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## Black Fly Song

*by Wade Hemsworth, arr. Earle Peach*



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# Black Fly Song

Wade Hemsworth  
(written in 1949)  
arr. Earle Peach

$\text{♩} = 86$  ( $\text{♩} = 172$ ) Jovial story tellin

Tutti

*mf*

'Twas

*mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

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A Verse 1

ear-ly in the spring when I de-cide to go for to work up in the woods in North On - ta - ri - o, the

Verse 2

man. Black To-by was the cap'n of the crew and he said "I'm gonna tell you boys what we're gonna do; they

*mp*

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un-em-ploy-ment of-fice said they see me that to be lit - tle A-bi-ti-bi with the sur - vey crew. And the

want to build a po-wer dam and we must find a way for to make the lit-tle Ab flow a-round the o-ther way" And the

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Music  
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15 **B**

*mf* black fly, the lit-tle black fly an' was the black fly no matter where you go, I'll die with the black fly *f*

black fly, the black fly, the black fly, the black fly! I'll die with the black fly *f*

black fly, black fly, black fly, black fly, I'll die with the black fly *f*

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20

*mp* pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - o. Now the o. So we *mf*

pic-kin' my bones in North in North On - ta - ri - o. Now the o. So we *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. Now the o. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

1. 2.

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26 **C** Sopranos

sur-vey to the east, and survey the west, and we could-n't make our minds up how to do it best, Lit-tle

do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do

*mp*

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30

Ab, Lit-tle Ab, what shall I do? for I'm all but go-in' cra-zy on the sur-vey crew! and the

do do do do do do do do do for I'm all but go-in' cra-zy on the sur-vey crew! and the

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34 **D**

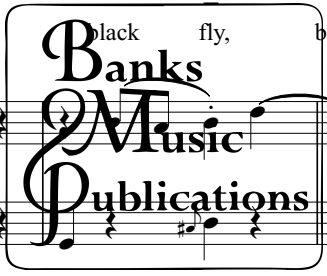
black fly, the lit-tle black fly, the black fly, the black fly, the black fly, the black fly, I'll die with the black fly

black fly, the black fly, the black fly, the black fly, the black fly, I'll die with the black fly

black fly, black fly, black fly, black fly, I'll die with the black fly

*mf*

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39

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. It was

pic-kin' my bones in North in North On - ta - ri - o. It was

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - o. It was

*mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

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44 **E**

black - fly, black - fly, black-fly ev - 'ry where, a - craw-lin' in yer whis - kers, a - craw-lin' in yer hair. A

black - fly, black - fly, black-fly ev - 'ry where, a - craw-lin' in yer whis - kers, a - craw-lin' in yer hair. A

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48

craw-lin' in yer soup, and a - craw-lin' in yer tea, O the De - vil take the black fly and leave me be! and the

craw-lin' in yer soup, and a - craw-lin' in yer tea, O the De - vil take the black fly and leave me be! and the

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**F**

52

*mf*

black fly, the lit-tle black fly, a-wa-ys the c-ou-ry no-ma-t-ter where you go, I'll die with the black fly

black fly, the black fly, the black fly, the black fly. I'll die with the black fly

black fly, black fly, black fly, black fly, I'll die with the black fly

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57

*mp*

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - o. At

pic-kin' my bones in North in North On - ta - ri - o.

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - o.

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*mf*

*p*

*Red.*

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G

*rubato (back-ground vocals follow)  
take your time and tell the story*

62

last the job was o - ver Back To by said We' t with the Lit - tle A - bi - ti - bi and the sur - vey crew". T'was a

*mp*

*mp*

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oo, a oo, a oo

oo, a oo, a oo

*pp*

66

*rit.*

*emphatically*

*molto rit.*

*♩ = 130*

*mp*

won - der - ful ex - pe - ri - ence and this I know: I'll ne - ver go a - gain to North On - ta - ri - o, and the

*mf*

*f*

*mp*

oo and this I know: I'll ne - ver go a - gain to North On - ta - ri - o, and the

*mf*

*f*

*mp*

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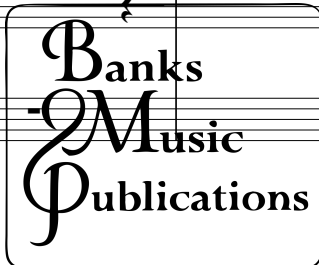
oo and this I know: I'll ne - ver go a - gain to North On - ta - ri - o, and the

(8)

*rit.*

*molto rit.*

*♩ = 130*



**H**

accel.

♩ = 182 (a tempo)

70 *mf* black fly, the black fly, I'll die with the black fly no matter where you go, I'll die with the black fly

*f* black fly, the black fly, the black fly, the black fly, I'll die with the black fly

*mp* black fly, black fly, *mf* black fly, black fly, *f* I'll die with the black fly

accel.

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\*an imaginary fly - on your neck

no rit.

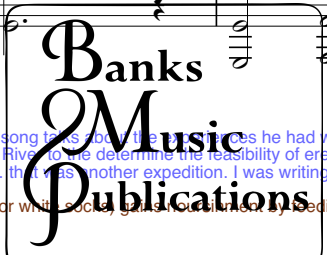
75 pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - o. slap!\*

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - o. slap!\*

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o - i - o in North On - ta - ri - o. slap!\*

*mf* *f*

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Hemsworth stated that he wrote this song, while in Labrador. The song tells about the experiences he had while accompanying an Hydro-Electric Power Commission of an Ontario crew - surveying the Little Abitibi River to determine the feasibility of erecting a dam - the Abitibi Canyon Generating Station. He also mentioned "I wasn't with Black Toby ... that was another expedition. I was writing a song - I wasn't writing historical literature."

The pesky **black fly** (sometimes called a buffalo gnat, turkey gnat or white-sooty gnat) is a common pest, feeding on the blood of mammals, including humans.