

COALHOUSE  
 SARAH, MY LIFE HAS CHANGED.  
 SARAH, YOU'VE GOT TO SEE.  
 SARAH, WE'VE GOT A SON!  
 SARAH, COME DOWN TO ME...

(SARAH stands upstairs, undecided. SHE slowly moves toward the door.)

SARAH	COALHOUSE	ALL
YOU AND YOUR MUSIC, SINGING DEEP IN ME, MAKING NICE TO ME, SAYING SOMETHING SO NEW - CHANGING EVERYTHING, MEANING EVERYTHING CALLING MY HEART TO YOU...	NEW  MUSIC	
PLAY THAT MELODY YOUR SWEET MELODY CALLING MY HEART TO YOU	ALL FOR YOU, GIRL YOU, SARAH  YOU	AHH...

(SARAH comes down the stairs. The FAMILY reacts as she walks into COALHOUSE's embrace.)

ALL (except COALHOUSE and SARAH)  
 JUST LIKE THAT TUNE,  
 SIMPLE AND CLEAR,  
 I'VE COME TO HEAR  
 NEW MUSIC -  
 BREAKING MY HEART,  
 OP'NING A DOOR,  
 CHANGING THE WORLD!  
 NEW MUSIC!  
 I'LL  
 HEAR IT FOREVERMORE!

(SARAH nods a happy, tearful assent. The music changes into the vamp for "WHEELS OF A DREAM" as we find ourselves on an idyllic hillside in the country. COALHOUSE has been polishing his car. SARAH, amused at his fastidiousness, holds their son.)

SARAH  
 You've been polishing that car so hard there ain't gonna be anything left for us to ride home in!

COALHOUSE  
 You laugh but you wait, you'll see. This is no ordinary car, Sarah. This car is going to take us to a better day and a better time.

COALHOUSE  
 2 AND  
 SARAH L  
 START

SARAH

Who have you been talking to, Coalhouse?

COALHOUSE

No one, but I've been reading the words of Mr. Booker T. Washington. He's a great man, Sarah.

SARAH

I think you're a great man, Coalhouse.

COALHOUSE

Not like that, Sarah, not like that. Harvard University awarded him a degree. Imagine that. Imagine what this child's life can be.

(SARAH gives COALHOUSE the baby.)

WHEELS OF A DREAM

COALHOUSE

I SEE HIS FACE.  
I HEAR HIS HEARTBEAT.  
I LOOK IN THOSE EYES.  
HOW WISE THEY SEEM.  
WELL, WHEN HE IS OLD ENOUGH  
I WILL SHOW HIM AMERICA  
AND HE WILL RIDE  
ON THE WHEELS OF A DREAM.

END HERE FOR COALHOUSE

COALHOUSE

WE' LL GO DOWN SOUTH  
AND SEE YOUR PEOPLE  
WON' T THEY TAKE TO HIM  
LIKE CATS TO CREAM!

SARAH

GO DOWN SOUTH  
SEE MY FOLKS.  
THEY' LL TAKE TO HIM  
MMM...

COALHOUSE

THEN WE' LL TRAVEL ON FROM THERE.

SARAH

CALIFORNIA OR WHO KNOWS WHERE!

BOTH

AND WE WILL RIDE  
ON THE WHEELS OF A DREAM.

COALHOUSE

YES, THE WHEELS ARE TURNING FOR US, GIRL,  
AND THE TIMES ARE STARTING TO ROLL.  
ANY MAN CAN GET WHERE HE WANTS TO  
IF HE' S GOT SOME FIRE IN HIS SOUL.  
WE' LL SEE JUSTICE, SARAH,  
AND PLENTY OF MEN  
WHO WILL STAND UP  
AND GIVE US OUR DUE,

END HERE FOR SARAH

No. 15

Concert Version

RAGTIME

COALHOUSE 2

# The Wheels of a Dream

(Coalhouse, Sarah)

Cue:

COALHOUSE:

"Imagine what this child's life can be."

(SARAH gives the baby to COALHOUSE)

Moderato

COALHOUSE:

STARS

(let ring)

mp

2

I see his—

6

face. I hear his heart-beat. I look in those

3

10

eyes. How wise they seem. Well, when he is

3

old e - nough, I will show him A - me - ri - ca and he will—

14

This system contains measures 14 through 17. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat).

ride on the wheels of a

18

*poco rit.*

This system contains measures 18 and 19. The tempo marking *poco rit.* is present above the vocal line and below the piano accompaniment. The piano part continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

*A Tempo*

dream... We'll go down—

20

*poco a poco piu mosso* *rall.*

This system contains measures 20 through 23. The tempo marking *A Tempo* is above the vocal line. The piano part has markings *poco a poco piu mosso* and *rall.*. The vocal line ends with a long note. The piano part ends with a final chord. A large handwritten "END" is written at the bottom right of the system.