

# THE COURTSHIP OF CARL SANDBURG

A Musical Play In Two Acts

by

Bob Gibson

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# Courtship of Carl Sandburg

Words & Music by Bob Gibson  
Additional Lyrics by Dave North

## Act I

Time: 1908-1920

Place: Mid-America and certain far reaches of Carl Sandburg's mind

Banjo/  
Guitar

Easy Folk Arpeggios ♩ = 125

D7/C *sim.* B7

*mp*

Em(add4)/B Gm(add2)/Bb

D F#m G(add2) Gm(add2)/Bb

Female Singer

Male Singer He

He

D A7 D

Courtship of Carl Sandburg

F. S. D7/C B7

M. S. told us of the things he'd seen — A - cross — his na - tive land — He

17 8 told us of the things he'd seen — A - cross — his na - tive land — He

Em(add4)/B Gm(add2)/Bb

spoke of the in - jus - tic - es — He could - n't un - der - stand — He

21 8 spoke of the in - jus - tic - es — He could - n't un - der - stand — He

D F#m G(add2) Gm(add2)/Bb

wrote of fields and fac - to - ries And he knew the pride of man — And he

25 8 wrote of fields and fac - to - ries And he knew the pride of man — And he

D F#m Em

told a lot — of peo - ple how — things were He

29 8 told a lot — of peo - ple how — things were He

Em A7 Em A7

told us how they ought — to be With prom - is - es and po - et - ry But he

33 8 told us how they ought — to be With prom - is - es and po - et - ry But he

## Courtship of Carl Sandburg

Em A7 D F#m

real - ly must have said a lot \_\_\_ to her \_\_\_ Lov - ing Lil - li - an He

37 8 real - ly must have said a lot \_\_\_ to her \_\_\_ Lov - ing Lil - li - an He

Em A7 D

real - ly must have said a lot \_\_\_ to her. \_\_\_ *poco rit.*

8 real - ly must have said a lot \_\_\_ to her. \_\_\_ *poco rit.*

Banjo/  
Guitar Em A7 D Banjo

41 *poco rit.*

Carl

**Uneven tempo, follow singer** ♩ = 90-100

8 Oh, I had a horse and his name was Bill And when he ran \_\_\_ he

Banjo A D

45 *mf*

8 could-n't stand still, He ran a - way One day And al - so I \_\_\_ ran with him He

A E7 A

A E7 A

49

54

A D

ran so fast\_ that he could not stop He ran in - to a bar - ber - shop And fell ex -

58

A E7 A D Female Singer

haus - tion - iz'd\_ With his eye - teeth In the bar - ber's left shoul - der. They

Male Singer

A E7 A D

Banjo/  
Guitar

In 2 ♩ = 112

63 8

G F#m G

talk a - bout his po - et - ry\_ They talk a - bout his books I think you'll find a

talk a - bout his po - et - ry\_ They talk a - bout his books I think you'll find a

68 8

D F#m

he - ro If\_ you care to take a look This prai - rie boy from Il - li - nois With a

he - ro If\_ you care to take a look This prai - rie boy from Il - li - nois With a

## Courtship of Carl Sandburg

G A G A

sense of great ad-ven - ture Did it all \_\_\_ He did it all \_\_\_ Carl

73 8 sense of great ad-ven - ture Did it all \_\_\_ He did it all \_\_\_ Carl

D G E

Sand - burg came from Il - li - nois Raised in Gales - burg as a boy \_\_\_ And as he dream'd his

79 8 Sand - burg came from Il - li - nois Raised in Gales - burg as a boy \_\_\_ And as he dream'd his

A D

po - et's dreams He tried a mil - lion jobs it seems.

8 po - et's dreams He tried a mil - lion jobs it seems.

Banjo/Guitar Banjo

84

CARL SANDBURG (*offstage*):

When I was a lad, one night at home I heard that the opera house was burning, and I ran down to the corner of Main and Prairie to watch it. I stood across the street from the fire until midnight. Saw the second story go; heard the roof crash. Saw the fireman try to keep the fire from spreading. I didn't like to see the place go. I could remember so much about it.

(*continued*)