

# Sweet Georgia Brown

## Take 6

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

***So What!?***



"**Sweet Georgia Brown**" is a jazz standard and pop tune written in 1925 by Ben Bernie and Maceo Pinkard (music) and Kenneth Casey (lyrics).

Reportedly Ben Bernie came up with the concept for the song's lyrics - although he is not the accredited lyricist - after meeting Dr. George Thaddeus Brown in New York City: Dr. Brown, a longtime member of the State House of Representatives for Georgia, told Bernie about Dr. Brown's daughter Georgia Brown and how subsequent to the baby girl's birth on August 11, 1911 the Georgia General Assembly had issued a declaration that she was to be named Georgia after the state, an anecdote which would be directly referenced by the song's lyric: "Georgia claimed her - Georgia named her."

The tune was first recorded on March 19, 1925 by bandleader Ben Bernie, resulting in a five-week No. 1 for Ben Bernie and his Hotel Roosevelt Orchestra.

The Brother Bones recording is widely known as the theme song of the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team.

#### ORIGINAL LYRICS:

##### **Verse 1:**

She just got here yesterday, Things are hot here now they say,  
There's a new gal in town.  
Gals are jealous, there's no doubt. All the guys just rave about  
Sweet, Sweet Georgia Brown.  
And ever since she came, the colored [or common] folks all claim, say;

##### **Chorus 1:**

No gal made has got a shade on Sweet Georgia Brown.  
Two left feet, but oh, so neat has Sweet Georgia Brown.  
They all sigh and wanna die for Sweet Georgia Brown,  
I'll tell you just why, you know I don't lie (not much!).  
It's been said she knocks 'em dead when she lands in town.  
Since she came why it's a shame how she's cooled 'em down.  
Fellas that she can't get Must be fellas that she ain't met.  
Georgia claimed her, Georgia named her, Sweet Georgia Brown.

##### **Verse 2:**

All you gals will get the blues, all you pals will surely lose.  
And, there's but one excuse.  
Now I've told you who she was, and I've told you what she does,  
Still, give this gal her dues.  
This colored [or pretty] maiden's prayer is answered anywhere;

##### **Chorus 2:**

No gal made has got a shade on Sweet Georgia Brown.  
Two left feet, but oh, so neat has Sweet Georgia Brown.  
They all sigh and wanna die for Sweet Georgia Brown,  
I'll tell you just why, you know I don't lie (not much!).  
All those tips the porter slips to Sweet Georgia Brown  
They buy clothes at fashion shows for one dollar down.  
Fellas, won'tcha tip your hats. Oh boy, ain't she the cats?  
Who's that mister, tain't her sister, It's Sweet Georgia Brown.

# Sweet Georgia Brown

according to Take 6

Ben Bernie / Kenneth Casey / Maceo Pinkard  
Transcribed by Svante Strandberg

♩ = 156

Susan  
ba - du - ba - da - b'n du da du da du da du dah — du da dah dah

Anna  
dah dah

Ann  
ba - du - ba - da - b'n du da du da du da du dah — du da dah dah

Hasse  
ba - du - ba - da - b'n du da du da du da du dah — du da dah dah

Svante  
ba - du - ba - da - b'n du da du da du da du dah — du da dah dah

Stefan  
du da du da du da ba - du da du du du du - du

5

SB  
— da dah — du du — du du — du du —

AW  
— huuit ... .. simile —

AP  
— da dah — du du — du du — du du —

HS  
— da dah — du du — du du — du du —

SS  
— da dah — du du — du du — du du —

SW  
— da da ba - du du — ba - du du — du du — ba - dum

## Sweet Georgia Brown

9

SB  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

AW

AP  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

HS  
8  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

SS  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

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

13

SB  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

AW

AP  
du dah — du du — du-da-ba-du — du du —

HS  
8  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

SS  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

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

17

SB  
du dah — dah da dah — dah —

AW

AP  
du dah — dah da dah — dah —

HS  
du dah — dah da dah — dah —

SS

SW  
du dah — dah da dah — dah —  
du du ba - dum dum dum dum dum dum dum ba - dum dum dum dum dum

21

SB  
da - dap dah — du du — du du — du du —

AW

AP  
da - dap dah du du — du du — du du —

HS  
du - dap dah du du — du du — du du —

SS

SW  
du - dap dah du du — du du — du du —  
dum dum dum dum du du — ba - du du — ba - dum du du — ba - dum

## Sweet Georgia Brown

25

SB  
du dah du du du du

AW

AP  
du dah du du du du

HS  
du dah du du du du

SS

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

29

SB  
du well, uu whu uu whu whua haa

AW

AP  
du well, uu whu uu whu whua haa

HS  
du well, uu whu uu whu whua haa

SS

SW  
du well, uu whu uu whu whua haa  
dum dum dum dum dum dum ba - dum dum ba - dum dum dum dum dum dum

