

Army

Words and Music by Ben Folds

well i thought about the army
dad said, son you're fucking high
and i thought, yeah there's a first for everything
so i took my old man's advice
three sad semesters
it was only fifteen grand spent in bed
i thought about the army
i dropped out and joined a band instead

grew a moustache and a mullet
got a job at chic-fil-a
citing artistic differences
the band broke up in may
and in june reformed without me
and they'd got a different name
i nuked another grandma's apple pie
and hung my head in shame

i've been thinking a lot today
i've been thinking a lot today

oh, i think i'll write a screenplay
oh, i think i'll take it to LA
oh, i think i'll get it done yesterday

in this time of introspection
on the eve of my election
i say to my reflection
god, please spare me more rejection
'cause my peers, they criticize me
and my ex-wives all despise me
try to put it all behind me
but my redneck past is nipping at my heels

i've been thinking a lot today
i've been thinking a lot today
i've been thinking a lot today
i thought about the army...

Vo. [C] well i thought _____ a - bout _____ the ar - my dad said, son _____ you're fuck - ing high _____ and i thought, _____
Kb.-I [C] three sad _____ se - mes - it was on - ly fif - teen grand _____ spent in bed _____
Pf [C] 2x only → [C] ①
Kb.-II (Brass) [C] ② → 2x only → [C] cho. C.D. [C] cho. C.D.
Ba. [C] (6) [C] (6) [C] (8) [C] (8) [C] (11)
Dr. [C] 2x only → [C] ③ [C] 3

D \flat 7

A \flat

1.

2.

Fm7

vo. yeah there's a first for ev - ery - thing so i took my old man's ad - vice _____ a band in -
Kb.-I
Pf
Kb.-II
Ba.
Dr.

C.D.
C.D.
2
(2x only)
—(2x only)↓
1
—(2x only)↑
3

E \flat m7 B —1x only
B \flat m7
A \flat 7

1.

2.

A \flat 7

vo. - steady grew a mous -
Kb.-I (Glocken)
(Pf-II)
Pf
Kb.-II
Ba.
Dr.

8va — 8va —
4
4
1x only (>)
6
2x ({})

1x only (>)
6
2x ({})

C A^b
Vo. - tache _____ and (a) mul - let - got a job _____ at chic - fil - a _____ cit - ing ar - tis - tic
Kb.-I -
Pf 5 →
Kb.-II -
Ba. -
Dr. □ →

D^bA7
Vo. dif - fer - ences _____ the band _____ broke up in may _____ and in june _____ re - formed with - out me _____ and they'd got _____
Kb.-I -
Pf -
Kb.-II -
Ba. -
Dr. -

E♭m7
Kb.-I
Pf
Kb.-II
Ba.
Dr.

— a dif - ferent name — i nuked an - oth - er grand - ma's ap - ple pie — and hung my head — in

D♭Δ7
A♭

This section of the score shows the vocal part (Vo.) singing a melody over a harmonic progression of E♭m7, D♭Δ7, and A♭. The piano (Pf) provides harmonic support with sustained chords. The bassoon (Kb.-I), cello (Kb.-II), double bass (Ba.), and drums (Dr.) provide rhythmic and harmonic foundation. The vocal line includes lyrics: "— a dif - ferent name — i nuked an - oth - er grand - ma's ap - ple pie — and hung my head — in". Measure 4 concludes with a D♭Δ7 chord.

Fm7
Kb.-I
Pf
Kb.-II
Ba.
Dr.

shame — to - day —

D 1x tacet
E♭m7
B♭m7
A♭Δ7
8va
5

2x:(Timpani)

8 7 8 7 8 7 8
 (6) 2x (6) (6) 2x (4)

This section continues the vocal line with "shame — to - day —". The piano (Pf) has a prominent role with eighth-note patterns. The bassoon (Kb.-I) and cello (Kb.-II) provide harmonic support. The double bass (Ba.) and drums (Dr.) provide rhythmic foundation. Measures 6-7 show a 1x tacet for the vocal line. Measures 8-9 show dynamic markings 8va (octave higher) and 5 (fifth octave). Measure 9 includes dynamic markings 2x and 2x above the bassoon and double bass staves respectively. Measure 10 concludes with dynamic markings 2x and 2x above the bassoon and double bass staves respectively. The score also indicates 2x for Timpani.

