

Mothers, daughters, wives

The first time it was fathers, the last time it was sons,
and in between your husbands marched away with drums and guns,
But you never thought to question, you just went on with your lives,
'cause all they taught you who to be was mothers, daughters, wives.

You can only just remember the tears your mother shed
as she sat and read the papers through the lists and lists of dead,
and the gold frame held the photograph your mother kissed each night,
and the door frame held the shocked and silent stranger from the fight.
And the first time it was fathers....

It was twenty-one years later with children of your own,
the trumpets sounded once again, the soldier boys were gone.
so you made their guns and drove their trucks and tended to their wounds,
and at night you kissed their photograph and prayed for safe returns.

And after it was over, you had to learn again
to be just wives and mothers though you'd done the work of men,
so you worked to help the needy and you never trod on toes,
and the photos on the piano struck a happy family pose.
'Cause the first time it was fathers....

Then your daughters grew to women and your little boys to men,
and you prayed that you were dreaming when the call up came up again,
but you bravely smiled and held your tears as you proudly waved goodbye,
though the photos on the mantelpiece they always made you cry.

And now you're growing older and in time the photos fade,
and in widowhood you sit back and reflect on the parade
of the passing of your memories - how your daughter change their lives,
seeing more to their existence than just mothers, daughters, wives.

'Cause the first time it was fathers, the last time it was sons,
and in between your husbands marched away with drums and guns,
and you never thought to question, you just went on with your lives,
'cause all they taught you who to be was mothers, daughters, wives.

But we are learning.

Mothers, daughters, wives

Soprano solo

SOPRANO

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

The first time it was fa- thers,the last time it was sons, and in be- tween your hus- bands marched a -

4

S. sol

S.

A. 1

A. 2

way with drums and guns, and you ne- ver thought to quest- ion, you just went on with your lives, 'cause

7

S. sol

S.

A. 1

A. 2

1.You can on-ly just re- mem-ber the
all they taught you who to be was mo- thers,daught- ers, wives. Mm - -

11

S. sol
tears your mo-thers shed as they sat and read the pa-pers through the lists and lists of dead, and the

S.

A. 1

A. 2

14

S. sol
gold frames held the pho-to-graphs that mo-thers kissed each night, and the door-frame held the shocked and si-lent

S.
Mm Mm

A. 1
Mm Mm

A. 2

17

S. sol
strang-er from the fight.

S.
'Cause the first time it was fa-thers, the last time it was sons, and

A. 1
'Cause the first time it was fa-thers, the last time it was sons, and

A. 2

21

S. sol

S.

A. 1

A. 2

in be-tween your hus-bands marched a-way with drums and guns, and you ne-ver thought to quest ion,you just

in be-tween your hus-bands marched a-way with drums and guns, and you ne-ver thought to quest- ion, you just

24

S. sol

S.

A. 1

A. 2

2.It was
3.Then your

went on with your lives,'cause all they taught you who to be was mo- thers,daught- ers, wives.

went on with your lives,'cause all they taught you who to be was mo- thers,daught- ers, wives.

28

S. sol

S.

A. 1

A. 2

twen - ty one years la - ter, with child-ren of your own, the_ trum-pets sound-ed once a - gain,the
daught-ers grew to wo-men, and your lit - tleboys to men, and you prayed that you were dream-ing when the

Aa - - - - - aa

Aa - - - - - aa

31

S. sol
 sold-ier boys were gone, so you made their guns and drove their trucks and tend-ed to their wounds, and at
 call-up came a - gain, but you proud-ly smiled and held your tears as they brave-ly waved good - bye, the_

S.
 aa

A. 1
 aa

A. 2

34

S. sol
 night you kissed their pho-to-graphs and prayed for safe re - turns. And af - ter it was o-ver, you
 pho-tos on the man-tel-piece they al-ways made you cry. And now you're get-ting old-er, and in

S.
 aa Mm

A. 1
 aa Mm

A. 2

38

S. sol
 had to learn a-gain to be just wives and mo-thers though you'd done the work of men, so you
 time the pho tos fade, and in wi dow-hood you look back and re - flect on the pa-rade of the

S.
 mm

A. 1
 mm

A. 2

41

S. sol
worked to help the need - y, and you ne - ver trod on toes, and the pho - tos on the pia - no struck a
pass - ing of your mem' ries, how your daught ers changed their lives, see - ing more to their ex - ist - ence than just

S.
mm - - - mm - -

A. 1
mm - - - mm - -

A. 2

44

S. sol
hap py fam' ly pose. 'Cause the mo - thers, daught - ers, wives. 'Cause the

S.
aa - mo - thers, daught - ers, wives - 'Cause the

A. 1
aa - mo - thers, daught - ers, wives - 'Cause the

A. 2

rit e marcato

48

S. sol
first time it was fa thers, the last time it was sons, and in be - tween your hus - bands marched a -

S.
first time it was fa thers, the last time it was sons, and in be - tween your hus - bands marched a -

A. 1
first time it was fa thers, the last time it was sons, and in be - tween your hus - bands marched a -

A. 2

a tempo

51

S. sol
way with drums and guns, and you ne-ver thought to quest ion, you just went on with your lives, 'cause

S.
way with drums and guns, and you ne-ver thought to quest-ion, you just went on with your lives, 'cause

A. 1
way with drums and guns, and you ne-ver thought to quest-ion, you just went on with your lives, 'cause

A. 2

54

S. sol
all they taught you who to be, was mo-thers, daught-ers, wives. But we are leam - ing. *rall.*

S.
all they taught you who to be, was mo-thers, daught-ers, wives. But we are leam - ing.

A. 1
all they taught you who to be was mo-thers, daught-ers, wives. But we are leam - ing.

A. 2