

Two Brothers—2016
Edited 1/13

Band is seated onstage. A chair is onstage with a black shawl draped over the back.

CUE: TWO BROTHERS (1st verse)

From backstage, the first verse of the song is sung by soprano, with a very simple Band accompaniment. During the song, George (Union brother) enters wearing partial uniform. He sits in the chair, wipes dust from his boots, adjusts his collar, checks the fit of his cap, etc.

Lyric:

Two brothers on their way,
Two brothers on their way,
Two brothers on their way,
One wore blue and one wore grey.
One wore blue and one wore grey,
As they marched along their way,
A fife and a drum began to play.
There on a beautiful morning.

Enter Julia (sister) carrying Union coat.

Julia: Ah, George! I've been looking for you. I've shortened your coat sleeves a bit. Try it now.

She hands him the coat and he tries it on.

George: Much better Julia. Thank you.

Julia: I had to let the sleeves DOWN on Robert's jacket before he left yesterday.

George (*shaking his head*): I will NEVER understand...

Julia: Now, George...

George: Yes, yes...but I cannot for the life of me understand how our brother can support that pack of Rebel traitors!

Julia: And HE cannot understand how you can support the denial of a State's right to choose what it will and will not accept within its borders.

George: Surely Robert has not changed his mind about the enslavement of the African race!

Julia: No. Certainly not! He finds that act as repugnant as you and I. But that is not the only issue here...

George (*emphatically*): We **MUST** have unified federal governance or this country will dissolve into chaos. The unity of these United States is far more important than the whims of any individual State!

Julia: But the Union is built on the freedom to choose...

George: Good gravy, sister dear. Don't tell me YOU sympathize with those secessionist Rebels as well!

Julia (*getting a bit frustrated*): And who will sympathize with ME being the sister of two hard-headed brothers who insist on marching off to war in opposite directions? You're not soldiers to me. You're my BROTHERS and I love you both very dearly. It grieves me that you are going to war at all. That you have chosen opposite sides in this horrible fight is almost more than I can bear!

They face off and stare at each other for a moment. Then George softens a bit.

George: Well, you did a good job on the coats—mine...and Robert's.

Julia: I only hope that I shall see both coats again.

Julia turns away, holding back tears. George puts a hand on her shoulder and nods then realizes that he must go.

George (*buttoning his coat and gathering his things*): I must go, sister dear. Mr. Lincoln has called for 50,000 more troops and I intend to be one of them.

CUE: WE'RE COMING FATHER ABRAM (vocal)

George exits after song.

Julia (*taking a letter from her pocket*): Robert left this letter for me before he marched off with the Maryland Guard yesterday morning. I must say he looked very dashing in his fine grey Confederate uniform. (*Opening the letter, she reads*)

Baltimore, Maryland, April 19, 1863

Dearest sister Julia,

I know that it is difficult for you to see George and me at odds but he is so clearly misguided. The guarantee of States' Rights must be honored and preserved. It is not a matter of slave-state or free. I would that ALL men be free to choose their own path. But a Federalist regime cannot be allowed to dictate to its member States no matter what the issue.

Forgive me, I digress into politics for which I know you have no concern. My purpose for setting pen to paper is to thank you for your loving kindness and to assure you that this fight between brothers and countrymen cannot last. I am certain that George and his Federalist comrades will soon see the error of their thinking. And if not, then we shall see the Bonnie Blue flag of our Confederacy fly proudly over those states that choose to remain free of Federal tyranny.

With love. Your brother, Robert.

(She shakes her head and exits, still re-reading the letter)

CUE: CALVARY QUICKSTEP (possible change)

CUE: TWO BROTHERS (2nd verse)

A bit more lush arrangement
Julia sings 2nd verse from backstage.

Lyrics:

One was gentle, one was kind,
One was gentle, one was kind,
One came home one stayed behind.
Canonball don't pay no mind.
Canonball don't pay no mind
Though you're gentle or you're kind.
Don't care 'bout folks left behind.
There on a beautiful morning.

During song, George enters. His uniform is neat and complete. He carries a pen or pencil and pad of paper. He sits in the chair.

George *(reading aloud what he has just written)*:

Gettysburg Pennsylvania, November 20, 1863

Dearest sister,

I apologize for my delay in writing to you but it should please you to know the reason for my tardiness. All regular duties of the Maryland 1st Regiment were recently suspended so that we might assist in the preparations for the dedication of a Soldier's National Cemetery here in the town of Gettysburg. For our labors, we were given the honor of attending the dedication ceremonies, which were quite grand indeed. There were a number of dignitaries in attendance including Mr. August Bradford, the governor of our own State of Maryland, and appropriate music was provided by the United States Marine Band. The great orator, Mr. Edward Everett, spoke eloquently for nigh on to two hours. I must admit that I do not recall anything more than the general gist of his oratory. But then, President Lincoln spoke to us for just two minutes –and I still remember every word he said.

