

WAY DOWN YONDER IN THE BRICKYARD

African-American Play Party



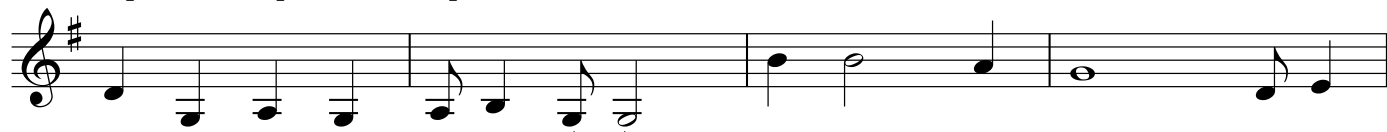
Way down yon - der in the brick- yard, — *Re - mem - ber me,*



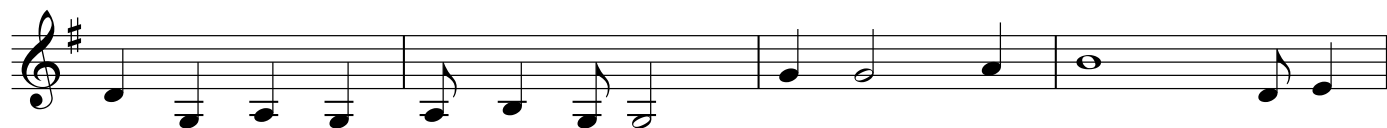
Way down yon - der in the brick yard, — *Re - mem - ber me,* I said



Step it, step it, step it down, *Re - mem - ber me,* I said



Step it, step it, step it down, *Re - mem - ber me,* I said



turn your lov - er 'round and 'round, *Re - mem - ber me,* I said



turn your lov - er 'round and 'round, — *Re - mem - ber me.*

WAY DOWN YONDER IN THE BRICKYARD

An African-American play party song

**Transmitted by Bessie Jones, of the Georgia Sea Islands, and included in the collections *Step It Down* (1972, Harper & Row) and *Put Your Hand On Your Hip And Let Your Backbone Slip* (Rounder Heritage Series 1166-11587-2)
Mrs. Jones' comments:**

"My grandfather made up this song down in the brickyard out from Williamsburg, Virginia, many years ago in slavery time. They had to make bricks with their hands and roll them up and fix them up with their hands, work some kind of a hot kiln. They tell us 'bout how they used to do it. They wasn't getting no pay for it and they just made up their mind that, they always did make up their mind that they sing song, they get the work off their mind. They got to pacify their self they would sing something and so that's what they did. They made this up, and they said, 'let's go ahead and make the brick, do the work, and step it down.' Step it down mean make yourself happy and be rejoicing anyhow. You don't get no money for it no how, so go ahead, and be happy with it. But we do want them, when these bricks, you know they're putting the bricks up, they're going to build things with it, someday know that they will remember them. So that's what it is...why it say 'Remember me,' after they go 'long, right now some of them bricks and some of that stuff is still there. They can remember them, but they wasn't gettin' no pay for it, so they just named it 'Step It Down.'"

Lead Voice**Group Voice****Action**

Way down yonder in the brickyard, Remember me,

Dancer moves around in the circle,

Way down yonder in the brickyard, Remember me,

Dancer chooses a partner, and they Step It Down:

I said step it, step it, step it down, Remember me,

Partners hold hands facing one another. Each starting with the right foot, they move one foot toward the partner and back, and then the other, in succession, on down beats.

I said step it, step it, step it down, Remember me,

I said swing your lover, turn her 'round, Remember me,

Partners link elbows and swing around, first one way, then the other, ending with the original dancer back in the group, and the new partner in the middle of the circle.

I said swing your lover, turn her 'round. Remember me.

Play repeats until all have taken a turn.