



REMEMBERING L VECTERDAY'S HITC

READER'S DIGEST SONGBOOK

Editor: William L. Simon Music arranged and edited by Dan Fox Project Editor: Mary Kelleher Associate Editor: Natalie Moreda Designer: Karen Mastropietro Music Associate: Elizabeth Mead Annotated by Jim Lowe

READER'S DIGEST GENERAL BOOKS

Editorial Director John A. Pope, Jr.

Muniging Editor. Jane Polley

Art Director. Richard J. Berenson

Group Editors. Norman B. Mack, John Speicher.

David Trooper (Art). Susan J. Wernert

THE READER'S DIGEST ASSOCIATION, INC. Pleasantville, New York/Montreal

Copyright © 1986 The Reader's Digest Association, Inc.
Copyright © 1986 The Reader's Digest Association (Canada) Ltd.
Copyright © 1986 Reader's Digest Association Far East Ltd.
Philippine Copyright 1986 Reader's Digest Association Far East Ltd.

All rights reserved. Unauthorized reproduction, in any manner, is prohibited.

ISBN 0-89577-249-3

READER'S DIGEST and the Pegasus colophon are registered trademarks of The Reader's Digest Association, Inc.

Printed in the United States of America

INDEX TO SECTIONS

| 1. HITS FROM THE SHOWS | 4 |
|--|-----|
| 1. HIIS FROM THE SHOWS | 45 |
| 2. HITS FROM HOLLYWOOD FILMS | |
| A THE PROPERTY OF THAT DECAME HITS AGAIN | 04 |
| 4 HITS FROM THE GREAT BAND ERA | 170 |
| 5 RECORD HITS OF THE '40s AND '50s | 200 |
| 6. PRE-SWING POP AND JAZZ HITS | |
| 7 LITS THAT CAME FROM FOREIGN PLACES | 207 |



INDEX TO SONGS

| Ac-cent-tchu-ate the Positive (Mister In-Between) | 60 | Lullaby of Broadway | 63 |
|---|------|--|-------------|
| All or Nothing at All | 122 | Manhã de Carnaval (A Day in the Life of a Fool) | 234 |
| All Through the Day | 58 | Melody of Love | 162 |
| Amapola (Pretty Little Poppy) | 151 | Memories of You | 130 |
| Baby Won't You Please Come Home | 232 | Memory | 42 |
| Back in Your Own Back Yard | 214 | More I See You, The | 68 |
| Banana Boat Song, The (Day-O) | 250 | Music Goes 'Round and Around, The | 219 |
| Basin Street Blues | 211 | Music, Maestro, Please! | 125 |
| Bewitched | 23 | My Devotion | 156 |
| Blue Velvet | 193 | My Foolish Heart | 7 5 |
| But Not for Me | 16 | My Heart Tells Me | 80 |
| Canadian Sunset | 186 | My Lilli of the Lamplight (Lilli Marlene) | 24 6 |
| Careless | 200 | My Sugar Is So Refined | 196 |
| Cry | 164 | Nagasaki | 227 |
| Day in the Life of a Fool, A (Manhã de Carnaval) | 234 | Nevertheless (I'm in Love with You) | 113 |
| Day-O (The Banana Boat Song) | 250 | (There Is) No Greater Love | 137 |
| Dreamer's Holiday, A | 172 | No Other Love | 40 |
| East of the Sun (and West of the Moon) | 143 | Oh! What It Seemed to Be | 166 |
| Exodus Song, The | 48 | On a Clear Day (You Can See Forever) | 4 |
| Fascination | 178* | On a Slow Boat to China | 180 |
| (I Love You) For Sentimental Reasons | 175 | Only Forever | 82 |
| Glow-Worm, The | 206 | Our Love | 154 |
| Gypsy, The | 190 | Poor People of Paris, The (La Goualante de Pauvre Jean). | 24 3 |
| Heart | 7 | Prisoner of Love | 105 |
| Heartaches | 92 | Rags to Riches | 159 |
| Hernando's Hideaway | 13 | Sleepy Lagoon | 134 |
| Hey There | 10 | Somebody Else Is Taking My Place | - 132 |
| Honeysuckle Rose | 208 | South of the Border (Down Mexico Way) | 94 |
| Hymne à l'Amour (If You Love Me, Really Love Me) | 240 | Stormy Weather (Keeps Rainin' All the Time) | 102 |
| I Can Dream, Can't I? | 84 | Sunday, Monday or Always | 70 |
| I Can't Begin to Tell You | 55 | Symphony | 237 |
| I Couldn't Sleep a Wink Last Night | 66 | Tammy | 78 |
| I Love You | 20 | Teach Me Tonight | 169 |
| If You Love Me, Really Love Me (Hymne à l'Amour) | 240 | That Old Gang of Mine | 222 |
| I'll Get By (As Long As I Have You) | 50 | That's My Desire | 108 |
| I'll Walk Alone | 72 | They Didn't Believe Me | 37 |
| I'm Beginning to See the Light | 128 | Tree in the Meadow, A | 249 |
| I'm Old Fashioned | 45 | Undecided | 140 |
| Imagination | 119 | Until the Real Thing Comes Along | 97 |
| Is It True What They Say About Dixie? | 216 | Walkin' My Baby Back Home | 87 |
| It's De-Lovely | 26 | We Three (My Echo, My Shadow and Me) | 183 |
| I've Heard That Song Before | 148 | We'll Meet Again | 203 |
| La Goualante de Pauvre Jean (The Poor People of Paris). | 243 | Where or When | 32. |
| Life Is Just a Bowl of Cherries | 90 | Wish You Were Here | 29 |
| Lilli Marlene (My Lilli of the Lamplight) | 246 | Wishing | 146 |
| Little Bit Independent, A | 110 | Yesterdays | 34 |
| Little White Lies | 100 | Your Feet's Too Big | 116 |
| Love Walked in | 52 | You're Driving Me Crazy (What Did I Do?) | 224 |
| | | | 1 |

Introduction

C alling all nostalgia lovers, trivia buffs and, of course, music fans of all stripes — have we got a book for you! Think back to those happy bygone days of Your Hit Parade, the immensely popular radio and, later, television program that each week from 1935 to 1957 documented America's top song hits. No fewer than 50 (count 'em, 50) of the 91 songs in this book attained the coveted No. 1 position on the show. Of the remainder, some reached the runner-up spot, some were No. 1 best-selling records, and some were best-sellers before charts became the music industry's yardstick of popularity.

As always, the musical arrangements were specially commissioned by us. And, once again, they're by Dan Fox. Dan has arranged all of our songbooks, beginning with the first one, which we published in 1969. Over the years, he has delighted us — and, we hope, you — with brand-new arrangements for more than 1,000 songs, both old and new.

And, as with our previous books, the repertoire of this one was compiled by Bill Simon, musician and musicologist. Bill, who was Senior Music Editor of the Digest's Recorded Music Division for many years, continues to be in charge of our songbook program.

We'd also like to introduce — for those who don't know him already — a new addition to our songbook team, radio personality and pop-music maven Jim Lowe. If reading the "stories behind the songs" that Jim has written for us reawakens some of your happiest memories, well, that's the general idea. It's the sort of happy occurrence that takes place daily on New York City's "good music" radio station, WNEW, where Jim — the acclaimed King of Trivia — presides. Jim takes to the music business naturally. He spent much of his childhood in his grandfather's music store in Springfield, Missouri, and learned about Bing Crosby, Ruth Etting and The Mills Brothers long before he found out that Franklin D. Roosevelt was President of the United States. Later, he got to know about song hits firsthand. In 1953, he wrote "Gambler's Guitar," which sold a million records for Rusty Draper. And three years later, his own recording of "The Green Door" sold 2 million copies. Most of the artists and songwriters Jim discusses on these pages became his personal friends.

As is obvious from our 11 music books — with more to come in the future — the reservoir of great popular songs is bottomless. But not every hit song is suitable for parlor pianists. Most contemporary hits, for example, rely more on recording techniques than on melody, harmony or lyrics. It's impossible to duplicate such effects on your own piano, organ or guitar. But we hope that the younger musicians in your home will discover and share with you and us the many joys that were built into "our" songs back in the 1920s, '30s, '40s and '50s.

Working on this collection of yesterday's hits has been a joy. We trust that it will give you as much pleasure as putting it together gave us.

HOW TO USE THIS SONGBOOK

The arrangements in this book were designed to be easy to play while still being musically interesting and artistically gratifying. For players of any treble clef instrument, the melody is on top, clear and uncluttered, with the stems of the notes turned up. However, if one is to play in tandem with a piano or organ, it must be on a "C" instrument, such as a violin, flute, recorder, oboe, accordion, harmonica, melodica or any of the new electronic keyboards. Guitarists can also play the melody as written, or they can play chords from the symbols (G7, Am, etc.) or from the diagrams printed just above the staves. Organists whose instruments have foot pedals may use the small pedal notes in the bass clef (with stems turned down). But these pedal notes should not be

attempted by pianists; they are for feet only! For the sake of facility, the pedal lines move stepwise and stay within an octave. Players who improvise in the jazz sense can "take off" from the melody and the chord symbols.

The chord symbols also are designed for pianists who have studied the popular chord method; players can read the melody line and improvise their own left-hand accompaniments. The chord symbols may be used, too, by bass players (string or brass); just play the root note of each chord symbol, except where another note is indicated (for example, "D/F# bass"). Accordionists can use the chord symbols for the left-hand buttons while playing the treble portions of the arrangement as written.

—The Editors

ART CREDITS: Jerry Allison: 84; George Angelini: 90^1 ; Kevin Callahan: 13, 15, 23, 63, 65, 66, 219; David Guinn: 80, 140^2 , 151^2 , 196; Barbara Kelly: 40; Ray Lago: title page, 72, 92, 93, 122, 159^3 , 172, 180^4 , 200^4 , 208 (right) 5 , 208 (left) 4 , 216 4 , 224 4 , 234, 240 4 , 248 6 ; Richard Leonard: 7; Ted Lewin: 87; Tom McKeveny: 78, 82 2 , 125, 127, 211; Bob McMahon: section-head designs, 16^4 , 26^4 , 28, 42, 48, 55 4 , 70 4 , 90, 94, 105, 107, 110, 116, 118, 132, 143, 148, 154, 166 4 , 175 2 , 178, 186, 193 2 , 206 4 , 214, 222 4 , 231, 232, 237 7 , 243, 246; Janet Recchia: 113; Jill Karla Schwarz: 4, 20; Laura Smith: cover; Kevin Sprouls: 50^2 , 68^4 , 102^4 , 108^2 ; Glenn Tunstull: 10, 156 4 , 169, 203, 250; Kimanne Uhler: 29^4 , 30, 31, 37 8 ; Ed Vebell: 183; Richard White: 32, 60^4 , 75^9 , 119, 134; Pat Zadnick: 52, 137, 190

¹Based on a photo courtesy of Culver Pictures; ²Based on a photo courtesy of Photo Trends; ³Based on a photo courtesy of AP/Wide World Photos; ⁴Based on the collection of William L. Simon; ⁵Based on a photo courtesy of ASCAP; ⁶Based on a photo courtesy of the Frank Driggs Collection; ⁷Based on a photo courtesy of The Memory Shop; ⁸Based on a photo courtesy of the Museum of the City of New York; ⁹Based on a photo courtesy of The Bett-mann Archive



