# Goodnight, Sweetheart, Goodnight

(Goodnight, It's Time to Go)

For TTBB a cappella\* Duration: ca. 3:05



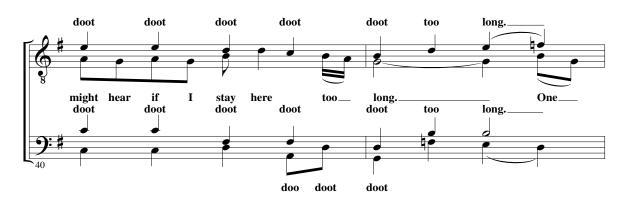
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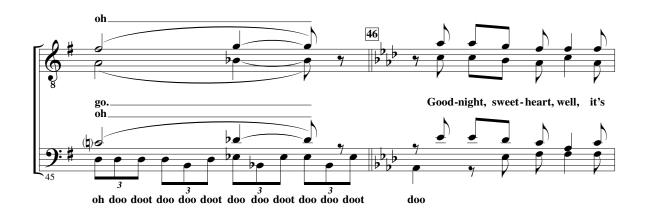


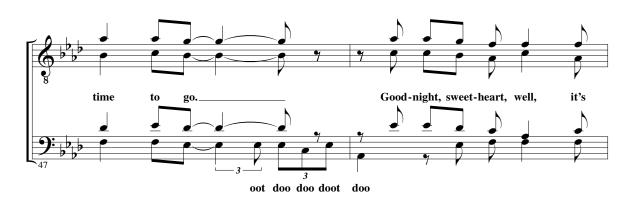


GOODNIGHT, SWEETHEART, GOODNIGHT - TTBB

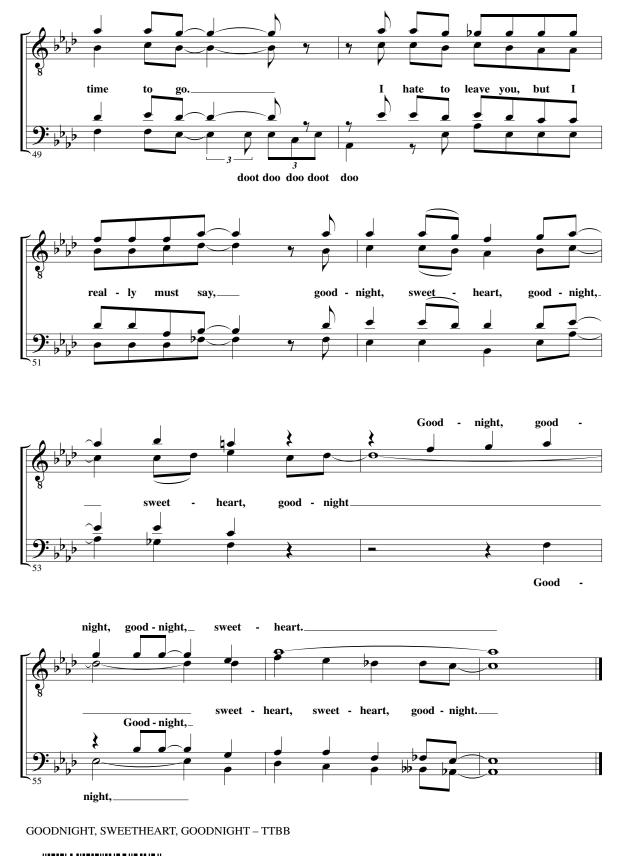








 $GOODNIGHT,\,SWEETHEART,\,GOODNIGHT-TTBB$ 





## **Close Harmony for Men Choral Series**

#### **Historical and Performance Notes**

"Goodnight, Sweetheart, Goodnight" is a great example of a 50's-style "doowop" song adapted for the barbershop style. Written in 1953, the song was recorded by numerous groups, including *The Spaniels* in 1954, and a best-selling version later that year by *The McGuire Sisters*. James "Pookie" Hudson came up with the original version of the song after leaving his girl-friend's house one evening. It was getting late, and her parents had to ask him to go. As he walked home, he found the inspiration to write the song. Be sure to sing the bass line in a steady yet relaxed tempo, and the melody should always be easy to hear above the harmony parts. Consider adding simple movements to enhance the performance, such as 50's-style touch-and-sway choreography. Be sure to have fun and to communicate the story told through the lyrics.

### What is "Close Harmony?"

Close harmony is defined as a harmonic compositional technique where the voices are closely arranged, often within a single octave. Barbershop harmony is a uniquely-American style of close harmony that can be traced back to the early 1900's. Barbershops were gathering places where men would amuse themselves by harmonizing melodies to popular songs. Historical evidence suggests that African-American communities, with their rich traditions of a cappella singing, were the first to improvise songs in this style. Singers would create harmonies "by ear" to a sung melody, with a preference for major chords with a minor (dominant) seventh note added. Barbershop harmony is still evolving today, and its characteristic sound is performed and enjoyed by men and women of all ages in quartets and choruses all over the world.

## What is "Barbershop Style?"

Barbershop harmony is a style of unaccompanied close-harmony vocal music characterized by consonant four-part chords for every melody note in a predominantly homophonic texture. The melody is consistently sung by the lead (tenor II), with the tenor (tenor I) harmonizing above the melody, the bass singing the lowest harmonizing notes, and the baritone completing the chord. Barbershop music features songs with understandable lyrics and easily singable melodies, whose tones clearly define a tonal center and imply major and minor chords and dominant and secondary dominant seventh chords that resolve primarily around the circle of fifths, while making frequent use of other resolutions. It is customary for quartets and choruses to perform barbershop songs from memory, and to use gestures and body language that help communicate the meaning and message of the song to the audience.

Find out more about barbershop style and history at www.barbershop.org

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