TO: Lisa Simon, Danny Epstein, Robby Merkin, Carlos Dorta  
CC: Norman Stiles, Karin Young  
FROM: Chris Cerf  
SUBJECT: "Oops!" -- (Song Revised for Sesame Street XXV)  
DATE: 5 December 1993

Hi, Lisa, Danny, Robby and Carlos:

Enclosed is a demo and lyric sheet for Norman's and my makeover of "Oops!"  
As you'll already know if you've read Norman's newly submitted "Oops!" script,  
the piece is now set in a beans-only restaurant featuring Grover as the waiter and  
Fat Blue (Jerry Nelson) as the forever-beleaguered customer. Elmo, Zoe and  
Telly (as an R&B-style bass man) are also present -- at a nearby table -- to  
provide back-up lines and additional humor. The curriculum goal for "Oops!" is  
COPING WITH FAILURE -- as exemplified by Grover's repeated "spilling of the  
beans" near -- or actually on -- his customer.

I think the new set-up is not only considerably sillier and funnier than the  
original, but also solves the problems of over-complicated production that  
inhibited use of the song in the past. (I understand -- via a late Friday call from  
Carlos -- that we may have missed the deadline for this season, but we're  
submitting the song anyway. Maybe you can squeeze it in, and, if not, there's  
always next year!)

And there you have it!

Fondly,

* * *

[P.S. I continue to believe that, in the future, footage of folks screwing up -- our  
cast and Muppets, and/or famous athletes and other celebrities -- could be worked  
into this piece. We could shoot such footage ourselves, or -- particularly in the  
case of movie, TV or sports stuff -- we could use "found" blooper footage. But  
this is optional, not required....]

[NEW SONG LYRICS FOLLOW -- NEXT PAGE]
Oops!

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Peppy Late '50s Rock
A=140

GROVER (SPOKEN): You are right. I should not just say "Oops!" I should sing it!

[MUSIC: VAMP UP AND UNDER.]

[VERSE #1]

GROVER (SINGS): I say OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): OOPS

GROVER: I spilled your beans on the floor
OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): OOPS

GROVER: And wait... there is more!
OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): OOPS

GROVER: I broke the plate and the cup
OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): OOPS

GROVER: Boy, I sure messed up!

[FAT BLUE STARTS TO GET UP. GROVER MOTIONS OR SHOVES HIM BACK DOWN.]

GROVER (CONTINUED): Just relax!
I will get more beans, and then...

TELLY (SPOKEN, TO FAT BLUE, IN DEEP BASS VOICE): He will try real hard not to spill them again.*

[*NOTE: I like "spill them" better than "do it," the words I sang on the demo.]

[MORE]
[MUSIC: VAMP. GROVER HEADS FOR KITCHEN.]

[BRIDGE #1:]

MONSTERS (SING): When you make a mistake...

GROVER (SPOKEN, TURNING TO CAMERA AT KITCHEN DOOR): And I have made quite a few

MONSTERS (SING): You will find that people tend to get annoyed with you.
If they do, say...

ELMO (SPOKEN): "Sorry, do not get uptight --

TELLY (SUNG IN DEEP BASS VOICE): ...I will do all I all I can to set things right!"

[MUSIC: VAMP AS GROVER COMES OUT OF KITCHEN. GROVER SPILLS BEANS ON FAT BLUE AS VAMP ENDS.]

GROVER (SPOKEN): Uh oh! Once again, I must say...

[VERSE #2:]

GROVER SINGS: OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): OOPS

GROVER (SPOKEN): Now, I spilled the beans... (SINGS AGAIN) OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): OOPS

GROVER SINGS: ...On your brand new jeans! (SINGS AGAIN) OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): OOPS

[MORE]
GROVER (SPOKEN): Oh, what a shame!
OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): OOPS

GROVER: I am the one to blame!
I am oh so sorry
That I soiled your pants

TELLY (SPOKEN IN DEEP BASS VOICE): Please, Mr. Blue Man, give him one more chance.

[MUSIC: VAMP AS GROVER GOES INTO THE KITCHEN.]

[Bridge #2:]

MONSTERS (SING): No matter how smart you are, no matter how good
Things don't always turn out like you think they should!
So if you make a mistake, just shrug, or smile
And say...

TELLY (SINGS IN DEEP BASS VOICE): "Everyone blows it once in a while!"

[MUSIC: VAMP. GROVER COMES OUT AND WITH TRAY BALANCED ON HIS HAND. AS VERSE #3 BEGINS, HE WEAVES PRECARIOUSLY AROUND THE ROOM, ALMOST DROPPING THE TRAY JUST BEFORE SINGING THE WORD "OOPS!"

[VERSE #3 -- "OOPS!" CHORUS:]

GROVER: OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): OOPS

ZOE/TELLY (SING): OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): ...OOPS...

ZOE/TELLY (SING): ...OOPS!

[MORE]
GROVER: OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): OOPS

ZOE/TELLY (SING): OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): ...OOPS...

ZOE/TELLY (SING): ...OOPS!

GROVER: OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): OOPS

ZOE/TELLY (SING): OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): ...OOPS...

ZOE/TELLY (SING): ...OOPS!

GROVER: OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): OOPS

ZOE/TELLY (SING): OOPS...

ELMO (SINGS HIGH FALSETTO NOTE): ...OOPS...

ZOE/TELLY (SING): ...OOPS!

GROVER: When you make a mistake, it is not a crime -

TELLY (SPOKEN IN DEEP BASS VOICE): Hey, nobody's perfect all of the time!

GROVER PLACES THE TRAY ON TABLE WITHOUT INCIDENT.

GROVER: Here you go, sir. One cup of beans, with absolutely no problem at all, and with a nifty little song, too, if I may say so...

[GROVER SLIPS AND FALLS, CRASHING INTO THE (BREAKAWAY) TABLE, AND SMASHING IT TO SMITHEREENS.]

MONSTERS: Oops!

GROVER (COMES UP): I slipped on a bean.