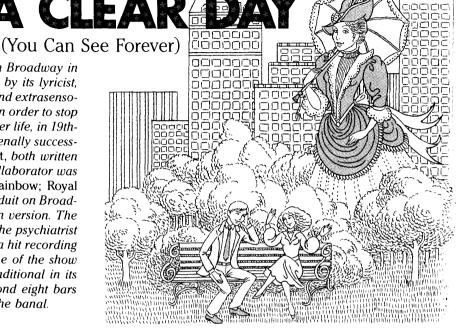
Section 1 HITS FROM THE SHOWS



from On a Clear Day You Can See Forever

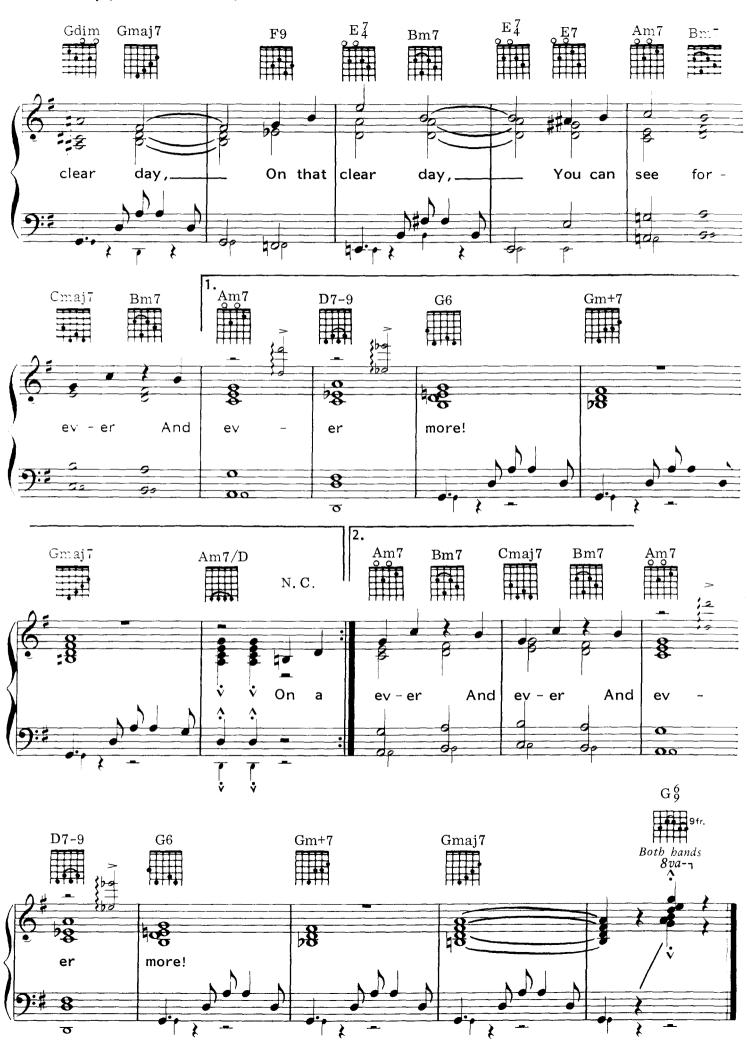
Words by Alan Jay Lerner; Music by Burton Lane

On a Clear Day You Can See Forever opened on Broadway in 1965 to mixed reviews. The plot of the musical, by its lyricist, Alan Jay Lerner, revolves around reincarnation and extrasensory perception. (Under hypnosis by a psychiatrist in order to stop smoking, a girl decides that she has lived an earlier life, in 19thcentury England.) Lerner had just had a phenomenally successful decade, what with My Fair Lady and Camelot, both written with Frederick Loewe. For On a Clear Day, his collaborator was the veteran composer Burton Lane (Finian's Rainbow; Royal Wedding). Barbara Harris starred as the ESP conduit on Broadway; Barbra Streisand played the role in the film version. The title song was sung on stage by John Cullum as the psychiatrist and in the film by Yves Montand. It later became a hit recording by Robert Goulet. Although addressing the theme of the show directly, it has the feel of a love ballad. It is traditional in its AABA construction, but the elevation of the second eight bars gives it an airy, soaring feeling, lifting it above the banal.









from Damn Yankees

Words and Music by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross



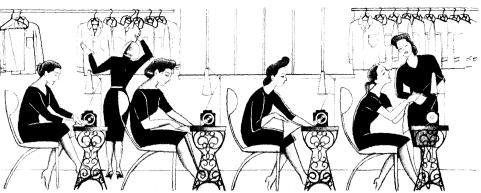
"Heart" and the next two songs in this book have a common - and tragic — denominator. They come from the only two Broadway musicals written by the team of Richard Adler and Jerry Ross. The partnership was severed by Ross's death at the much too early age of 29. "Heart" is from Damn Yankees, based on Douglass Wallop's novel The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant. The 1955 Faustian show starred Gwen Verdon as the witch Lola, who tempts a baseball fan to sell his soul to the Devil (Ray Walston) in exchange for a chance to play for the Washington Senators. (And, as another hit from the show put it, whatever Lola wanted, Lola got.) Largely through Eddie Fisher's recording, "Heart" became one of the big hits of the year, vying for position in the Top Ten with "Hernando's Hideaway" from Adler and Ross's The Pajama Game.





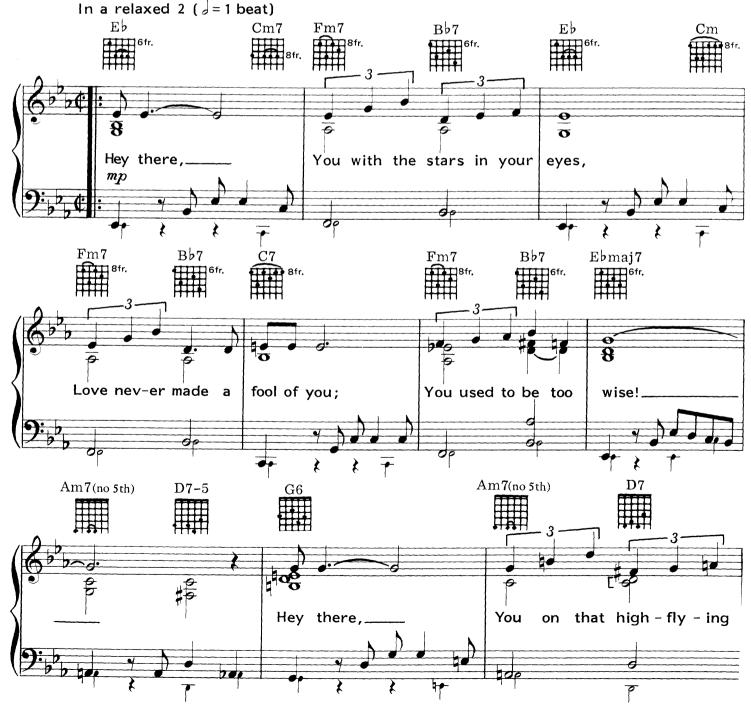




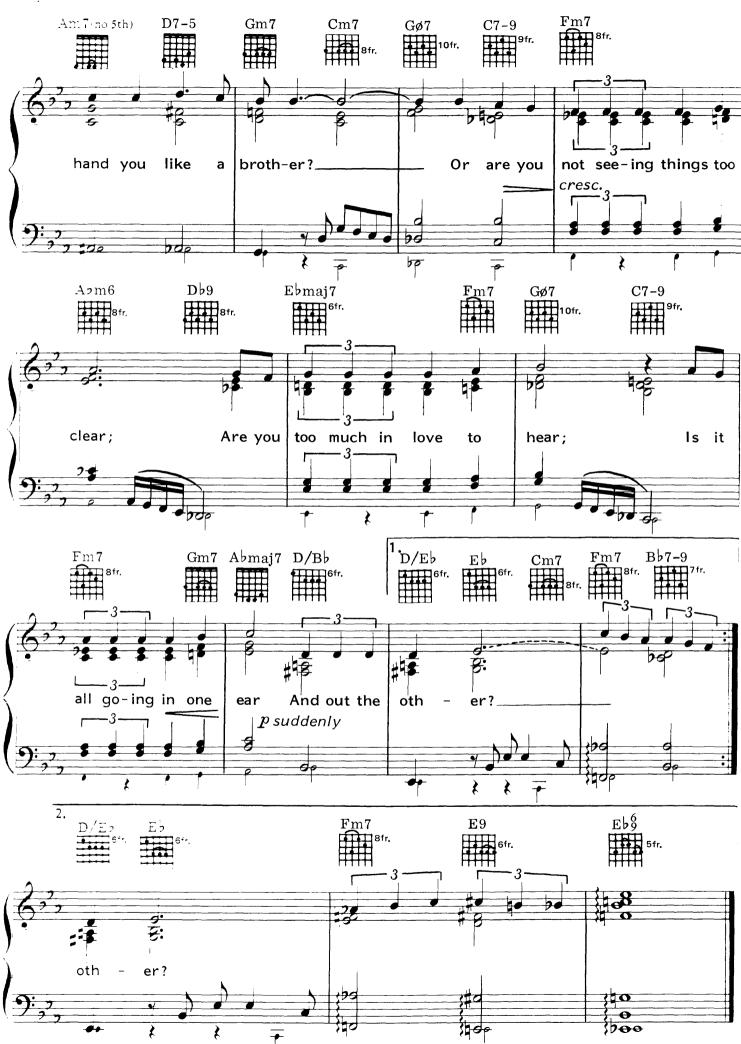


from The Pajama Game Words and Music by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross

"Hey There" first saw the light of day in Richard Adler and Jerry Ross's 1954 hit musical The Pajama Game, which was based on Richard Bissell's novel 7½ Cents. The original cast version was sung by John Raitt, in the role of the superintendent of a pajama factory. If you remember that he sang it into a dictaphone, give yourself 7½ trivia points Through the 1950s and well into the '60s, whenever Columbia or RCA Victor recorded the cast album of a show, you could bet that at least one of their top singers would soon record at least one song from it. In the case of The Pajama Game, the company was Columbia, the song was "Hey There" and the performer was Rosemary Clooney, then one of the hottest wax artists in the country. "Hey There" was a No. 1 hit for Rosemary in the late summer of 1954, and also became a successful recording for Sammy Davis, Jr.







