

CAN'T HOLD US DOWN

Words and Music by CHRISTINA AGUILERA,
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Hip-hop (♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\text{3}}$)



1

2

So,



what, am I not s'posed to ___ have an o-pin-ion? Should I keep qui-et just be - cause I'm a wom-an?
what, am I not s'posed to ___ say what I'm say-ing? Are you of-fend-ed with the ___ mes-sage I'm bring-ing?



Call me a bitch 'cause I speak what's on my mind. Guess it's eas-i-er for you to swal-low if I sat and ___ smiled.
Call me what-ev-er, 'cause your words don't mean a thing. Guess you ain't e-ven a man e-nough to han-dle what I ___ sing.

Fm



When a fe - male fires - back, - sud - den - ly big talk - er don't know how to act. - So, -
 If you look back at his - to - ry, - it's a com - mon dou - ble stan - dard of so - ci - e - ty: - The

Cm



- he does what an - y lit - tle boy - would do, - mak - ing up a few - false ru - mors or two. -
 guy gets all the glo - ry - the more he can score, - while the girl can do the same and yet you call her a whore. -

Fm



That for sure is not a man to me, - slan - der - ing names - for pop - u - lar - i - ty. - It's
 I don't un - der - stand why - it's O. - K.; - the guy can get a - way with it, the girl gets named. -

Cm



sad you on - ly get your fame through con - tro - ver - sy. - But now it's time for me to come and give you more to say.)
 All my la - dies, come to - geth - er and make a change - and start a new be - gin - ning for us; ev - 'ry - bod - y sing.)

This is for my girls all — a - round the world — who have come a - cross a man that don't re - spect your worth,

Ab
4fr

think - ing all wom - en should be seen, not heard. — So what do we do. — girls? Shout out loud! We're

Cm
3fr

let - tin' 'em know — we're gon - na stand our ground, — so lift your hands high - er and — wave 'em proud. —

Ab
4fr

Take a deep breath and — say — it loud: — Nev - er can, nev - er will, can't hold us down!

Cm
x 0 2 3 fr

No - bod - y (Gon - na hold us down.) hold us down. No - bod - y (Gon - na hold us down.) hold us

Ab
x 0 2 4 fr

down. No - bod - y (Gon - na hold us down.) hold us down. Nev - er can, nev - er will. So,

2

N.C.

can, nev - er will, can't hold us down! Here's some - thin' I just can't un - der - stand: if a

guy have three girls, then he's the man. — He can e - ven give us some head and sex or roar; — if a

girl do the same, then she's a whore. — But the ta - ble's 'bout to turn, I bet my fame on it. Cats —

— take my — i - deas and put their name on it. It's al - right, though; you can't hold me down. — I

got to keep on mov - ing. Tell my girls with a man who be try'n' the knack: — Do it

Fm

8va

right back to him, and let that be that. — You need to let him know that his name is whack, — and Lit - tle

Cm

(8va) 7

8va

8va

3
Kim and Chris - ti - na A - gui - le - ra got the phat.

You're just a lit - tle boy; — think you're so

(8va)-7

Ab 4fr

cute, so coy. You must talk so big to make —

Cm 3fr

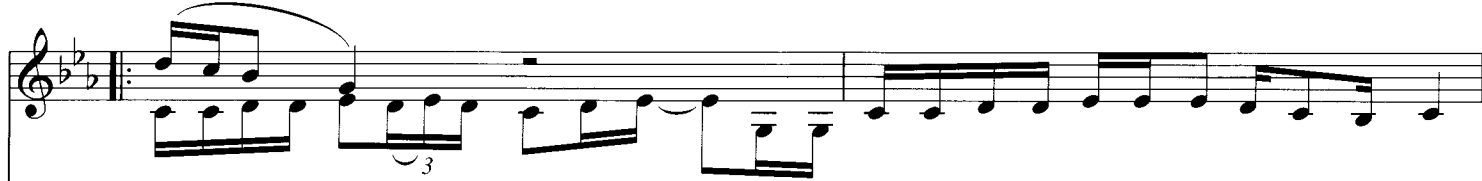
— up for small - er things. — You're just a lit - tle boy; — all you do

Ab 4fr

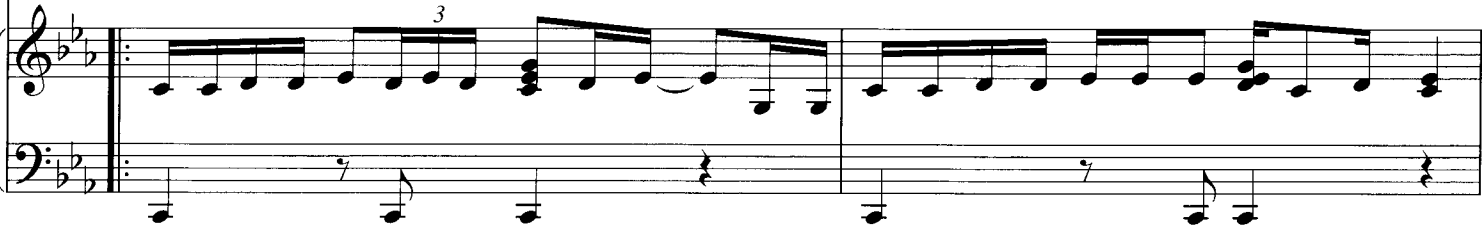
is an - noy. — You must talk so big to make — up for small - er things. — (This is for my



(1st time only)



This is for my girls all a - round the world_ who have come a - cross a man that don't re - spect your worth, girls.)_____ (Continue vocal ad lib.)



