

CHORAL  
SCORE

# Beds Are Burning

by Midnight Oil

Reconciliation Australia thanks Midnight Oil and Sony Music Publishing for their support of  
Voices for Reconciliation. We sing in honour of the memory of Rob Hirst.

SEE ARRANGER'S NOTES (on the LYRICS PDF)

Arranged by Catherine Mundy & Jay Turner  
for Reconciliation Australia

♩ = 120 **Rock!**

INTRO: 6 beats of cow-bell

E5 E5 G A E5 G A N.C.

Sop 1  
Sop 2 (optional)

Alto  
(MELODY)

Tenor  
(with 8ve  
options)

Baritone

The time has come! The time has come! Oo\_\_\_

The time has come! The time has come!

The time has come! The time has come!

The time has come! The time has come!

## VERSE 1

E5

S1  
S2

A

T

B

de - sert oak \_\_\_

Out where the ri - ver broke the blood-wood and the de - sert oak \_\_\_

Out where the ri - ver broke the blood-wood and the de - sert oak \_\_\_

Out where the ri - ver broke the blood-wood and the de - sert oak \_\_\_

# Beds Are Burning - CHORAL SCORE

*Voices for Reconciliation 2026*

11

S1  
S2

A

T

B

Hol - den wrecks and boi - ling die-sels Steam in for - ty - five de-grees The

Hol - den wrecks and boi - ling die-sels Steam in for - ty - five de-grees The

Hol - den wrecks and boi - ling die-sels Steam in for - ty - five de-grees The

Hol - den wrecks and boi - ling die-sels Steam in for - ty - five de-grees The

## PRE-CHORUS 1

15

E D/E

S1  
S2

A

T

B

time has come to say fair's fair to

time has come to say fair's fair to

time has come to say fair's fair to

time has come to say fair's fair to

**Beds Are Burning - CHORAL SCORE**  
*Voices for Reconciliation 2026*

19 A/E E

S1  
S2

A

T

B

pay the rent to pay our share The

23 E D/E

S1  
S2

A

T

B

time has come a fact's a fact It be-

# Beds Are Burning - CHORAL SCORE

*Voices for Reconciliation 2026*

27

A/E F# E5 G A

S1  
S2

longs to them Let's give it back \_\_\_\_\_ Give it back!

A

longs to them Let's give it back \_\_\_\_\_ Give it back!

T

longs to them Let's give it back \_\_\_\_\_ Give it back!

B

longs to them Let's give it back \_\_\_\_\_ Give it back!

*(Body-percussion is optional)*

*[foot-stomps]*

## CHORUS 1

32

N.C. Em C G G/F#

S1  
S2

[stomp stomp stomp] How can we dance when our earth is tur-ning?

A

[stomp stomp stomp] How can we dance when our earth is tur-ning?

T

[stomp stomp stomp] How can we dance when our earth is tur-ning?

B

[stomp stomp stomp] How can we dance when our earth is tur-ning?

**Beds Are Burning - CHORAL SCORE**  
*Voices for Reconciliation 2026*

37

Em CM7 D D B7

S1  
S2

A

T

B

How do we sleep while our beds are bur - ning?

41

Em C G G G/F#

S1  
S2

A

T

B

How can we dance when our earth is tur - ning?

# Beds Are Burning - CHORAL SCORE

*Voices for Reconciliation 2026*

45

Em CM7 D

S1  
S2

A

T

B

How do we sleep while our beds are bur - ning? The

How do we sleep while our beds are bur - ning? The

How do we sleep while our beds are bur - ning? The

How do we sleep while our beds are bur - ning? The

BRIDGE 1

49

Em C G D

S1  
S2

A

T

B

time has come to say fair's fair to pay the rent now, to pay our share

time has come to say fair's fair to pay the rent now, to pay our share

time has come to say fair's fair to pay the rent now, to pay our share

time has come to say fair's fair to pay the rent now, to pay our share

**Beds Are Burning - CHORAL SCORE**  
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**INTERLUDE: like a road-train horn**