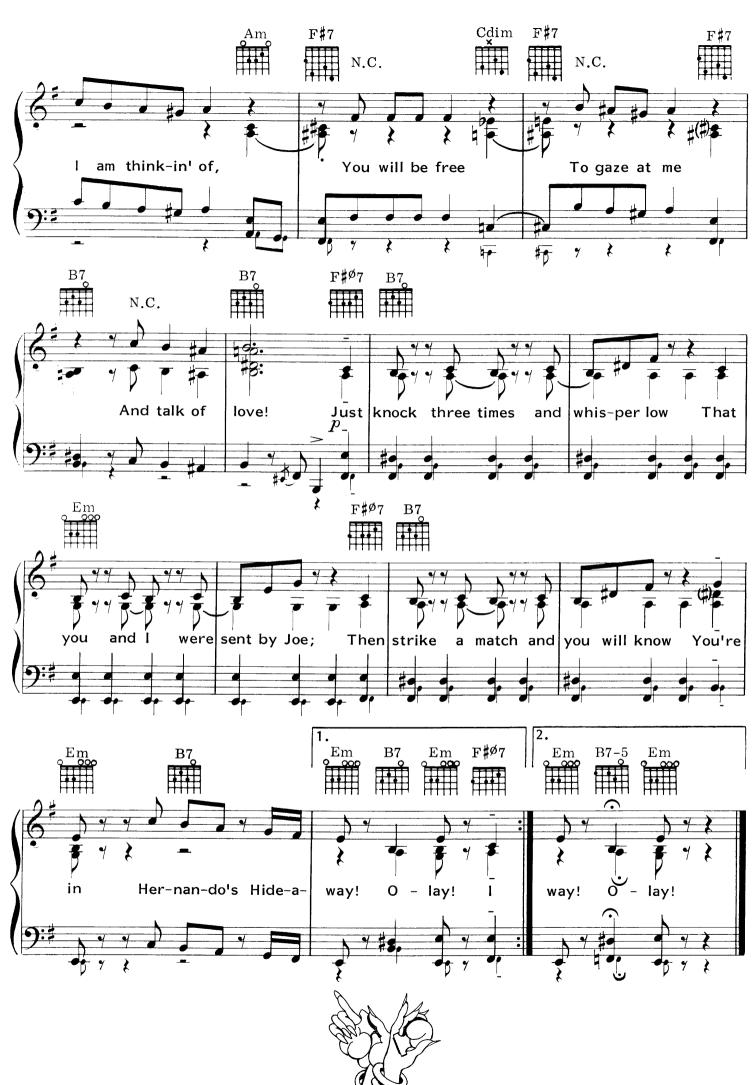
HERMANN HIDENWAY

from *The Pajama Game*Words and Music by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross

Through most of the 1950s, Arthur Godfrey was the king of network television and radio. His musical conductor at that time was Archie Bleyer, whom Godfrey fired, along with singer Julius La Rosa. Bleyer's misdemeanor was to have started his own record company, Cadence, which, in time, became very successful. One of the label's biggest hits was Archie's own recording of "Hernando's Hideaway." Richard Adler and Jerry Ross used the song in The Pajama Game as an elaborate spoof of the tango. Keeping the Latin tempo intact, Archie's vocal group's quiet staccato approach gave the words just the right touch. Also, the recording, it should be noted, gave castanets a good name. The song reached No. 1 on Your Hit Parade and remained on the survey for 14 weeks in 1954.







BUT NOT FOR ME

from Girl Crazy Words by Ira Gershwin; Music by George Gershwin

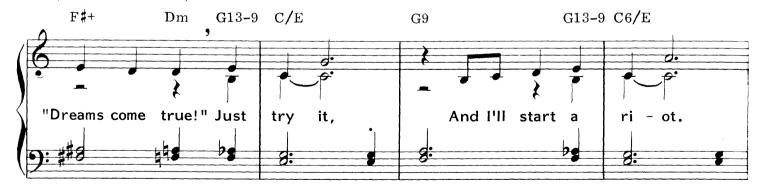


In "But Not for Me," we find lyricist Ira Gershwin in his best form, with lines like "With love to lead the way, I've found more clouds of gray than any Russian play could guarantee" and, as the denouement, "When ev'ry happy plot ends with the marriage knot, and there's no knot for me." The song is from the explosive 1930 musical Girl Crazy, which made a star of a lady who would go on to become the leading performer of the Great White Way. But Ethel Merman didn't sing this song in the show. Rather, it was warbled by a young lady who arrived in New York by way of Texas and Missouri. Her name was Ginger Rogers, and she became, of course, better known for her dancing and beauty than for her singing. But her ingratiating vocal style allowed her to put "But Not for Me" across handsomely. Verses aren't often sung these days, but this one is so special that we had to include it, if for no other reason than that Gershwin rhymed "try it" and "riot."

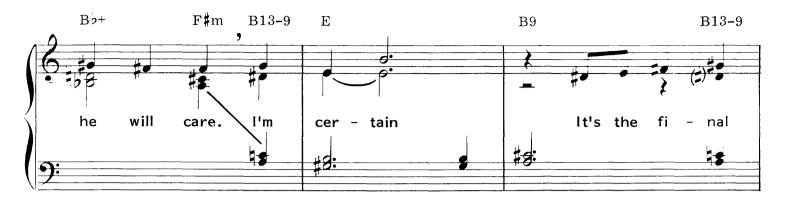




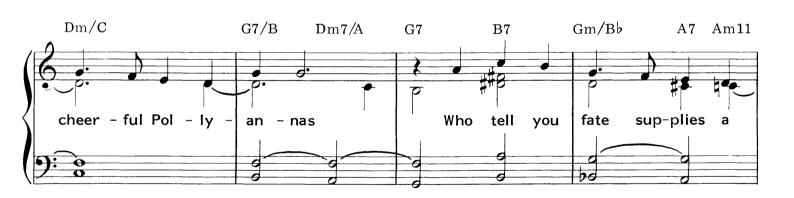
(no pedal till chorus)

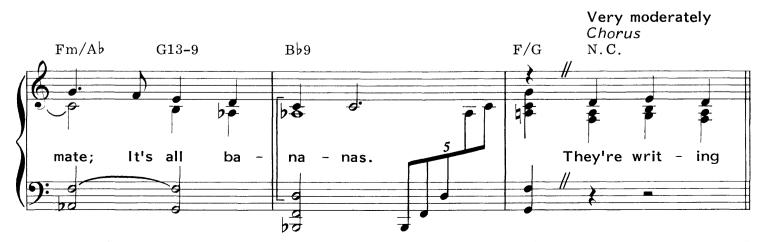










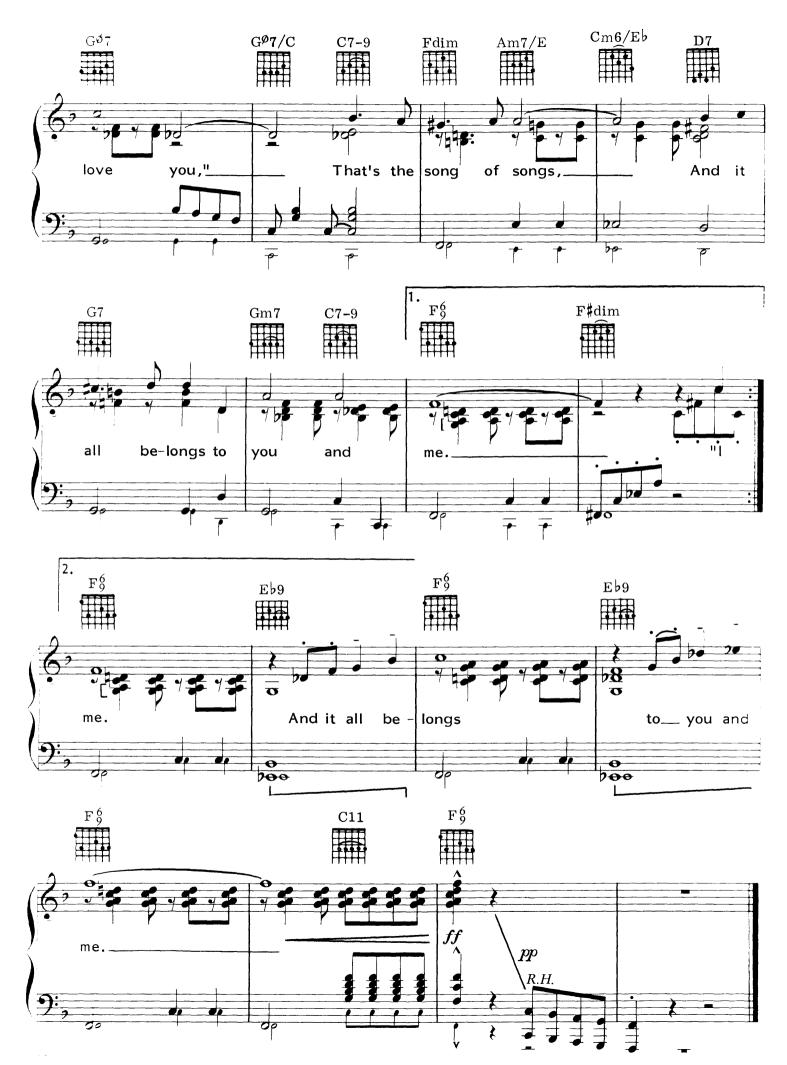












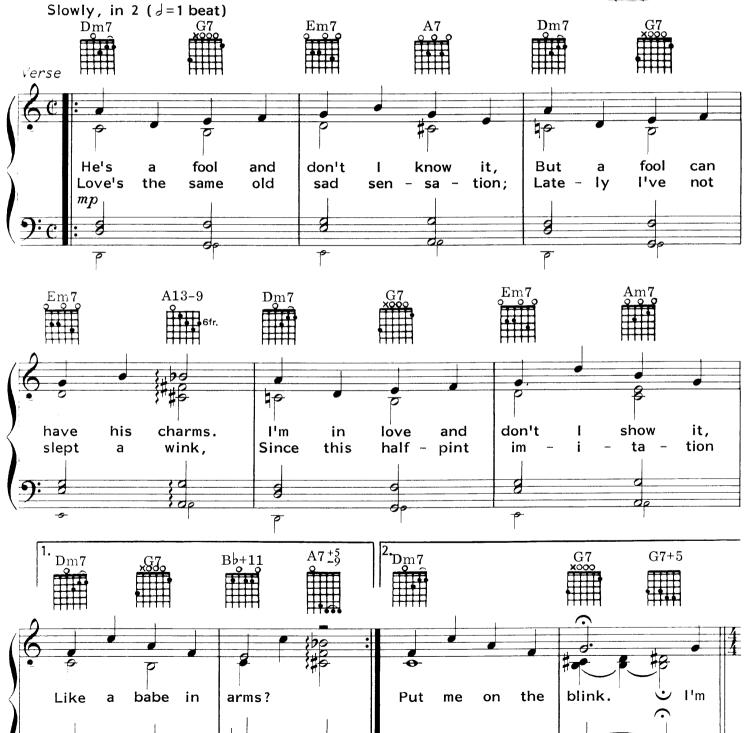
Bewitched



The 1940 Rodgers and Hart Broadway classic Pal Joey was based on a hard-hitting story by John O'Hara and was the first musical in which a heel (Gene Kelly) was the protagonist. It's also often cited as the first musical in which the songs were integrated into the plot - although there had been flashes of this in other shows, as early as Show Boat in 1927. But in earlier years, when creating musicals, most songwriters simply delved deep into their "trunks" and pulled out tunes that had been written and placed on hold, as it were, until they could be interpolated into a show. Besides "I Could Write a Book," "You Mustn't Kick It Around" and other songs, Pal Joey produced "Bewitched," sung by the aging female lead, who is in love with the young Joey and in the song addresses the pitfalls of a May-December romance.

