I Can't Give You Anything But Love

by Dorothy Fields & Jimmy McHugh for Blackbirds of Broadway 1928

Few lyricists have had the talent Dorothy Fields had for writing words that sit so well on the music. Just reading her lyrics one can see the music rise and fall. One of her earliest lyrics is a good example: ***I can't give you anything but love ... baby!***

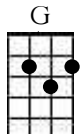
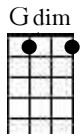
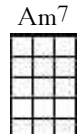
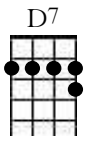
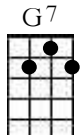
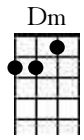
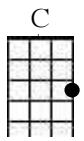
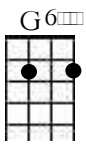
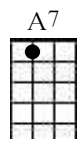
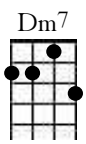
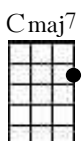
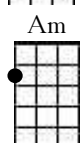
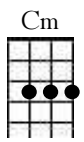
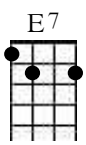
Her words not only fit the music, they confidently ride on top of it.

Perhaps Lehman Engel put it best when he said Fields' lyrics dance.

She perfected the character lyric to a level beyond that of many better-known songwriters. Whether the song was an elegant ballad for a romantic Hollywood film or a streetwise character song for a musical play, Fields wrote with a precision found only in the best lyricists. The fact that she was able to sustain this precision for over forty years makes her unique in a way rarely seen on Broadway.

G Gdim Am7 D7
I can't give you anything but love, Ba--by
G Gdim Am7 D7
That's the only thing I've plenty of, Ba--by
G7 Dm G7
Dream a while, scheme a while,
C
You're sure to find
G6 A7 G A7
Happiness, and I guess
Am7 D7 Gdim D7
All those things you've always pined for

G Gdim Am7 D7
Gee, I'd like to see you lookin' swell, Ba--by
Dm7 G7 CMaj7 Am
Diamond bracelets Woolworth's doesn't sell, Baby
C Cm G E7
Till that lucky day you know darn well, Ba--by
Am7 D7 G (Gdim Am7) D7
I can't give you anything but love

• Repeat from top and then end with....

Am7 D7 G Am7 G
I can't give you anything but love