



# ON AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC

## Barbara Cook, The Merrill Station Choir, "[After The Ball](#)" Lyrics

### Verse 1

A little maiden climbed an old man's knee,  
Begged for a story—"Do, Uncle, please.  
Why are you single; why live alone?  
Have you no babies; have you no home?"  
"I had a sweetheart years, years ago;  
Where she is now pet, you will soon know.  
List' to my story, I'll tell it all,  
I found her faithless, after the ball."

### Refrain

After the ball is over,  
After the break of morn—  
After the dancers' leaving;  
After the stars are gone;  
Many a heart is aching,  
If you could read them all;  
Many the hopes that have vanished,  
After the ball.

### Verse 2



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Bright lights were flashing in the grand ballroom,

Softly the music playing sweet tunes.

There came my sweetheart, my love, my own—

"I wish some water; leave me alone."

When I returned dear there stood a man,

Kissing my sweetheart as lovers can.

Down fell the glass dear, broken, that's all,

Just as my heart was after the ball.

**Repeat refrain**

### **Verse 3**

Long years have passed child, I've never wed.

True to my lost love though she is dead.

She tried to tell me, tried to explain;

I would not listen, pleadings were vain.

One day a letter came from that man,

He was her brother—the letter ran.

That's why I'm lonely, no home at all;

I broke her heart dear, after the ball.

**Repeat refrain**