from *Pal Joey*Words by Lorenz Hart
Music by Richard Rodgers





5





The year was 1936. Ethel Merman and Jimmy

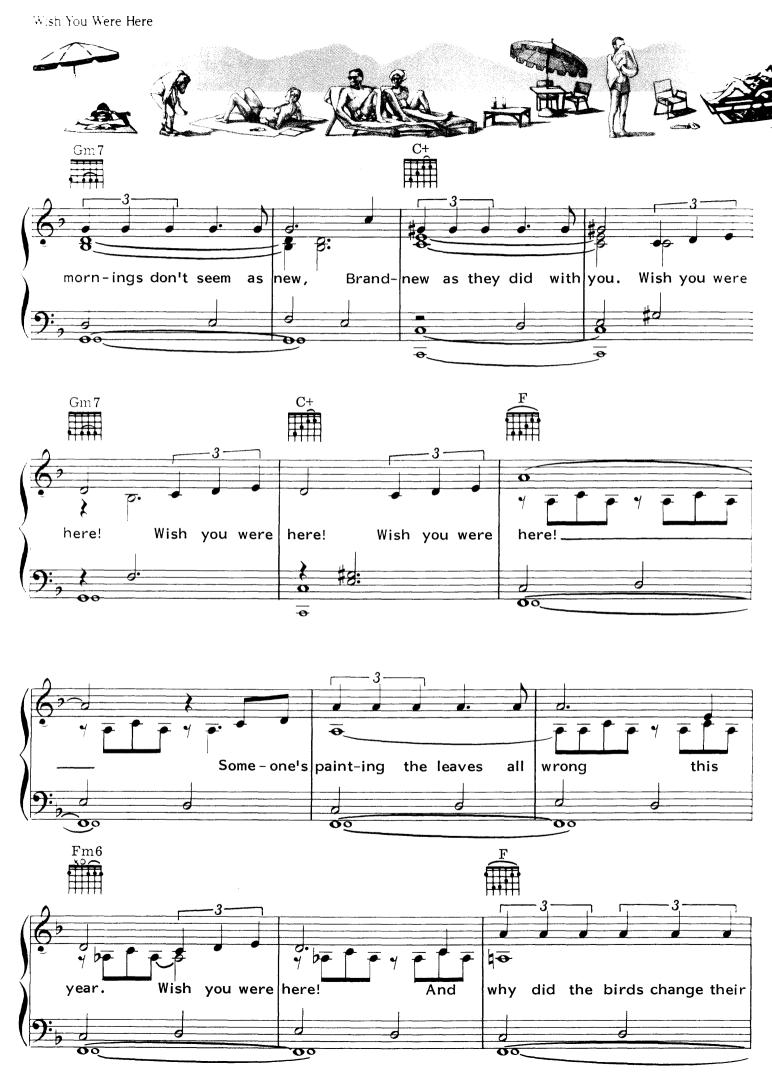
Durante were big Broadway names, few bigger. For the 444444 musical Red. Hot and Blue!, they were joined by a young comedian whose fame in time would eclipse theirs. Bob Hope would in fact, dominate America's funny men for decades to come. But Red. Hot and Blue! was Merman's show. In addition to "It's De-Lovely" (which she sang with Hope), she also introduced "Ridin' High" and "Down in the Depths. on the Ninetieth Floor." For Cole Porter, who wrote the score for the show, with a libretto by the noted playwriting team of Howard Lindsay and Russell Crouse, 1936 was a busy and productive year. One of the first of the bi-coastal tunesmiths, Porter also scored heavily that year in Hollywood with the tunes for his first film assignment, MGM's Born to Dance, which included "Easy to Love" and "I've Got You Under My Skin." Not bad for a fellow who a decade before had been dismissed as a dilettante, simply because he had gone to Yale, was a millionaire in his own right, had lived the sophisticated life of a wealthy expatriate in Paris and Venice before moving to New York, and had probably never even seen the Lower East







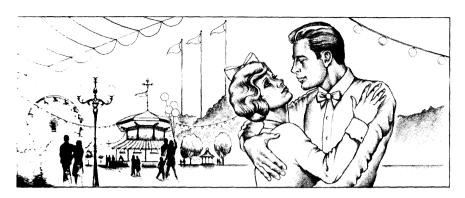




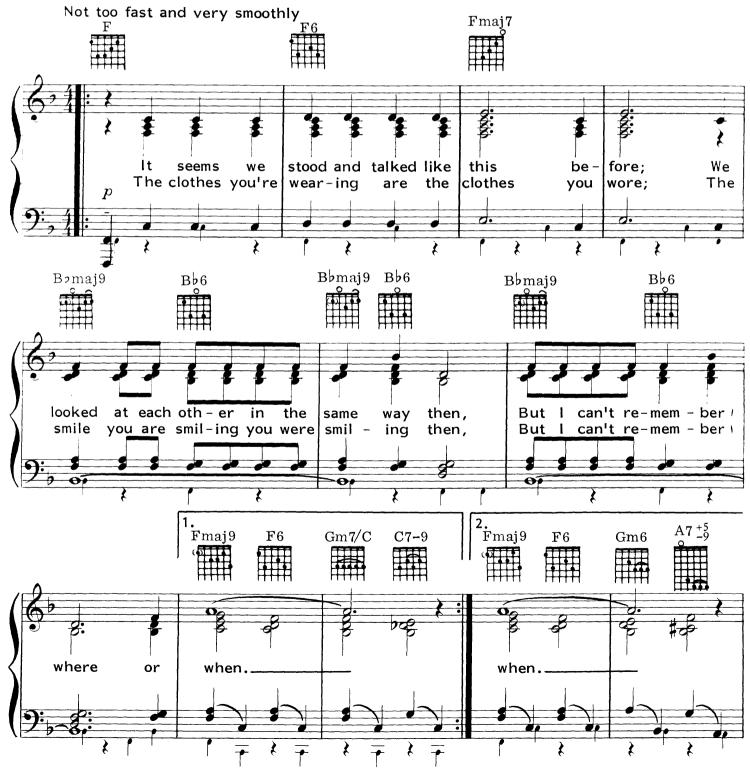


Where or When

Words by Lorenz Hart; Music by Richard Rodgers



"Where or When," from the 1937 Babes in Arms, appeared on Your Hit Parade for almost the entire summer of that year. The first song to address the subject of déjà vu, it shows Lorenz Hart at his remarkable best ("The clothes you're wearing are the clothes you wore"; "Some things that happen for the first time seem to be happening again"), accompanied by one of Richard Rodgers' most celebrated melodies. Babes in Arms contained one of the composing team's strongest scores, perhaps the strongest of all as far as songs that have become standards are concerned. In addition to "Where or When," the show offered "The Lady Is a Tramp," "I Wish I Were in Love Again," "My Funny Valentine" and "Johnny One Note."



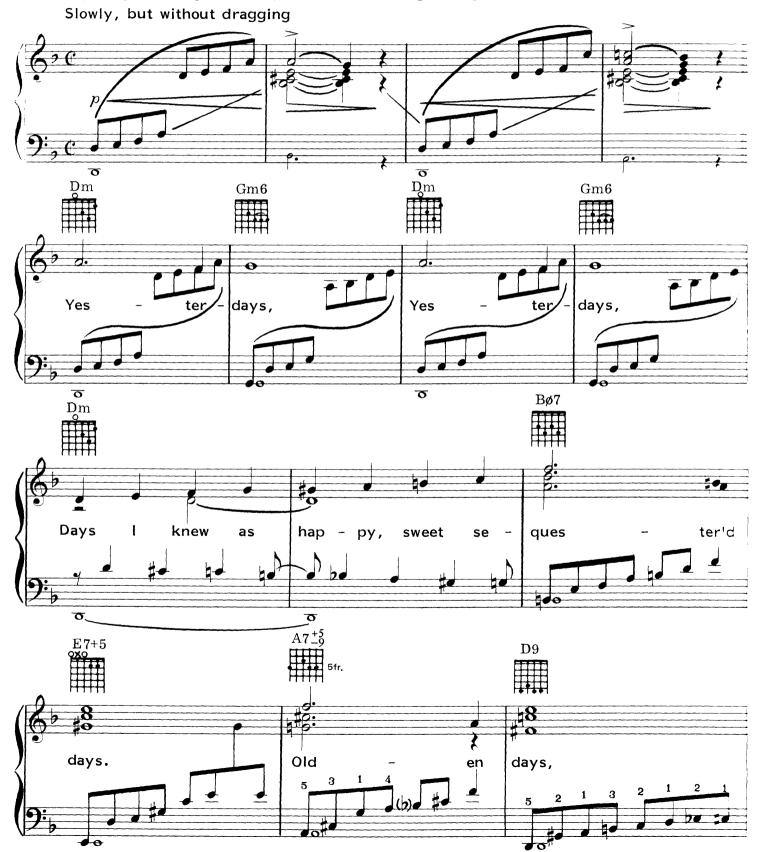




Words by Otto Harbach; Music by Jerome Kern

Yesterdays" is one of the most poignant and appealing of all of Jerome Kern's songs, and the lovely melody — like so many of Kern's. rangy and somewhat unpredictable — is matched by Otto Harbach's sensitive, nostalgic lyric. It's from Roberta 1933) and was sung as the lady of the title, an aging couturiere. lay dying. The Broadway cast included a bumper crop of future Hollywood greats, among them Bob Hope, Fred MacMur-

ray, George Murphy and a rotund British import who recomone of filmdom's favorite heavies, Sidney Greenstree: East a-"Yesterdays," the milestone score included the amminate "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," "The Touch of Your Hand and "You're Devastating." Roberta soon found its way to To-Town and became a vehicle for Fred Astaire and Grazer Rogers, along with Irene Dunne and Randolph Scott







from The Girl from Utah

There is a growing conviction that if a listing were made of the top 100 songwriters in the nistory of Broadway and Hol-Sagod Jerome Kern would emerge as No. 1. He was the master of melody, creating tig sweeping, majestic songs that transcend time and point For proof, examine They Didn't Believe Me," ritten. unbelievably, in 1-14' It doesn't have the scope of some of his later ballads, but it is beautifully constructed, and the notes that accompany the title itself mehow fit it just perfectly. The song was one of seven tanes that Kern wrote for an

Words

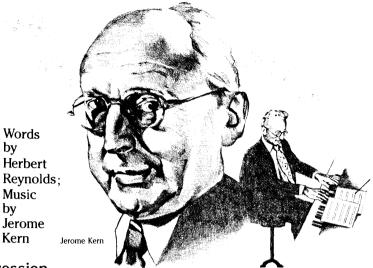
Music

Jerome

by

by

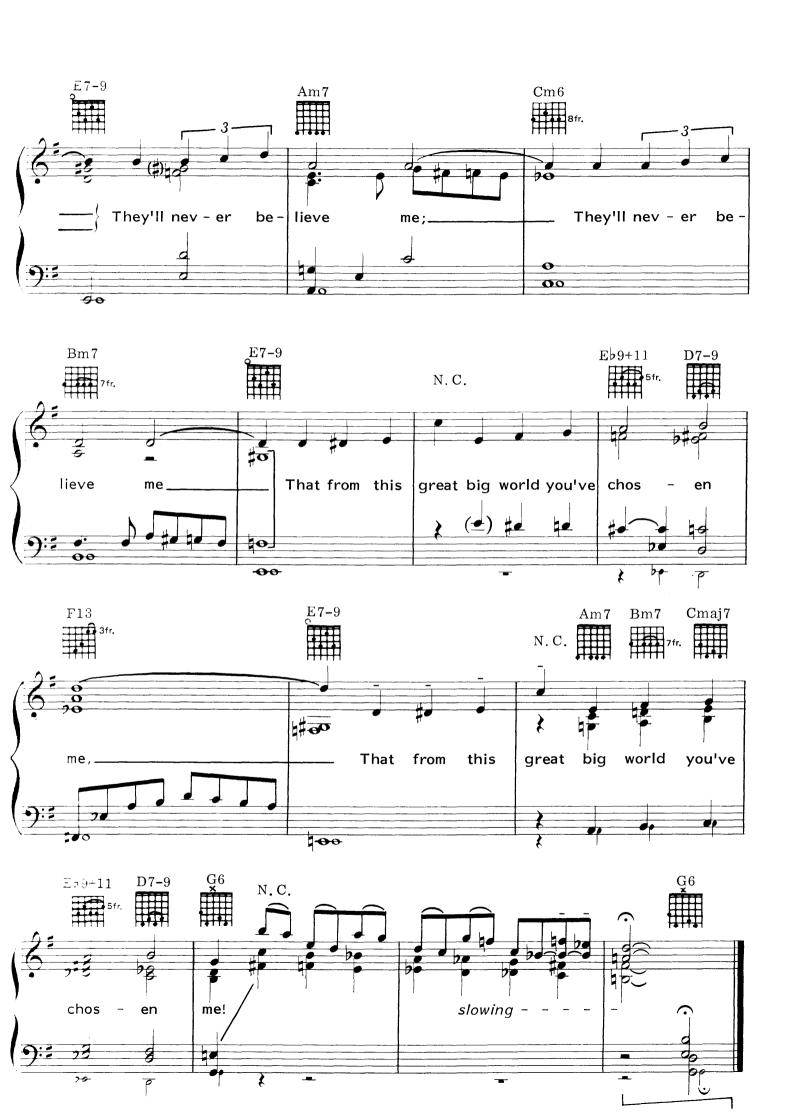
They Didn't Believe Me



English musical called The Girl from Utah. All were interpolated into the show when it came to New York. (The plot revolves around what else? — a girl from Utah who, trying to avoid a polygamous marriage to a Mormon, flees her native state and goes to London.) Beginning with the film version of Roberta, for which he added "I Won't Dance" and "Lovely to Look At" for Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, Kern spent nearly all of the last decade of his life in Hollywood, writing such song classics as "The Way You Look Tonight," "I'm Old Fashioned" and "Long Ago (and Far Away)."







