba-dum dumba-dum ba-dum ba - dum dum du-bi

SB  
du dai du-ba-du-duh - ba-du - duh - ba - du - dap pwth

AW  
du dai du-ba-du-duh - ba-du - duh - ba - du - dap pwth

AP  
du dai du-ba-du-duh - ba-du - duh - ba - du - dap pwth

HS  
du dai *n.b.* straigh-ten up straigh-ten up straigh-ten up straigh-ten up straigh-ten up

SS  
dit-dn-du-dee — du-ba-du-duh - ba-du - duh - ba - du - dap pwth

SW  
dum du-dum duhm ba - dum dum dum

# Straighten Up And Fly Right

65

SB  
pwth \_\_\_\_\_ pwth dit dit dee-bee-dee-bee \_\_\_\_\_

AW  
pwth \_\_\_\_\_ pwth pwth \_\_\_\_\_ pwth

AP  
pwth \_\_\_\_\_ pwth pwth \_\_\_\_\_ pwth

HS  
8 quick dit dit dee-bee-dee-bee \_\_\_\_\_ pwth \_\_\_\_\_ pwth

SS  
pwth \_\_\_\_\_ pwth pwth \_\_\_\_\_ pwth

SW  
dum dum dum dum du - be - di dum ba-dum dum dum du-be-di dum dum dum ba-dum

69

SB  
pwth pwth pwth pwth pa - pa don't You blow Your top,

AW  
dee-bee-dee dee-ba-dee-ba dee-ba-dee-ba-dee-bah ba ba ba pa - pa don't You blow Your top,

AP  
pwth pwth pwth pwth pa - pa don't You blow Your top,

HS  
8 pwth pwth pwth pwth pa - pa don't You blow Your top,

SS  
pwth pwth pwth pwth The

SW  
dum-be - di dum ba-dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum ba-dum

# Straighten Up And Fly Right

SB  
uh u whuu bap uh

AW  
uh u whuu bap uh

AP  
uh u ba-du whuu bap uh

HS  
uh u ba-du whuu bap uh

SS  
mon-key told the buz-zard Your cho-kin' me, re - lease Your hold and I will set You free, the

SW  
dum dum dum bu-dum dum dum dum bu-dum dum dum durha-dum dum dum dum bu-dum

77

SB  
well uh bap bap bap strai-

AW  
well uh bap bap bap strai-

AP  
well uh ah - uh strai-

HS  
well uh ah - uh strai-

SS  
mon-key looked the buz-zard right dead in the eye and said, Your sto-ry's touch-in' but it sounds like a lie, strai-

SW  
dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum bam dum dum dum dum ba-dum bu-dum

# Straighen Up And Fly Right

81

SB  
- t'n up pa - pa well — straigh - t'nup pa-pa won't You please stay right, cool

AW  
- t'n up pa - pa well — straigh - t'nup pa-pa won't You please stay right, cool

AP  
- t'n up pa - pa well — straigh - t'nup pa-pa won't You please stay right, cool

HS  
8  
- t'n up pa - pa well — straigh - t'nup pa-pa won't You please stay right, cool

SS  
- t'n up pa - pa well — straigh - t'nup pa-pa won't You please stay right cool

SW  
dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum

85

SB  
*l.b.* *b.b.*  
—down dad-dy don't You blow Your top — fly — right pa-pa oh oh Straigh-

AW  
*l.b.* *b.b.*  
—down dad-dy don't You blow Your top — fly — right pa-pa uh — oh Straigh-

AP  
*l.b.* *b.b.*  
—down dad-dy don't You blow Your top — fly — right pa-pa uh — oh Straigh-

HS  
8  
*l.b.* *b.b.*  
—down dad-dy don't You blow Your top — fly — right pa-pa uh — oh deu

SS  
*l.b.* *b.b.*  
—down dad-dy don't You blow Your top — fly — right pa-pa ba - duh — oh Straigh-

SW  
dum dum dum dum bu - dum-bu-dum dum dum dum dum dum dum ba - duh — oh

## Straighten Up And Fly Right

89

SB  
- t'n up pa - pa well — straigh - t'n up pa - pa won't You please stay right cool

AW  
- t'n up pa - pa well — straigh - t'n up pa - pa won't You please stay right cool