1. $A_{\Delta}7$ $E_{\flat}m7$ $B_{\flat}m7$ $A_{\flat}7$

Vo. i've been think - ing a lot to - day i've been think-ing a lot

(8va)

Kb.-I

Pf

Kb.-II (Timpani)

Ba.

Dr.

6 6 6 (6) (6) 4 6 3 4 6 3 4 5

6

2. $A_{\Delta}7$ $E G^{\flat}$ D^{\flat} A^{\flat}

oh i think i'll write a screen - play

8va

Kb.-I

Pf

Kb.-II

Ba. 7

6 3 4 (6) 2 2 2 2 4 4 4 4 6 4 6 7 8 6 8 9 6

8

Dr.

Vo. G^b
 Kb.-I D^b
 Pf A^b
 Kb.-II
 Ba.
 Dr.

oh i think i'll take it to L A oh

Bass clef, 3/4 time, key signature: B-flat major (two flats). Measures 1-2: vocal part. Measures 3-4: piano part. Measures 5-6: bass part. Measures 7-8: drums part.

Vo. D^b
 Kb.-I A^b
 Pf C7
 Kb.-II
 Ba.
 Dr.

i think i'll get it done yes - ter-day yeah oh shit

Bass clef, 3/4 time, key signature: B-flat major (two flats). Measures 1-2: vocal part. Measures 3-4: piano part. Measures 5-6: bass part. Measures 7-8: drums part.

In the piano part, there is a dynamic instruction "8va bassa" with an arrow pointing to the eighth note of the first measure of the piano staff.

Vo. C7
 Kb.-I
 Pf F Fm7
 Kb.-II
 Ba.
 Dr. 8va
 (8va bassa) 9
 (8va bassa) 7
 (Perc.) 10

Vo. Fm7
 Kb.-I
 Pf C7
 Kb.-II
 Ba. B7
 Dr.

B^b7 E^b7 A^b D^b7

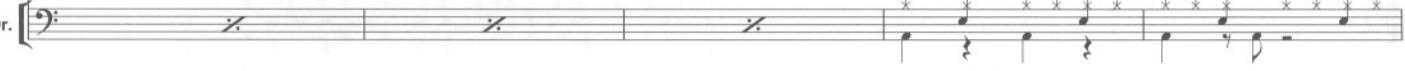
Vo. — — — —

Kb.-I — — — —

Pf. 

Kb.-II — — — — (Timpani) // — — — —

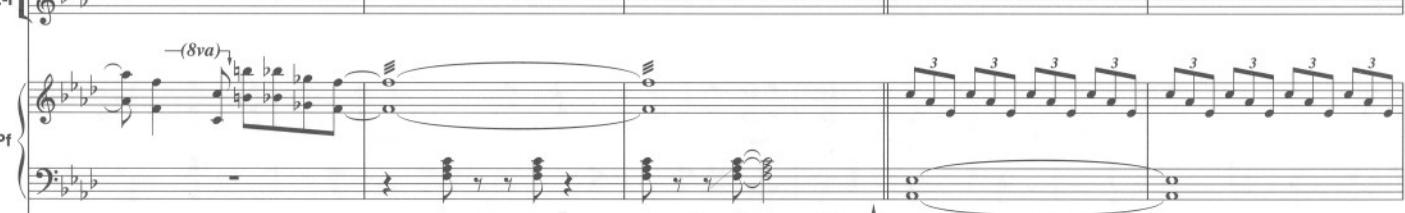
Ba. 

Dr. 