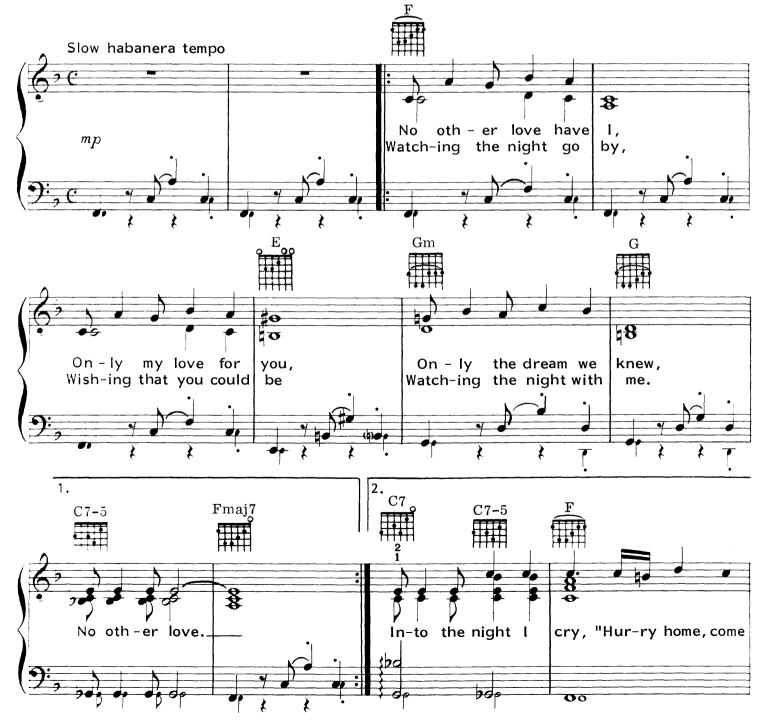
SOUND OTHER LOVESSION

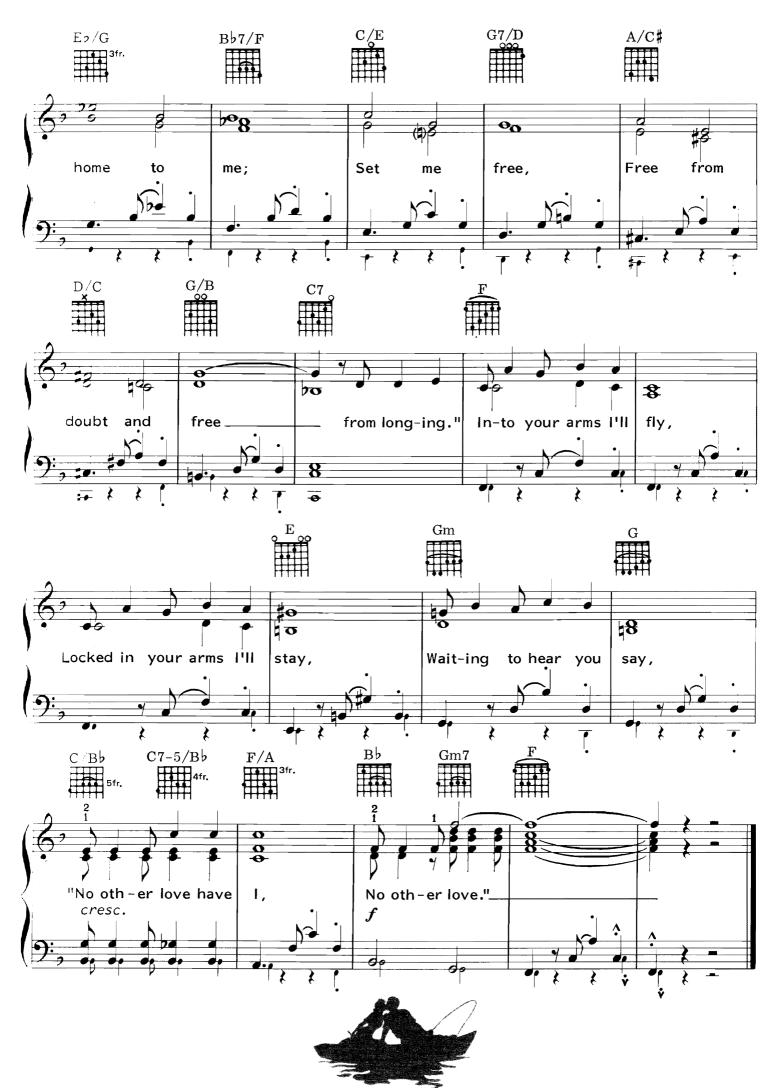
from Me and Juliet

Words by Oscar Hammerstein II; Music by Richard Rodgers



By the time Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II wrote Me and Juliet in 1953, they had already established themselves as the most successful team in the history of the musical theater. Such dazzling smashes as Oklahoma!, Carousel, South Pacific and The King and I had all appeared on Broadway (the last two were still running in 1953), and they had all been produced in a period of less than 10 years! With such triumphs, it's hard to believe that people weren't standing in line for all of their shows, but even Rodgers and Hammerstein didn't top themselves every time out. However, even their secondary shows, such as Flower Drum Song and Me and Juliet, would have been considered successes by most songwriters' criteria. The latter musical ran for 358 performances and, thanks largely to Perry Como's recording, produced this popular song hit. Actually, Rodgers had used the melody before. It was first heard as "Beneath the Southern Cross," one of the themes from his score for the television series Victory at Sea.



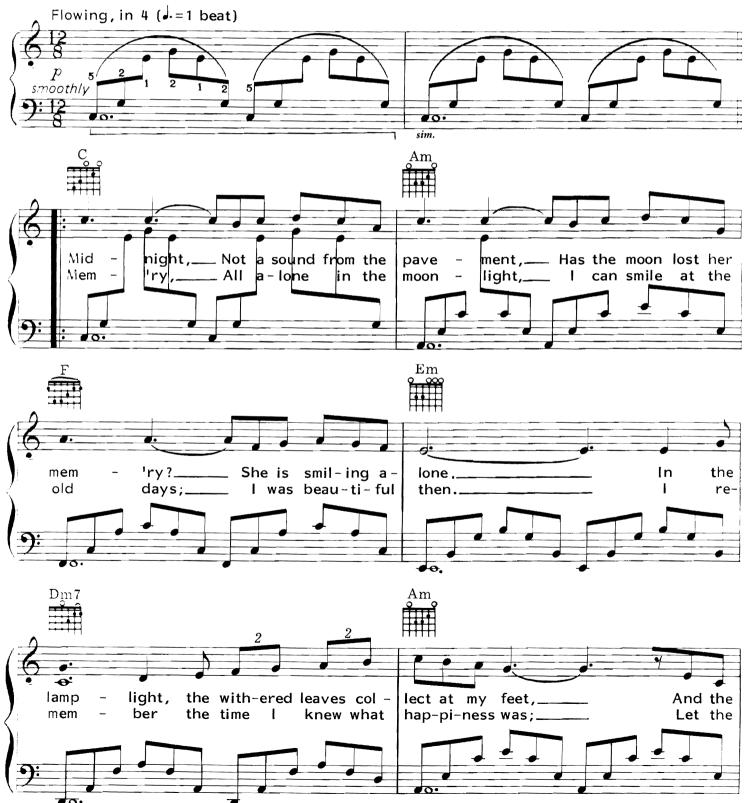




from Cats

From words by Trevor Nunn after T.S. Eliot; Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Andrew Lloyd Webber, whose previous successes include Evita, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and Jesus Christ, Superstar, produced one of the greatest musical hits in history with Cats, which opened on Broadway in 1982. Based on T.S. Eliot's book of poems Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, the show is a feline fancier's fantasy, filled with the antics of Gumbiecat. Rum Tum Tugger, Old Deuteronomy, Mungojerrie and others. A famous songwriter is alleged to have remarked that every song should be a little familiar. With "Memory," the hit song from Cats, sung by Grizabella the Glamour Cat. Webber may have overdone it; guesses as to the melody's musical origins run from Ravel to Offenbach and Puccini. The interesting lyric, which Cats director Trevor Nunn adapted from Eliot's poetry, takes up from "Midnight, not a sound from the pavement" to "The stale cold smell of morning" and "A new day has begun." These words should keep singers purring for a long time.

