

After the Ball

by Charles K. Harris (1891) (3/4 time)

G G G G G D7 D7
 After the ball is o - ver, after the break of dawn,
 Am Am E7 Am D7 D7 G D7
 After the dancers' leav - ing, after the stars are gone;
 G G G G E E7 A7 A7
 Many a heart is ach-ing, if you could read them all;
 D7 D7 G G A7 D7 G G
 Many the hopes that have van-ished af - ter the ball.

G G G6 G G G6 D7 D7 Am Am D7 D7 D7 D7 G G
 A little maid-en climbed an old man's knee, Begged for a stor - y, "Do Uncle, please.
 G G G6 G E7 E7#5 Am Am C C G G A7 D7 G G
 Why are you sin - gle; why live alone? Have you no ba - bies; have you no home?"
 Em Em Am6 B7 C C G G C C G G A A6 D7 D7
 "I had a sweet - heart, years, years ago; Where she is now, pet, you will soon know.
 G G G6 G E7 E7#5 Am Am C C G G A7 D7 G G
 List to the stor - y, I'll tell it all, I believed her faithless af - ter the ball."

G G G6 G G G6 D7 D7 Am Am D7 D7 D7 D7 G G
 Bright lights were flash-ing in the grand ballroom, soft - ly the mu - sic, play-ing sweet tunes.
 G G G6 G E7 E7#5 Am Am C C G G A7 D7 G G
 There came my sweetheart, my love, my own; "I wish some wa-ter, leave me alone."
 Em Em Am6 B7 C C G G C C G G A A6 D7 D7
 When I returned, dear, there stood a man, kiss-ing my sweetheart, as lovers can;
 G G G6 G E7 E7#5 Am Am C C G G A7 D7 G G
 Down fell the glass, pet, bro - ken, that's all; just as my heart was af - ter the ball.

G G G6 G G G6 D7 D7 Am Am D7 D7 D7 D7 G G
 Long years have passed, child, I've never wed; True to my lost love, though she is dead.
 G G G6 G E7 E7#5 Am Am C C G G A7 D7 G G
 She tried to tell me, tried to explain; I would not list - ten, pleadings were vain.
 Em Em Am6 B7 C C G G C C G G A A6 D7 D7
 One day a let - ter came from that man. He was her brother, the letter ran.
 G G G6 G E7 E7#5 Am Am C C G G A7 D7 G G
 That's why I'm lone-ly, no home at all; I broke her heart, pet, af - ter the ball.