Cm7 Fm7 [G] A^b

Vo. — — — —

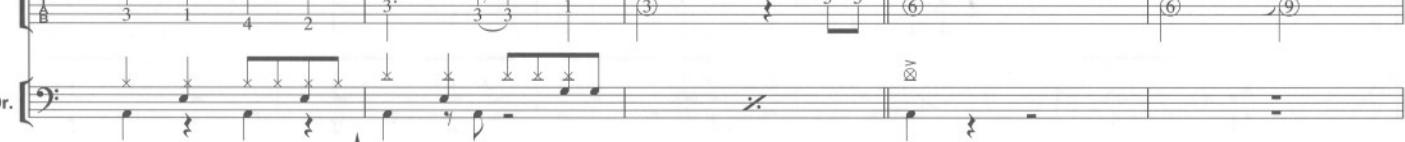
Kb.-I — — — —

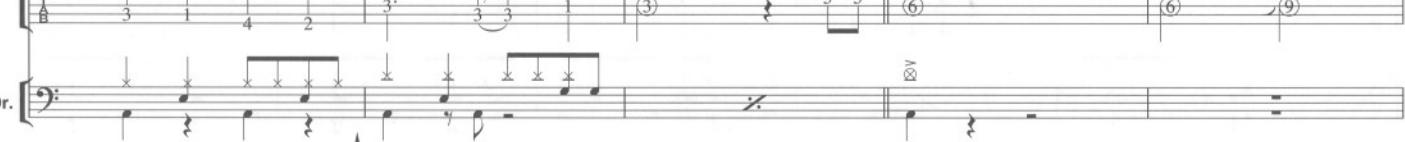
Pf. 

Kb.-II — — — —

Ba. 

Dr. 

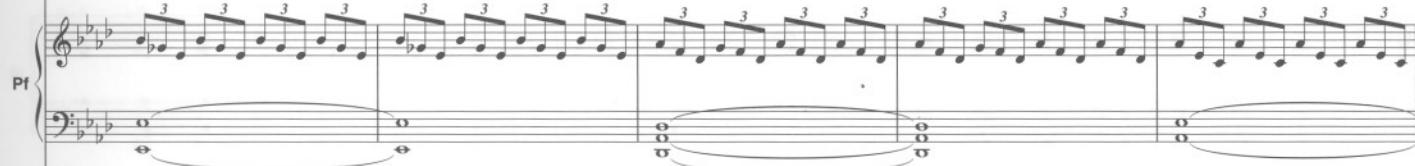
(Cymbal) 

cho. C.D. 

E♭m7

D♭

A♭



D^b

A^b

1.

2. A^b

in this time —

Vo.

Kb.-I

Pf

Kb.-II

Ba.

Dr.

I A^b

E^bm7

D^b

of in - tro-spec - tion on the eve of my e - lec - tion i say to my re - flec -

Vo.

Kb.-I

Pf

Kb.-II

Ba.

Dr.

Vo. D^b - tion god, please spare _____ me more re - jec - tion 'cause my peers _____ they crit - i - cize _____ me and my ex -

Kb.-I

Pf

Kb.-II

Ba.

Dr.

Vo. E^bm7 - wives all de-spise _____ me try to put _____ it all _____ be-hind _____ me but my red - neck past _____ is

Kb.-I

Pf

Kb.-II

Ba.

Dr.

Fm7

Kb.-I

Pf

Kb.-II

Ba.

Dr.

E^bm7

B^bm7

nip - ping at my heels to - day

g. 10 (10) g. (6) 2x (6) 6. 4 (6) 6 2x

A^b_Δ7

Vo.

Kb.-I

Pf

Kb.-II

Ba.

Dr.

E^bm7

(1x) (i've been) think - ing a lot to - day
(2x) (i've been) think - ing a lot to - day

8va

(2x) (2x) (2x) (2x)

B♭m7 A♭△7

1.

Vo. — — — — — i've been think - ing a lot

Kb.-I — — — — —

Pf. 8va — — — — —

Kb.-II — — — — —

Ba. — — — — —

Dr. — — — — —

2. A♭△7 D♭(on E♭) rit. B♭m7 A♭△7

Vo. I thought a - bout — — — — — the ar - my — — — — —

Kb.-I — — — — —

Pf. — — — — —

Kb.-II — — — — —

Ba. — — — — —

Dr. — — — — —