CUE: BATTLE HYMN/GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

George exits after recitation.

Enter Julia with letter in hand.

Julia: *She unfolds the letter and reads:*

From: Captain Robert Anderson,

Confederate States Army

Spotsylvania, Virginia, May 8th, 1864

Dearest sister Julia,

Please do not be alarmed that this letter is not written in the usual unkempt penmanship for which you have so often admonished me. I have sustained an injury that precludes me from the use of a pen or pencil and so one of my comrades has kindly offered to put my words to paper. General Jones led us to this God forsaken wilderness that is half swamp and half briar patch in an effort to give our men the advantage of the cover the terrain provides. We have used it well and the Federalists have not been able to advance upon us as readily as they did at Mine Run. This thicket makes it difficult to know just how many of our comrades are still with us and whether we are making the progress that we had hoped. Those of us who are left from the Confederate Maryland Guard have been absorbed into the 21st Virginia regiment as our numbers had become too few to have any proper chain of command. This suits us well for now we have some hope of gaining the supplies and ammunition that we so desperately need.

In closing, sister dear, I offer a soldier's prayer that you are safe and well and that the same is true for our brother, George.

Your fond brother, Robert

Julia exits as tune begins.

CUE: SOLDIER'S PRAYER

After music, enter George. His uniform is in disarray and he is missing his hat. He carries a letter.

George (*reading over his letter before he seals it*):

Spotsylvania, Virginia, May 8th, 1864

Dear sister,

I have only a moment to write these few lines to you. The hellish battle we have endured for the last 3 days has eased although it is not clear whether the fight is won or lost. Our cannons have been of little use in this wilderness for our artillerymen cannot see through the dense thicket to take aim at the Confederate lines. Our greatest challenge has been from Rebel marksmen who hide themselves among the briars and deplete our lines one man at a time. Their rifle-shots have nearly ceased in the last few hours but Colonel Maulsby has commanded us to hold our ground and await reinforcements from General Cutler and the 5th Corps.

I pray God that you are safe and well and that I may see our great country whole again before my life is ended.

Your brother, George

CUE: TRAMP, TRAMP, TRAMP (vocal)

George exits after song. Julia enters carrying a newspaper.

Julia (*looking at the front page of the paper*): Hmm...and what is this? General Lee has finally surrendered to General Grant at Appomatox. The War Between the States is over and the Union is preserved! Oh Huzzah and Huzzah!! And soon, all of our soldiers, from both sides of this awful conflict will be coming home. What a jubilee that will be!

CUE: WHEN JOHNNY COMES HOME FROM THE WAR

(Julia sings the 1st verse then exits to make her homecoming preparations as Band continues)

CUE: TWO BROTHERS (3rd verse)

Julia sings final verse of "Two Brothers" from backstage.

This verse may be a cappella or with minimal chord accompaniment from Band.

Lyric:

Two girls waiting by the railroad track,
Two girls waiting by the railroad track,
For their darlin's to come back.
One wore blue and one wore black.
One wore blue and one wore black
As they waited by the track,
For their darlin's to come back
There on a beautiful morning,
All on a beautiful morning.

After song, George enters from one side of stage and Julia from the other. George is wounded (with cane or some sort of sling or bandage) but otherwise OK.

George: Julia? (he sees her) Julia!

Julia: Oh George! You're home safe at last!

George (*wearily*): Yes, dear Julia, and thankful to be so. (*They embrace. She takes his haversack as he begins to unbutton his coat. He sits in chair. He remembers something.*) Ah...I met the postman as I was coming up the walk. There's a letter for you. (*He hands Julia a letter.*) (*As soon as Julia starts to read (I regret. . .) George stands stricken, removes his hat. Julia cannot finish reading and hands letter to George, who glances at it then drops it.*)

Julia (*opens letter and reads*):

April 21, 1865

Dear Miss Anderson:

I regret to inform you that your brother, Captain Robert Anderson, was lost on the field of battle at Saylor's Creek 10 days ago. As his commanding officer, I assure you that he died bravely in the service of his comrades and that his death is a great loss to us all.

Very sincerely yours,

Lieutenant General Richard S. Ewell

2nd Corps, Army of Northern Virginia

Confederate States of America

takes the black shawl from the chair and drapes it around her head and shoulders in mourning. George and Julia stand, one each side behind the empty chair, each placing a hand on the back of it.

CUE: VACANT CHAIR (vocal)

Both sing