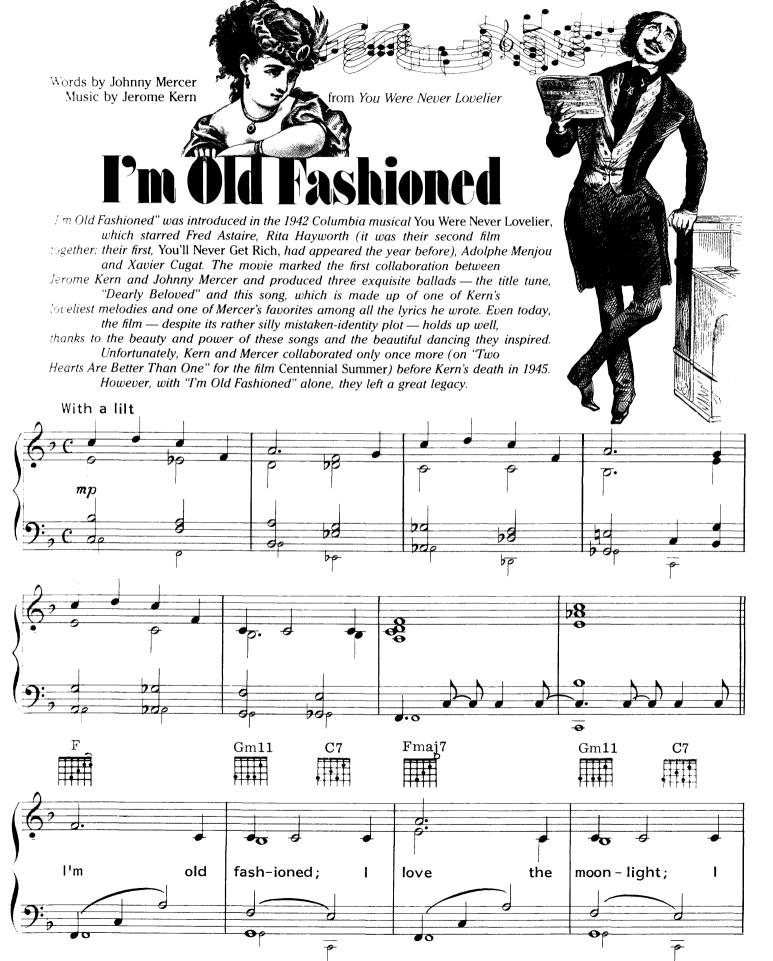








Section 2 HITS FROM HOLLYWOOD FILMS





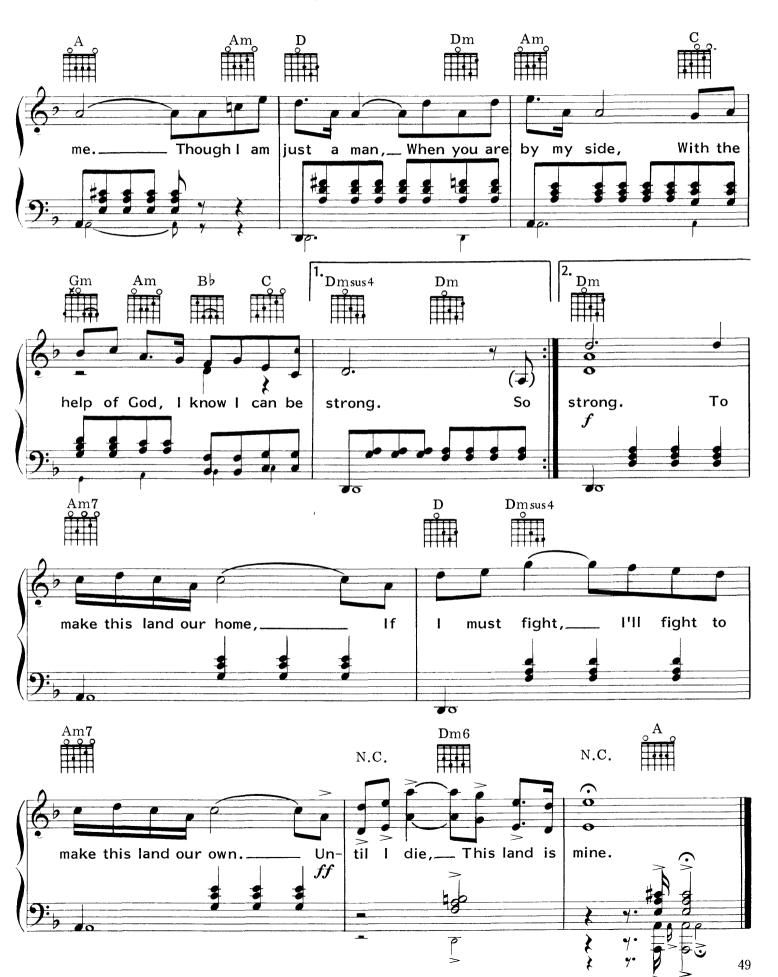


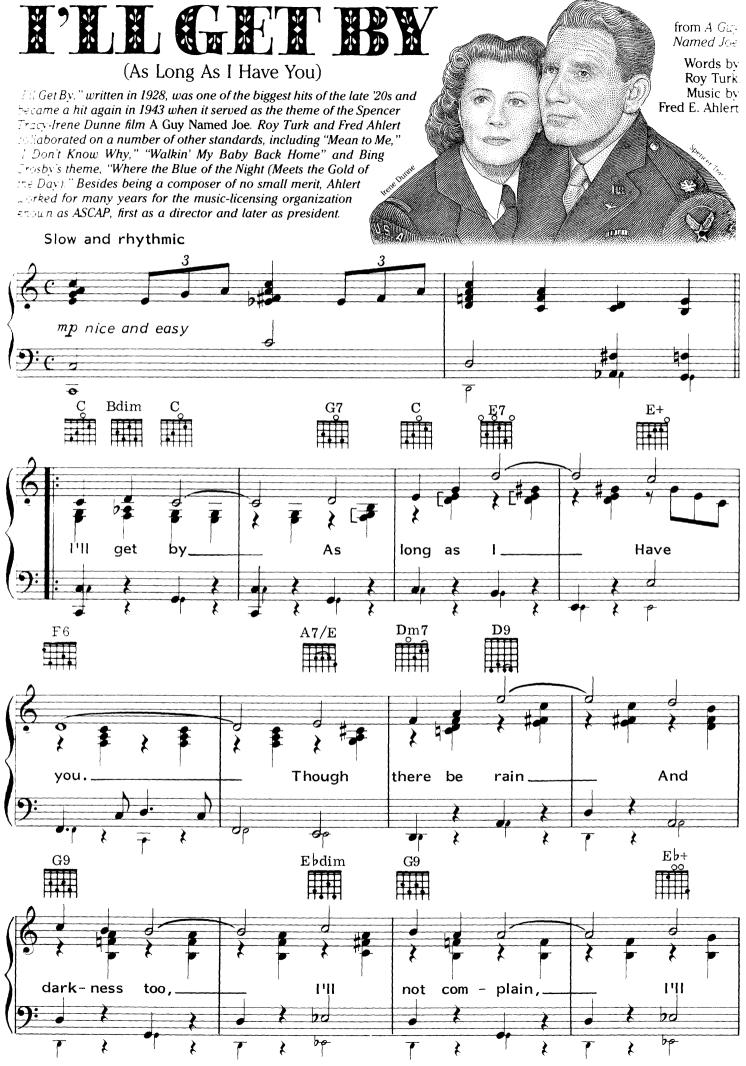
THE EXODUS SONG



Composer Ernest Gold's "Exodus" was the title theme for Otto Preminger's 1960 blockbuster film. It was used as a recurring motif throughout the movie, which concerned the modern immigration of Jews into Palestine before the state of Israel was established. With Exodus, Gold won an Academy Award for Outstanding Score of a Dramatic Film and also received a Grammy from the National Academy of Recording Arts and

Sciences for Song of the Year. The theme became a best-selling instrumental recording via a two-piano rendition by the team of Ferrante & Teicher which was on the charts for five months and reached No. 2 in the Top Ten in the spring of 1961. Singer Pat Boone later wrote the lyrics for Gold's melody that are included here and recorded his version of the song under the title "The Exodus Song (This Land Is Mine)."







In e Walked In" was inguced in The Goldwyn Follies, a 1938 musical that Starred Adolphe Men-

and The Ritz Brothers. The film, a

rather mediocre hodgepodge re-

using around a frantic producer

Menjou) who hires Miss Leeds to Lige his movies from the average impoer's point of view, contains

several of George Gershwin's last

songs — "Love Is Here to Stay," "I Was Doing All Right" and this love-

y tune, which Gershwin referred to is his "Brahmsian" melody. The

imposer died while writing the

were which was completed by

Gernon Duke. In the last year of his

Andrea Leeds, Vera Zorina

from The Goldwyn Follies

Words by Ira Gershwin; Music by George Gershwin



life, Gershwin produced a string of standards that is virtually unmatched in writing — "Shall We Dance?,"

"They All Laughed," "They Can't Take That Away from Me," "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off," "Things Are Looking Up," "A Foggy Day" and "Nice Work If You Can Get It," besides the three Goldwyn Follies songs. The fact that he had to audition for Sam Goldwyn provides an interesting example of the low esteem that Hollywood had for songwriters in the '30s. But as George's lyricist brother Ira asked in their song "They All Laughed": "Who's got the last laugh now?"













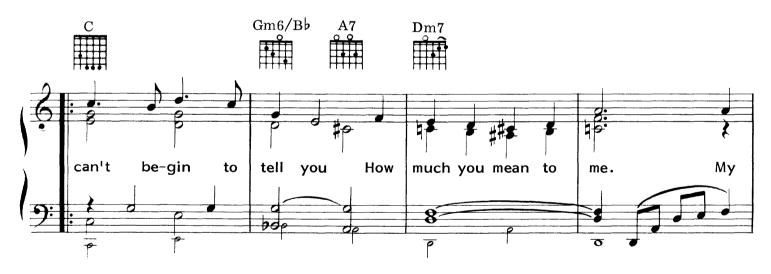


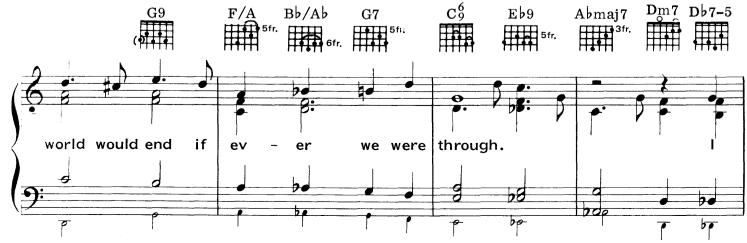
Words by Mack Gordon Music by James V. Monaco



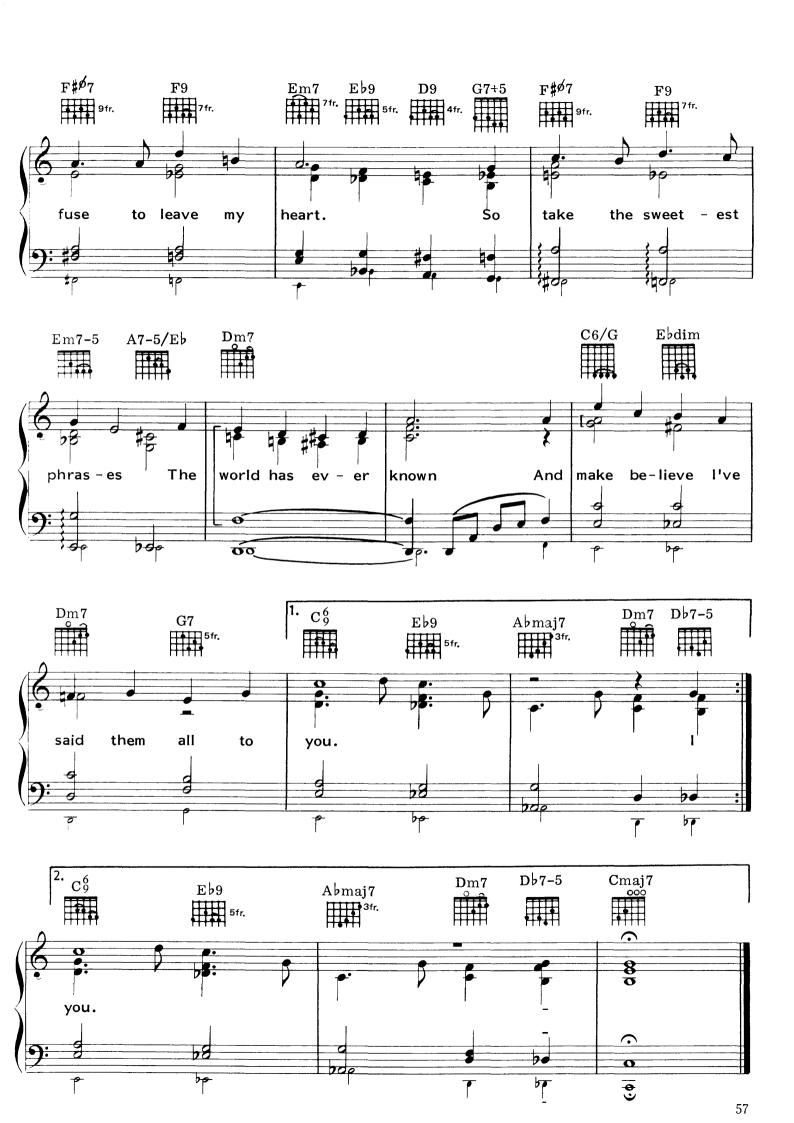
Betty Grable introduced "I Can't Begin to Tell You" in the 1945 20th Century-Fox musical The Dolly Sisters. This was among the last songs written by composer James V. Monaco, whose career stretched back to 1912, when he first caught the public's imagination with his melodies "You Made Me Love You" and "Row, Row, Row." In 1927, in the first "talking" film, The Jazz Singer, Al Jolson sang "Dirty Hands, Dirty Face" — by none other than Jimmy Monaco. The songwriter went to Hollywood in 1930 and contributed tunes to more of the early "talkies." He also had his own dance orchestra in the mid-'30s. Then, in 1936, he went to work at Paramount Studios, where, along with Johnny Burke, he wrote for no fewer than seven Bing Crosby films. Among his bestknown songs of this period were "On the Sentimental Side," "Tve Got a Pocketful of Dreams," "An Apple for the Teacher" and "Only Forever." When his partnership with Burke ended, Monaco wrote with several other lyricists, receiving Academy Award nominations for "We Mustn't Say Goodbye" (1943), "I'm Making Believe" (1944) and, with Mack Gordon, "I Can't Begin to Tell You," which hit the top of Your Hit Parade in 1945, the year he died at the age of 60.











