

# **How is Your Wife?**

Words & Music by Deborah Henson-Conant  
from the Cabaret Musical "The Letter"

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First verse (spoken) is free rhythmically. Rhythmic notation is intended to show basically where it fits with the music, but it needs to sound like speaking.

## Slow, but with motion

*Sprechstimme - rubato*

CUE (spoken):  
"And incidentally..."

How is your wife? Last time I saw you, you said she was ill. Is she

*mp*

1

*poco rit. a tempo*

still? And how is your dog? What did he do when you gave him that

4

*poco rit.*

steak that I could-n't eat (be-cause I was a - bout to throw up?) Did he sit up and beg? Oh! Cute Butch-ie! And

8

**a tempo**

how is the lawn? Did that crab-grass prob-lem work it-self out? Oh, not at all!

11

**Like a waltz**

I love to hear a-bout you! You know, Thurs - day night we

15

meet. We have a drink, or two. Nine o'clock you

18

**rit. poco a poco**

grab the phone, I leave the room, you're call - ing home. And

22

**a tempo**

*Sung, with rubato*

**poco rit.**

how is your wife? I seem to ask you when - ev - er I see you a - lone. And

*mp*

25

**a tempo**

how are the girls? My, what a love - ly pho - to! Don't they look fine!

30

My, what a pair! Look at them there!

**poco rit.**

33

**Like a waltz**

Thurs - day night you swear you're mine. Break the bread, and pour the wine.

*mf*

36

**rit. poco a poco**

As you sit and stroke my hair, you think you're here, I know you're there and

40

**slower than a tempo**

how are your ros - es this year? Did you have frost on the vine?

44

**poco accel.**

**poco rit.**

Where did you plant? How's the bam-boo? How is the house, did the mort-gage fall due? And

48

**a tempo**

how is your wife? Some-times I feel her near me, part of my dreams,

52

**poco rit.**

55

out of the blue. Part of my part of you. But

**Like a waltz**

**cresc. poco a poco**

58

Thurs - day night we dance. Not a world - ly care.

**dim. e molto rit.**

62

You can make me half be-lieve that all a - long you don't be - long to

**slower than a tempo**

66

her. To her. Strange, how I know her so well.

quietly intense

70

May - be be - cause you tell me: Jen - ny did, Jen - ny does.

*p*

cresc. poco a poco

accel. poco a poco

74

Jen - ny would, Jen - ny was. Jen - ny said,

*mp* *mf*

rit. molto

77

Jen - ny read, Jen - ny could, Jen - ny can, Jen - ny is Jen - ny. And

*f*

slower than a tempo

poco rit.

80

here is your watch. I did - n't find it 'til yes - ter - day noon when I changed the sheets.

*mp*

**a tempo**

Al - so your tie. No - tice it's some-what small - er. I think it shrunk.

85

In the sink. Thought you might think it was lost. Oh

88

**Like a waltz**

**cresc. poco a poco**

Thurs - day night we laugh. Thurs - day night we sing.

91

**dim. e molto rit.**

Fri - day morn - ing you're gone. I find your tie, I've lost the song. And

95

**slower than a tempo**

how are your ros - es this year? Did you have frost on the vine?

99

**poco rit.** **molto rit.**  
How is your health? How is your life? And how is your love - ly wife?

103