

# Dear Hearts and Gentle People

Storyline/Emotion – a *nostalgic* trip home<sup>1</sup>

The song begins by turning inward and remembering your friends and old hometown. You then engage the other members of the chorus and the audience too – all part of that warm community.

Emotion color code: **Nostalgia**

**Imploring**

**Fun/Excitement**

Chorus is scattered around the risers – some sitting, some gathered in small groups. All are behind the 4<sup>th</sup> wall; each absorbed in reflective contemplation.

Outside hand raises to about chin level and eyes look up, wistfully

Prep -----Forearm, hand and heads **engage** audience "Down the Tiles"

There's a place I'd like to be; it's Virginia can't ya' see

Rise to standing position throughout "Where" raising your inside hand to join outside hand in welcoming position.

head nod to-----slight press; wave to audience

Where your friendly neighbors smile and say hello, hel-lo

Move to RCP by ↓

Prep-----Side-to-side steps<sup>2</sup> (4 Steps/heel raises do it:

Front row separates ----- then returns, crossing and shaking hands ----- and rejoins the chorus

It's a pleasure and a treat to meander down the street.

reset RCP

Prep-----Press

That's why I want the whole wide world to know, to know

reset -----RCP

Reset RCP

I love those dear hearts and gentle people who li-who live in my hometown

Reset—RCP

Prep-----Outside hand to audience

Return hand to neutral position

Shift to small groups

Because those dear hearts and gentle people will never ever let you down.

<sup>1</sup> Appropriate costume for the two-song set Dear Hearts & Perfect Day might be comfortable small town dress – a mix of very casual (jeans & flannel shirts), to trousers & sport shirts, to uniforms (cops, firemen, workers), to a few in jackets and ties.

<sup>2</sup> SIDE TO SIDE STEPS

- Used as walking in place - marching - stroll, to show tempo in a song. Shift weight from one foot to the other, keeping the weight centered over the body. Keep the body tall and straight. Usually the toes are kept on the risers and the heels are raised slightly to make it look like movement without jerking the body and getting in the way of the smooth singing and solid, consistent, sound. Arms natural at side of the body - swing.

They read the good book from Fri 'til Monday that's how the weekend goes  
how it goes

All heads-----snap  
to common point half-way down left wall of auditorium (10 o'clock)

Prep

I've got a dream house I'll build there one day

Point through Tom  
to audience

Rise-----moving toward groups of 3-6

with a picket fence and ramblin' rose

Groups of 3-6 --- Arms on shoulders or shaking hands-----

I feel so welcome each time that I return

Reset to  
Squat<sup>3</sup>

Prep-----Elbows up / rise to Chorus spread  
with arms above head

that my happy heart keeps laughing like a clown<sup>4</sup> - like a clown

gradual reset (arms lowering) & Snap to RCP  
↓

I love those dear hearts and gentle people who live and love in my,

Hands up like holding choir book    Rotate hands to palms down

<sup>5</sup>Be it ever so humble

Move into tight formation --- embrace, arms on shoulders  
in 3 wedges

with friends who live in my hometown - in my hometown!

As the applause dies down, relax back into a wistful, contemplative state, withdraw behind the 4<sup>th</sup> wall, and rearrange into isolated and sm all group positions for "End of a Perfect Day."

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<sup>3</sup> SQUAT (BBS Sit or Drop)

- Start in RCP, drop butt 3-4 inches directly downward toward the floor. At same time bring hands up and place them on your thighs, just above your knees in a natural position. Keep shoulders and trunk of body upright. Lift weight as you prep into the move. There should be an upward lift prior to the set of the position. You can also step into this position.

<sup>4</sup> What we want here is a clown. Tom could do it: in the Joe Hunter tradition, pop off the stage and come back as a clown or the chorus could part a bit, revealing one of us in clown costume. (See BAC last contest or our hobo outfits for quick-change possibilities.) Well, maybe just a clown nose for Tom.

<sup>5</sup> This could be all kitsch & korn, as others often do. Let's play it lightly – soft and wistful – and then really lift the last line.