All Through the Day

from Centennial Summer

This song was written for the 1946 20th Century-Fox musical Centennial Summer, which was set during the Philadelphia Exposition of 1876 and involved sisters Jeanne Crain and Linda Darnell pursuing Cornel Wilde. The real riches of the movie lie in the exquisite score — his last complete



The — by composer Jerome Kern. In the process, Kern worked with three lyricists — Johnny Mercer ("Two Hearts Are Better Than One"), Leo Robin ("In Love in Vain") and Oscar Hammerstein II ("All Through the Day"). Kern and Hammerstein had millaborated often in the past, creating such shows as Show Boat

("Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man," "Ol' Man River," "Only Make Believe," "Why Do I Love You?"), Very Warm for May ("All the Things You Are") and Music in the Air ("I've Told Ev'ry Little Star"). Kern died in 1945, before Centennial Summer was released, after a heart attack in New York City at the age of 60.



Ac-cent-tchu-ate the Positive

(Mister In-Between)

from Here Come the Waves

Words by Johnny Mercer; Music by Harold Arlen
Bing Crosby introduced "Ac-cent-tchu-ate the
Positive" in Here Come the Waves, a 1944
Paramount musical in which Bing co-starred
with Betty Hutton. The song featured music by

Harold Arlen and lyrics by Johnny Mercer. These inspired collaborators had already received Academy Award nominations for "Blues in the Night" (1941), "That Old Black Magic" (1942) and "My Shining Hour" (1943). They were nominated for the fourth time in four years with "Accenticulate the Positive," losing to Johnny Burke and Jimmy Van Heusen's "Swinging on a Star," from another Crosbyfilm, Going My Way. On Broadway in 1946, Arlen and Mercer teamed up on St. Louis Woman, which was a commercial failure. But not many Broadway hits boast as impressive a score as this "flop." From it came "Come Rain or Come Shine," "Any Place I Hang My Hat Is Home "Legalize My Name" and "A Woman's Prerogative."







4257 BERLAMAN

from Gold Diggers of 1935 Words by Al Dubin; Music by Harry Warren

"Lullaby of Broadway," introduced by Wini Shaw in Gold Diggers of 1935, was the second song to receive an Academy Award (the first was "The Continental" from The Gay Divorcee the previous year). Among the many other famous songs that Al Dubin and Harry Warren composed before their nine-year partnership ended in 1939 were "Forty-Second Street," "Shuffle Off to Buffalo," "You're Getting to Be a Habit with Me," "The Boulevard of Broken Dreams," "I Only Have Eyes for You," "About a Quarter to Nine" and "September in the Rain." "Lullaby of Broadway" and other Warren-Dubin tunes were revived — with great success — in the long-running musical Forty-Second Street, which opened on Broadway in 1980.





00



- 4



Couldn't

Words by Harold Adamson Music by Jimmy McHugh "I Couldn't Sleep a Wink Last Night" first appeared in the 1943 RKO
musical Higher and Higher, sung by a young man making his acting debut in films — Frank
Sinatra. In the movie, Sinatra, who received third billing behind Michele
Morgan and Jack Haley, also sang "The Music Stopped" and "A Lovely Way to Spend an
Evening." For trivia buffs, this wasn't Sinatra's first film appearance. He
had previously appeared as a singer in Las Vegas Nights (1941), Ship Ahoy (1942) and
Reveille with Beverly (1943). Not long after, Sinatra moved on to greater
Hollywood fame in a series of MGM musicals, including Anchors Aweigh and On the Town
If you should see Higher and Higher on late-night TV and watch carefully,

you might catch a glimpse of another aspiring young singer — a teenaged Mel Tormé.

Sleep a Wink Last Night





r il Horseshoe

The More I See You

The More I See You" is from the 1945 20th lentury-Fox musical Diamond Horseshoe. The firm was set in showman-composer Billy Rose's famous New York City cabaret of that name and starred Dick Haymes as a stagestruck young doctor and Betty Grable as a gold-digging nightclub girl. By this time, Harry Warren and Mack Gordon's partnership was in full boom. The two had received Academy Award.



nominations for four consecutive years and were the top songwriting team at Fox. "The More I See You" is one of their loveliest tunes and has that rare quality of seeming to sing itself. Diamond Horseshoe, which also featured the lovely "I Wish I Knew," was Warren's last chore for Fox. Soon after, he moved to MGM where he wrote a series of outstanding scores including the one for The Harvey Girls.







Copyright © 1943 by Burke & Van Heusen, Inc. Copyright renewed and assigned to Bourne Co. and Dorsey Bros. Mas





l'Il Walk Alone

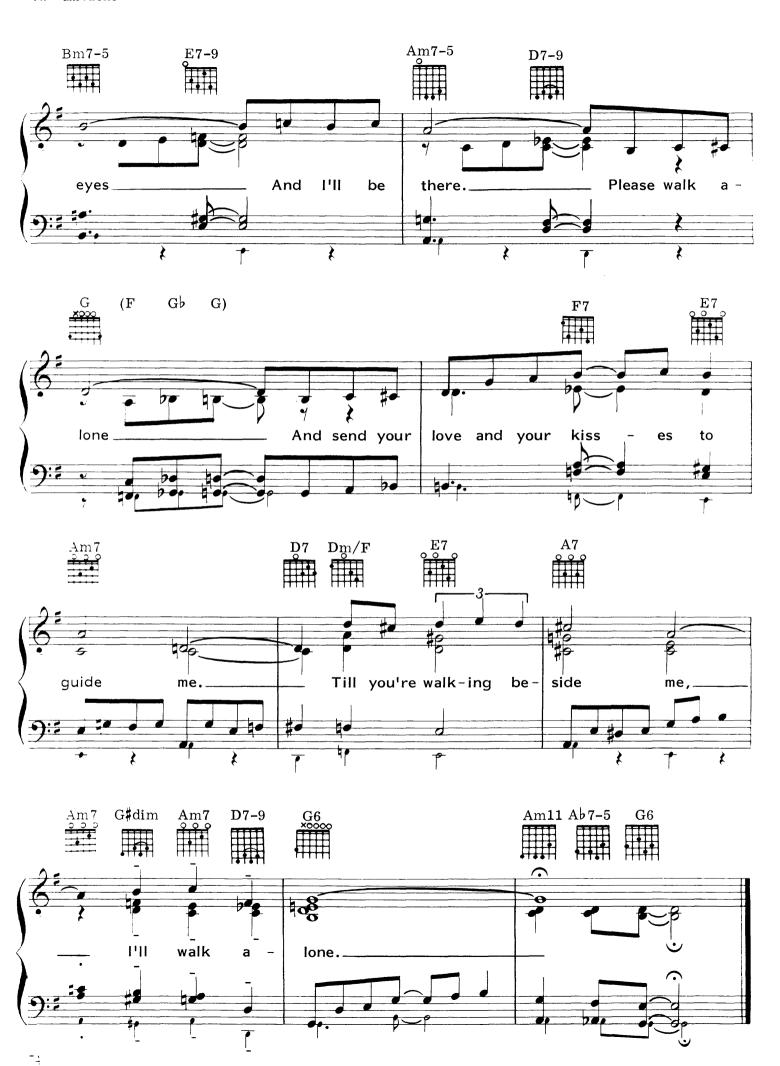
from Follow the Boys

Words by Sammy Cahn; Music by Jule Styne

Dench Shore introduced "I'll Walk Alone" in the 1944 film Follow the Boys It is one of the definitive love songs of World War II, expressing the mood of the nation as well as any other tune of the era did. Like "Ac-cent-tchu-ate the Positive" (see page 60 m was nominated for an Academy Award for 1944 but lost in "Swinging on a Star." Songwriters Jule Styne and Sammy Cahnhad already hit the jackpot two years earlier with one of their first collaborations, "I've Heard That Song Before." The teamquickly became associated with Frank Sinatra, for whom they wrote "The Charm of You," "I Fall in Love Too Easily." "Time After Time" and a number of other hits. Interestingly, Styne has written another "walk" song three years earlier with lyriss: Frank Loesser — "I Don't Want to Walk Without You."