33

SB  
whA hA oh hoo who hoo Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

AW

AP  
whA hA oh hoo who — hoo Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

HS  
whA hA oh hoo who — hoo Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

SS

SW  
whA hA oh hoo who — hoo Sweet Geor - gia Brown.  
dum dum ba - dum dum ba - du - ba - du - bu dum dum dum dum Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

37

SB  
— du du — du du — du du —

AW  
du du — du du — du du —

AP  
— du du — du du — du du —

HS  
— No gal made has got a shade on Sweet Geor - gia Brown,

SS  
du du — du du — du du —

SW  
— do doh du du — ba - du du — du du — ba - dum

## Sweet Georgia Brown

41

SB  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

AW  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

AP  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

HS  
8 — two left feet, but oh so neat, has — Sweet Geor - gia Brown,

SS  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

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

45

SB  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

AW  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

AP  
du dah — du du — du - da - ba - du — du du —

HS  
8 — they all sigh an' wan-na die for Sweet — Geor - gia Brown,

SS  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

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



49

SB  
du dah — dah da dah — dah —

AW  
du dah — dah da dah — dah —

AP  
du dah — dah da dah — dah —

HS  
8 — I tell U just why chil(d), You know I don' lie, — not much,

SS  
du dah — dah da dah — dah —

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

53

SB  
da - dap dah — du du — du du — du du —

AW  
da-dap dah du du — du du — du du —

AP  
du - dap dah du du — du du — du du —

HS  
8 — who — It's been said she knocks 'em dead when she lives in town,

SS  
du - dap dah du du — du du — du du —

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

## Sweet Georgia Brown

57

SB  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

AW  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

AP  
du dah — du du — du du — du du —

HS  
— since she came why it's a shame how — she cools 'em down,

SS  
du du — du du — du du — du du —

SW  
dum dum dum ba-dum du du — ba - du-d'n-dum dum dum du du — ba-dum

61

SB  
du well, uh whu uh whu oh hoo

AW  
du well, uh whu uh whu oh hoo

AP  
du well, uh whu uh whu oh hoo

HS  
— fel - las, she can't get, (a) - must be fel - las

SS  
du well, uh whu uh whu oh hoo

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

65

SB  
whA hA who hoo who hoo Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

AW  
whA hA who hoo who hoo Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

AP  
whA hA who hoo who hoo Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

HS  
8 she ain't met, — Geor - gia claimed her, Geor - gia named her: — Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

SS  
whA hA who hoo who hoo Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

SW  
dum dum ba - dum dum ba - du - ba - du - ba - dum dum dum dum Sweet — Geor - gia Brown.

69

SB  
uu — whuu whuu whuu

AW  
uu — whuu whuu whuu

AP  
uu — whuu whuu whuu

HS  
uu — whuu whuu whuu

SS  
uu — whuu whuu whuu

SW  
— do doh (ba) - No gal made has got a shade on Sweet — Geor - gia Brown,

73

SB  
uu uaa

AW  
uu uaa

AP  
uu uaa

HS  
uu uaa

SS  
uu uaa

SW  
uu uaa

two left feet, but oh so neat on Sweet Geor - gia Brown,

77

SB  
well, whu whu - uu ba

AW  
well, whu whu - uu uu uu ba

AP  
well, whu whu ba

HS  
well, whu whu - uu ba

SS  
well, whu whu uu uu uu ba

SW  
well, whu whu uu uu uu ba

ba - da 'n du d'n they all sigh an' wan-na die, for Sweet Geor-gia Brown,

81

SB  
just — why, — I don't lie, whu

AW  
just — why, — I don't lie, whu

AP  
just — why, — I don't lie, whu

HS  
8 I tell U just why — hm, — mm, U know I don' lie — no' much,

SS  
just — why, — I don't lie, whu

SW  
— I tell U just whdu whdu whdu whdu whdu whdu whdu whdu whdu whdu whdu whdu

85

SB  
not much, du du — du du — du du —

AW  
not much, du du — du du — du du —

AP  
not much, du du — du du — du du —

HS  
8 — well, it's been said, she knocks'em dead when she — lands in town,

SS  
not much, du du — du du — du du —

SW  
whdu whdu whdu dum du du — ba - du du — ba-dum du du — ba-dum

89

SB  
du dah du du — du du — du du —

AW  
du dah du du — du du — du du —

AP  
du dah du du — du du — du du —

HS  
8 since she came why it's a shame how she — cools 'em down,

SS  
du dah du du — du du — du du

SW  
dum dum dum ba-dum du du — du du-d'n dum dum dum du du — ba-dum

93

SB  
du well, uu huu uu huu who hoo

AW  
du well, uu huu uu huu who hoo

AP  
du well, uu huu uu huu who hoo

HS  
8 fel-las, — mm, — she can't get, there must be fel-las

SS  
du well, uu huu uu huu who hoo

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

97

SB  
whA hA oh hoo oh hoo Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

AW  
whA hA oh hoo oh hoo Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

AP  
whA hA oh hoo oh hoo Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

HS  
8 she ain't met, Geor - gia claimed her, Geor - gia named her: Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

SS  
whA hA oh hoo oh hoo Sweet Geor - gia Brown.

