

# Work Song

Words and Music by  
OSCAR BROWN and NAT ADDERLY

Moderately

Piano introduction in C minor, 4/4 time. The music is marked 'Moderately'. It features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it.

Cm

First system of the song, including the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano part is marked 'mf'. The vocal line has four verses of lyrics.

1. Break-in' up big rocks— on uh chain gang, Break-in' rocks an'  
 2. I com-mit the crime, Lawd, o' need-in', Crime o' be-in'  
 3. Judge, he say, "Five years— hard— la-bor. On the chain gang  
 4. Wan-na see my sweet— hon-ey ba-by, Wan-na break this

Second system of the song, including the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano part continues with a steady bass line.

serv-in' my time, Break-in' rocks ou' chere... on the chain gang  
 hun-gry an' poor. Left the gro-cer store— man a-bleed-in'  
 you goin' t' go." Heard the judge say, "Five— years o' la-bor,"  
 chain off an' run, Wan-na lay down some-where it's sha-dy.

Gm G7

'Cause I been con - vict - ed o' crime,  
 When he caught me rob - bin' his store,  
 Heard my wo - man scream, — "Lawd-y, no!"  
 Lawd, it sure is hot \_\_\_\_\_ in the sun,

Cm

Hol' it stea - dy right there... while I hit it, There! I reck-on that.

C7-5 C7 F7-5 F7-9

\_\_\_\_\_ ought-a git it. Been work in' \_\_\_\_\_ an' work-in', But I still.

D7 G7 3 Cm 1,2,3. 4.Cm

\_\_\_\_\_ got so terr-'ble long to go. \_\_\_\_\_