

The Hesitating Blues

The Firehouse Jazz Band

W. C. Handy - 1915

Rec: Muggsy Spanier (w/ Irving Fazola) 1942,
 Carl Fenton Orch. (w/ Benny Krueger, Al
 Bernard, & J. Russell Robinson) 1927,
 Louis Armstrong & His All-Stars (Trummy, etc.)
 1954, Lena Horne, etc.

Concert Pitch

Verse:

A

Hel-lo Central, what's the mat-ter with this line? I want to talk to that High Brown of mine. Tell me
 Sun-day night my beau pro-posed to me. Said he'd be hap-py if his wif - ie I'd be. Said he,
 If I was whis-key, and you were a cup, I'd dive to the bot-tom and nev - er come up, Oh,

how long will I have to wait? Please give me
 "How long will I have to wait? Come be my
 How long do I have to wait? Can I

2 - 9 - 8, Why do you hes - i - tate?
 wife my Kate, Why do you hes - i - tate?
 get it now, or do I have to hes - i - tate?

B

What you say, can't talk to my Brown? A storm last night blew the wires all down. Tell me
 I de-clined him just for a stall, He left that night on the Can - non Ball. Hon-ey,
 I had a wo-man, She was tall. She make me think 'bout my par - a - sol. Oh,

how long will I have to wait? Oh, won't you
 how long will I have to wait? Will he
 How long do I have to wait? Can I

tell me now, Why do you hes - i - tate?
 come back now, Or will he hes - i - tate?
 get it now, do I have to hes - i - tate?

Pick-ups to Chorus: "Pro-cras-ti -

The first 2 verses are original, the 3rd is from Jelly Roll Morton's famous "Library of Congress" recording in the late '30's.

Jelly added verses from "Winin' Boy" and other songs.

*The Chorus of "Hesitating Blues" is often omitted completely.

More "Jelly Roll" lyrics:

4. Mama, Mama, look at Sis, she's out on the levee doin' the double twist (or the "Turtle Twist", one of Jelly's songs) Oh, How long.....
5. She said "Come in here you dirty little sow, you tryin' to be a bad girl, you don't know how", Oh, How long.....
6. Touch my bonnet, touch my shawl, do not touch my waterfall, Oh How long.....