SW  
dum dum ba-dum dum ba - du-ba-du - ba dum dum dum dum Sweet Geor-gia Brown.

101

SB  
— No gal made has got a shade on — Sweet — Geor - gia Brown,

AW  
— No gal made has got a shade on — Sweet — Geor - gia Brown,

AP  
— ba-da-da dua - ba - da Sweet,

HS  
8 — No gal made has got a shade on — Sweet — Geor - gia Brown,

SS  
— No gal made has got a shade on — Sweet — Geor - gia Brown,

SW  
— do doh ba - dum dum dum dum — ba - dum dum ba -

Sweet Georgia Brown

105

SB — well, two left feet, but oh so neat, has Sweet Geor - gia Brown,

AW — well, two left feet, but oh so neat, has Sweet Geor - gia Brown,

AP Sweet Geor - gia Brown, — ba-da-ba - du - ba - du Sweet, —

HS — well, two left feet, but oh so neat, has Sweet Geor - gia Brown,

SS — well, two left feet, but oh so neat, has Sweet Geor - gia Brown,

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

109

SB — well, They all sigh an' wan-na die — for Sweet Geor - gia Brown,

AW — well, They all sigh an' wan-na die — for Sweet Geor - gia Brown,

AP Sweet Geor - gia Brown, — for — Sweet, —

HS — well, They all sigh an' wan-na die — for Sweet Geor - gia Brown,

SS — well, They all sigh an' wan-na die — for Sweet Geor - gia Brown,

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



113

SB  
— I tell U just why chil(d), — You know I gon-na lie, f' you know I don'

AW  
— I tell U just why chil(d), — You know I gon-na lie, f' you know I don'

AP  
I tell U just why chil(d), — You know I gon-na lie, f' you know I don'

HS  
— Cle - da-du-da - de-d'n-dua, You know I gon-na lie,

SS  
— I tell U just why chil(d), — You know I gon-na lie, f' you know I don'

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

117

SB  
lie, not much, It's been said she knocks 'em dead when she — lands in town,

AW  
lie, not much, uh —

AP  
lie, not much It's been said she knocks 'em dead when she — lands in town,

HS  
she knocks 'em all dead when she —

SS  
lie, not much It's been said she knocks 'em dead when she — lands in town,

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

121

SB  
 well, Since she came why it's a shame how she cools 'em down,

AW  
 uh uh

AP  
 well, Since she came why it's a shame how she cools 'em down,

HS  
 ain't since she came, ah - oh she cools 'em down,

SS  
 well, Since she came why it's a shame how she cools 'em down,

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

125

SB  
 well, Fel-las, mm, she can't get, must be fel-las

AW  
 huit, .. ..

AP  
 well, Fel-las, mm, she can't get, must be fel-las

HS  
 well, Fel-las, mm, she can't get, must be fel-las

SS  
 well, Fel-las, mm, she can't get, must be fel-las

SW  
 well, Fel-las, mm, she can't get, must be fel-las

dum dum ba-dum dum dum dum dum ba - dum dum dum ba-dum ba - dum dum dum dum

129

SB she ain't met, Geor - gia claimed her, Geor - gia named her: Sweet — Geor - gia Brown,

AW she ain't met, Geor - gia claimed her, Geor - gia named her: Sweet — Geor - gia Brown,

AP she ain't met, Geor - gia claimed her, Geor - gia named her: Sweet — Geor - gia Brown,

HS she ain't met, Geor - gia claimed her, Geor - gia named her: Sweet — Geor - gia Brown,

SS she ain't met, Geor - gia claimed her, Geor - gia named her: Sweet — Geor - gia Brown,

SW dum dum dum ba - dum Geor - gia claimed her, Geor - gia named her: Sweet — Geor - gia Brown,

Version II: Saltsjökvärnsbacken 2017-03-25

133

SB — that's why I'm sing-in' Geor-gia claimed her, Geor-gia named her: Sweet — Geor - gia Brown. —

AW — that's why I'm sing-in' Geor-gia claimed her, Geor-gia named her: Sweet — Geor - gia Brown. —

AP — that's why I'm sing-in' Geor-gia claimed her, Geor-gia named her: Sweet — Geor - gia Brown. —

HS — that's why I'm sing-in' Geor-gia claimed her, Geor-gia named her: Sweet — Geor - gia Brown. —

SS — that's why I'm sing-in' Geor-gia claimed her, Geor-gia named her: Sweet — Geor - gia Brown. —

SW — that's why I'm sing-in' Geor-gia claimed her, Geor-gia named her: Sweet — Geor - gia Brown. —

— Georg-gia claimed her, Georg-gia named her: Sweet — Geor-gia Brown. —