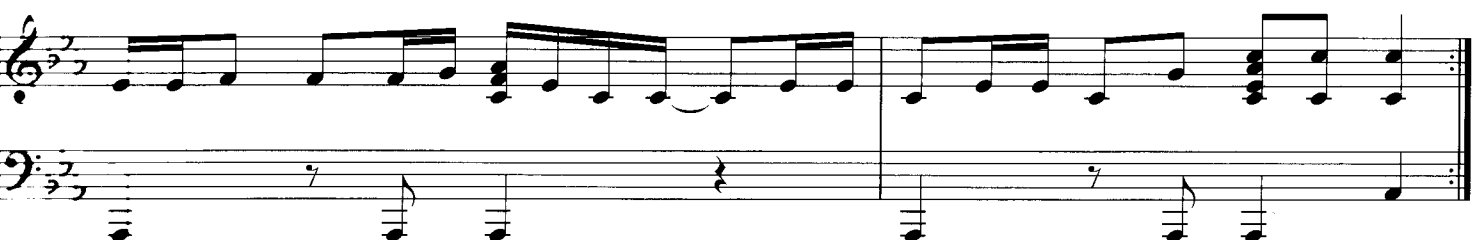
think - ing all wom - en should be seen, not heard._ So what do we do, _ girls? Shout out loud! We're

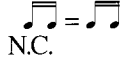


let - tin' 'em know_ we're gon - na stand our ground, _ so lift your hands high - er and _ wave 'em proud. _



Take a deep breath and _ say _ it loud: _ Nev - er can, nev - er will, can't hold us down!



N.C. 

can, nev - er will, can't hold us down! _____ (1st time only)



The first system of music features a vocal line in treble clef and piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase that ends with a repeat sign and a fermata. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic and rhythmic foundation.



The second system continues the piano accompaniment from the first system. It features a complex rhythmic pattern in the right hand, consisting of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand plays a simpler bass line.

Spread the word:



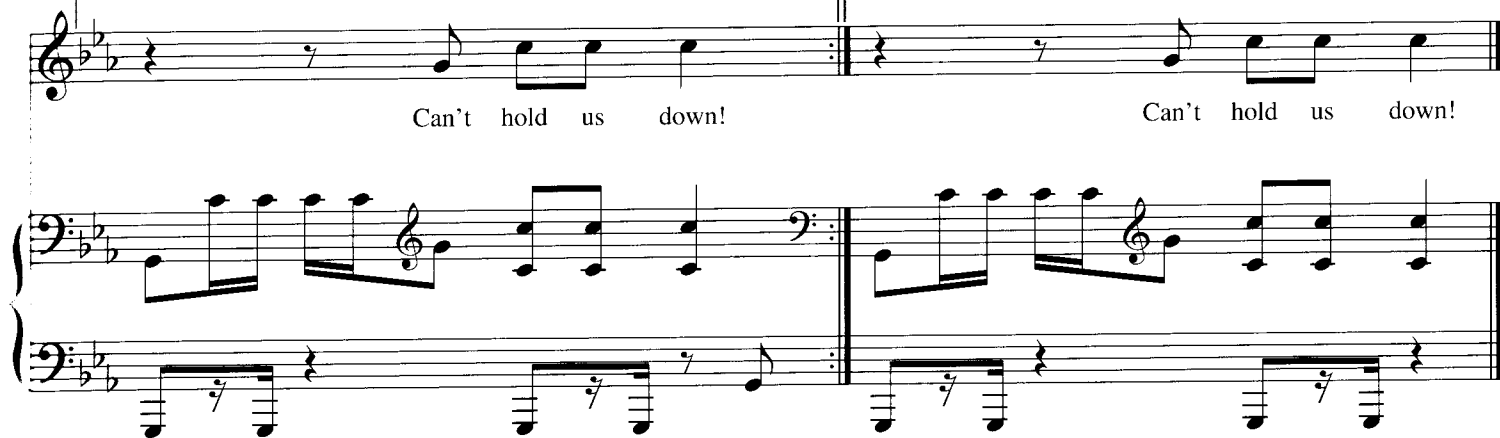
The third system includes a vocal line in treble clef and piano accompaniment in grand staff. The vocal line has a few notes with 'x' marks above them, indicating a specific performance technique. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern as the previous systems.

Repeat and Fade

Optional Ending

Can't hold us down!

Can't hold us down!



The final system of music is divided into two parts: 'Repeat and Fade' and 'Optional Ending'. Both parts feature a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment concludes with a final chord in the right hand and a sustained bass line in the left hand.