54

Em D/E Em

S1  
S2

A

T

B

Bah bah bah bah bah

Bah bah bah bah bah

Bah bah bah bah bah

Bah bah bah bah bah

**VERSE 2**

58

E5

S1  
S2

A

T

B

The cock - a - toos The

Four wheels scare the cock - a - toos from Kin-tore East to Yuen-du-mu The

Four wheels scare the cock - a - toos from Kin-tore East to Yuen-du-mu The

Four wheels scare the cock - a - toos from Kin-tore East to Yuen-du-mu The

# Beds Are Burning - CHORAL SCORE

*Voices for Reconciliation 2026*

62

S1  
S2

west-ern de-sert lives and breathes for - ty - five de-grees

A

west-ern de-sert lives and breathes in for - ty five de-grees \_\_\_\_\_ The

T

8

west-ern de-sert lives and breathes in for - ty five de-grees \_\_\_\_\_ The

B

west-ern de-sert lives and breathes in for - ty five de-grees \_\_\_\_\_ The

PRE-CHORUS 2

E D/E

66

S1  
S2

\_\_\_\_\_ to say fair's fair to

A

time has come to say fair's fair to

T

8

time has come to say fair's fair to

B

time has come to say fair's fair to

**Beds Are Burning - CHORAL SCORE**  
*Voices for Reconciliation 2026*

70 A/E E

S1  
S2  
A  
T  
B

pay the rent to pay our share The time has

pay the rent to pay our share The

pay the rent to pay our share The

pay the rent to pay our share The

74 E D/E

S1  
S2  
A  
T  
B

come a fact's a fact it be - longs to

time has come a fact's a fact It be -

time has come a fact's a fact It be -

time has come a fact's a fact It be -

**Beds Are Burning - CHORAL SCORE**  
*Voices for Reconciliation 2026*

78

A/E F# E5 G A N.C. [foot-stomps]

S1  
S2

them Let's give it back Give it back! [stomp stomp stomp]

A

longs to them Let's give it back Give it back! [stomp stomp stomp]

T

longs to them Let's give it back Give it back! [stomp stomp stomp]

B

longs to them Let's give it back Give it back! [stomp stomp stomp]

**CHORUS 2**

83 [tap on thighs] Em C G G G/F#

S1  
S2

[tap tap tap] How can we dance when our earth is tur-ning?

A

[tap tap tap] How can we dance when our earth is tur-ning?

T

[tap tap tap] How can we dance when our earth is tur-ning?

B

[tap tap tap] How can we dance when our earth is tur-ning?

**Beds Are Burning - CHORAL SCORE**  
*Voices for Reconciliation 2026*

88 Em CM7 D B7

S1  
S2  
A  
T  
B

How do we sleep while our beds are bur-ning? How do we sleep? How do we sleep?

How do we sleep while our beds are bur-ning?

How do we sleep while our beds are bur-ning?

How do we sleep while our beds are bur-ning?

(optional divisi Sop 1 / Sop 2)

92 Em C G G G/F#

S1  
S2  
A  
T  
B

Oh\_\_\_ how can we dance when our earth is tur-ning?

How can we dance when our earth is tur-ning?

How can we dance when our earth is tur-ning?

How can we dance when our earth is tur-ning?

**Beds Are Burning - CHORAL SCORE**  
*Voices for Reconciliation 2026*

96 Em CM7 D B7

S1  
S2

while our beds are bur-ning? How do we sleep? How do we sleep?

A

How do we sleep while our beds are bur-ning? How do we sleep? How do we sleep? The

T

How do we sleep while our beds are bur-ning? How do we sleep? How do we sleep? The

B

How do we sleep while our beds are bur-ning? How do we sleep? How do we sleep? The

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the chorus of 'Beds Are Burning'. It features four vocal parts: Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The music is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'while our beds are bur-ning? How do we sleep? How do we sleep?' for S1 and S2; 'How do we sleep while our beds are bur-ning? How do we sleep? How do we sleep? The' for A, T, and B. Chord markings are Em, CM7, D, and B7. Measure numbers 96, 97, 98, and 99 are indicated. Accents (>) are placed over the notes in measures 97 and 98.

**BRIDGE 2**

*(optional divisi Sop 1 / Sop 2)*

100 Em C G D

S1  
S2

The time has come to say fair's fair, to pay the rent to pay our

A

time has come to say fair's fair, to pay the rent now, to pay our share The

T

time has come to say fair's fair, to pay the rent now, to pay our share The

B

time has come to say fair's fair, to pay the rent now, to pay our share The

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for Bridge 2 of 'Beds Are Burning'. It features four vocal parts: Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The music is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'The time has come to say fair's fair, to pay the rent to pay our' for S1 and S2; 'time has come to say fair's fair, to pay the rent now, to pay our share The' for A, T, and B. Chord markings are Em, C, G, and D. Measure number 100 is indicated. The Soprano parts have a divisi line above the first measure.

**Beds Are Burning - CHORAL SCORE**  
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104

Em C G D

S1  
S2

share, The time has come a fact's a fact — we're gon-na give it back

A

time has come a fact's a fact It be - longs to them, we're gon-na give it back

T

8

time has come a fact's a fact It be - longs to them, we're gon-na give it back

B

time has come a fact's a fact It be - longs to them, we're gon-na give it back

CODA

N.C. E5 G A

108

S1  
S2

give it back! give it back! [stomp stomp tap] The time has come!

A

give it back! give it back! [stomp stomp tap] The time has come!

T

8

give it back! give it back! [stomp stomp tap] The time has come!

B

give it back! give it back! [stomp stomp tap] The time has come!