



BAKER STREET



According to Dan Dietz's article on *Baker Street*¹:

During the tryout, the following songs were deleted . . . Six songs were added, all with lyrics by Sheldon Harnick and music by Jerry Bock: “Cold Clear World,” “Finding Words for Spring,” “I Shall Miss You Mr. Holmes,” “I’d Do It Again,” “What a Night This Is Going to Be,” and “I’m In London Again.”

Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick are probably best known for their spectacular words and music for *Fiddler on the Roof* (1964). But earlier they also wrote terrific scores for *The Body Beautiful* (1957), *Fiorello* (1959), *Tenderloin* (1960), *She Loves Me* (1963).

The sheet music for “Cold Clear World” (above), does not mention any composer or lyricist at the top or inside. All the other sheets list words and music by Marian Grudeff and Raymond Jessel, even on “Finding Words for Spring” and “What a Night This Is Going to Be,” both of which were written by Bock and Harnick! The Playbills also make no mention of Bock and Harnick! I guess they were truly “ghostwriters.”

It is rare but not unusual for composers and lyricists to be brought in to work on a show that isn't doing well during the tryouts. They are sometimes referred to as “show doctors.” Bock and Harnick, for example, in addition to assisting on *Baker Street*, also helped with *Her First Roman* (1968)²:

During its out-of-town tryout, the original director Michael Benthall was fired and succeeded by Derek Goldby, and the original choreographer was fired and replaced. Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick were brought in to write new songs and wrote “Ptolemy”, “(Kind) Old Gentleman”, and “Caesar is Wrong.”

¹ Dan Dietz, *The Complete Book of 1960s Broadway Musicals*, Rowman and Littlefield, MD, 2014, p. 286.

² Wikipedia, *Her First Roman* (retrieved 9/4/24), citing Robert McGarity, “About Her First Roman” *Her First Roman Album Liner*: 3.