AP  
- t'n up pa - pa well — straigh - t'n up pa - pa won't You please stay right cool

HS  
8  
— deut deu deu — deut deu deu-due deut deu deu-deu-deu-bei - deu - deu-deu deu-beu-deu-beu

SS  
- t'n up pa - pa well — straigh - t'n up pa - pa won't You please stay right cool

SW  
dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum

*l.b.* *b.b.* *l.b.* *b.b.* *l.b.* *b.b.*

93

SB  
— down dad-dy don't You blow Your top, fly — right pa-pa oh oh

AW  
— down dad-dy don't You blow Your top — fly — right pa-pa oh —

AP  
— down dad-dy don't You blow Your top — fly — right pa-pa uh —

HS  
8  
dee-duh du-re-lee - deut dee-dah fly — right pa-pa da-lee-da-dee-da-dee

SS  
— down dad-dy don't You blow Your top — fly — right pa-pa ba - duh

SW  
dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum ba - duh

*l.b.* *b.b.* *l.b.* *b.b.* *l.b.* *b.b.*

Straighten Up And Fly Right

97

SB  
uh \_\_\_\_\_ whuo hoo

AW  
uh \_\_\_\_\_ whuo hoo

AP  
uh \_\_\_\_\_ whuo hoo

HS  
uh \_\_\_\_\_ whuo hoo

SS  
Straigh - ten up an' fly \_\_\_\_\_ right,      straigh - ten up and fly \_\_\_\_\_ right,

SW  
uh \_\_\_\_\_ dum dum dum dum

101

SB  
uh whuu \_\_\_\_\_ uh \_\_\_\_\_ whuu \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_ hoo \_\_\_\_\_ blow \_\_\_\_\_ blow Your top

AW  
uh whuu \_\_\_\_\_ uh \_\_\_\_\_ whuu \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_ hoo \_\_\_\_\_ blow \_\_\_\_\_ blow Your top

AP  
uh whuu \_\_\_\_\_ uh \_\_\_\_\_ whuu \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_ hoo \_\_\_\_\_ blow \_\_\_\_\_ blow Your top

HS  
uh whuu \_\_\_\_\_ uh \_\_\_\_\_ whuu \_\_\_\_\_ oh \_\_\_\_\_ hoo \_\_\_\_\_ blow \_\_\_\_\_ blow Your top

SS  
straigh-ten up an' fly \_\_\_\_\_ right,      cool \_\_\_\_\_ down pa-pa don't You blow Your top,

SW  
dum dum dum dum dum dum dum bu-dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum blow Your top

# Straighten Up And Fly Right

SB  
di - vin' no di - vin' ji - vin' dut du - duh

AW  
di - vin' no di - vin' ji - vin' duh - duh

AP  
di - vin' no di - vin' ji - vin' dut du - duh

HS  
8 du ba - duh ba - duh ba - du - ba - du - ba - duh ba - duh ba - duh ba - dut du - duh

SS  
Ain't no use in di - vin', what's the use in ji - vin',

SW  
du ba - duh ba - duh ba - du - ba - du - ba - duh ba - duh ba - duh ba - duh du - ba -

109

SB  
— an' fly — right oh, cool — down pa-pa don't You blow

AW  
— an' fly — right oh, cool — down pa-pa don't You blow

AP  
— an' fly — right oh, cool — down pa-pa don't You blow

HS  
8 — an' fly — right oh, cool — down pa-pa don't You blow

SS  
now straigh-ten up an' fly — right, cool — down pa-pa don't You blow Your top,

SW  
duh ba - duh ba - duh dum — ba - dum cool down dum dum pa-pa don't You blow



Straighten Up And Fly Right

113 *b.b.*

SB  
don't You blow \_\_\_\_\_ top. \_\_\_\_\_

AW  
*b.b.*  
don't You blow \_\_\_\_\_ top. \_\_\_\_\_

AP  
*b.b.*  
don't You blow \_\_\_\_\_ top. \_\_\_\_\_

HS  
*b.b.*  
8  
don't You blow \_\_\_\_\_ top. \_\_\_\_\_

SS  
top. \_\_\_\_\_

SW  
*b.b.*  
don't You pa - pa don't You blow Your top. \_\_\_\_\_