My Foolish Heart

from My Foolish Heart Words by Ned Washington; Music by Victor Young

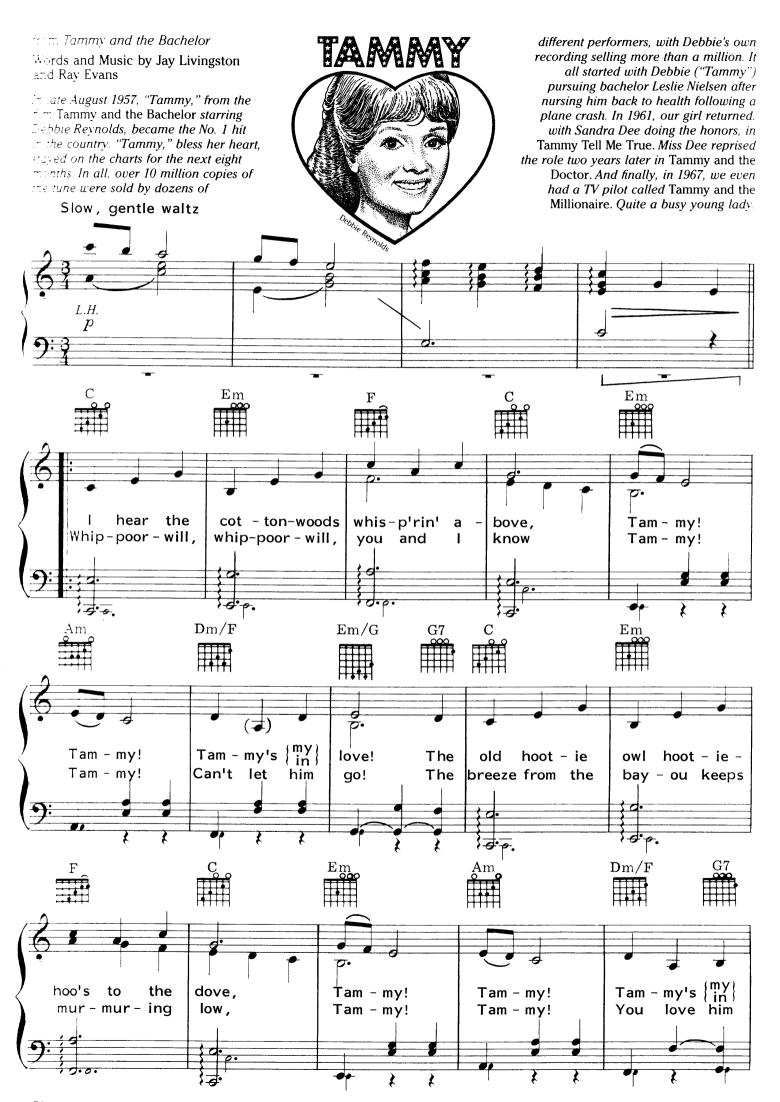


"My Foolish Heart" first appeared as the title song of a 1949 tearjerker starring Dana Andrews and Susan Hayward, who was, with the possible exception of Barbara Stanwyck, the greatest film crier of her time. The Victor Young-Ned Washington song was nominated for an Academy Award and made the No. 1 spot on Your Hit Parade via a recording by Billy Eckstine. Composer Young was a true musical renaissance man. He began his career as a concert violinist and achieved great success as a songwriter and arranger, scoring more than 350 films before his death in 1956. Among his most famous compositions are "Love Letters," "When I Fall in Love," "Golden Earrings," "Around the World" and "Street of Dreams." As if all that weren't enough, Young also served as a musical director at Decca Records, working with such veterans as Peggy Lee and helping develop such young singers as Jeri Southern.

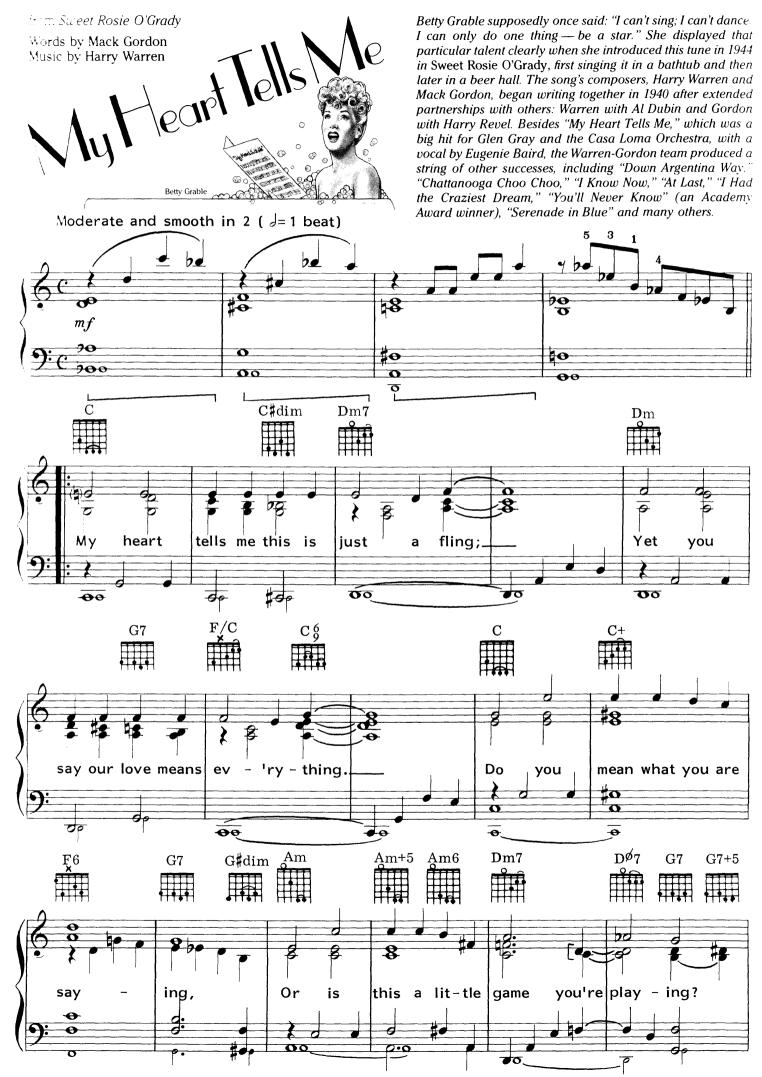


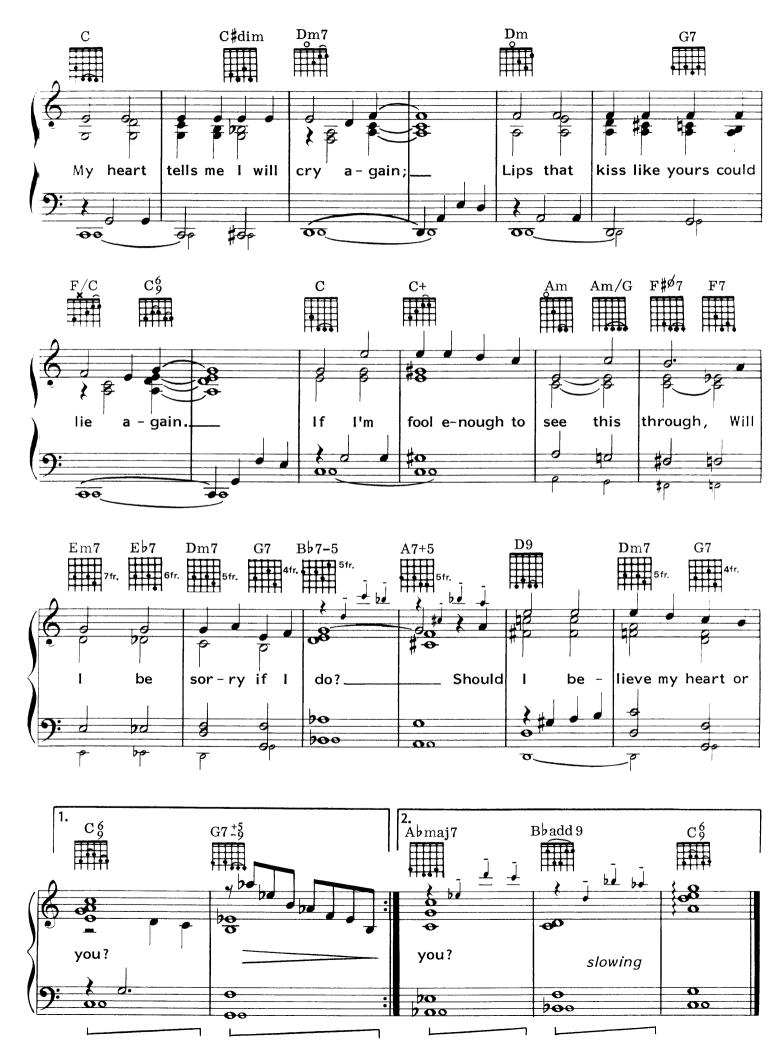








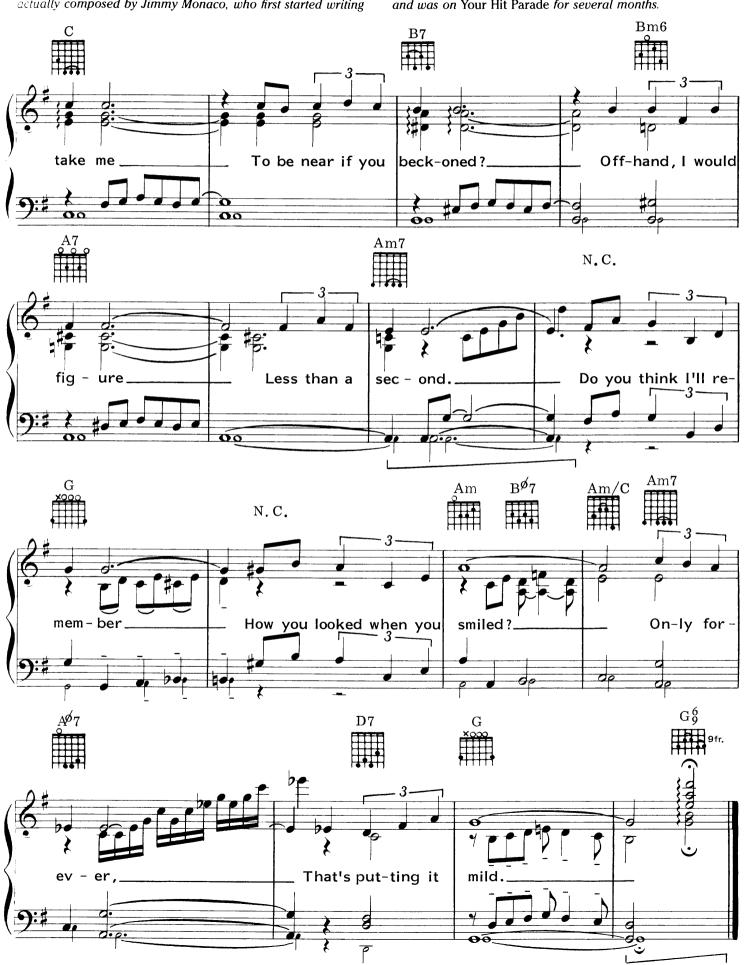






"Only Forever" was introduced in Rhythm on the River, a 1940 Paramount musical starring Bing Crosby, Mary Martin and Basil Rathbone and directed by Victor Schertzinger. In the film, Bing and Mary are ghostwriting songs for Basil, and Mary, inspired by Bing's music, "writes" a lyric that consists of four questions all answered by two words: "Only forever." The movie song was actually composed by Jimmy Monaco, who first started writing

for Bing in 1936. Along with lyricist Johnny Burke, he contributed to the scores for a number of Crosby films, including Dr. Rhythm, Sing You Sinners, The Star Maker, If I Had My Way, Rhythm on the River and Road to Singapore. "Only Forever" earned Monaco his first Academy Award nomination (it lost to "When You Wish Upon a Star" from Walt Disney's Pinocchio) and was on Your Hit Parade for several months.



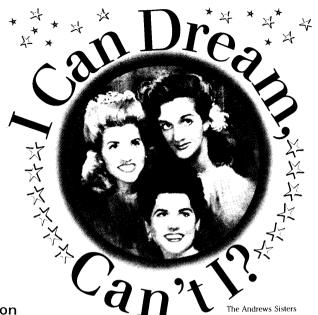


Section 3 HITS FROM THE '30s THAT BECAME HITS AGAIN



Words by Irving Kahal

"I Can Dream, Can't I?" was introduced in a 1938 musical. Right This Way, by the singer known only as Tamara. It was a millionselling hit 11 years later for The Andrews Sisters. Composer Sammy Fain is one of the underappreciated — though certainly not unsung — stars of American popular song. With Irving Kahal, with whom he worked from the mid-'20s until Kahal's death in 1942. Fain produced a series

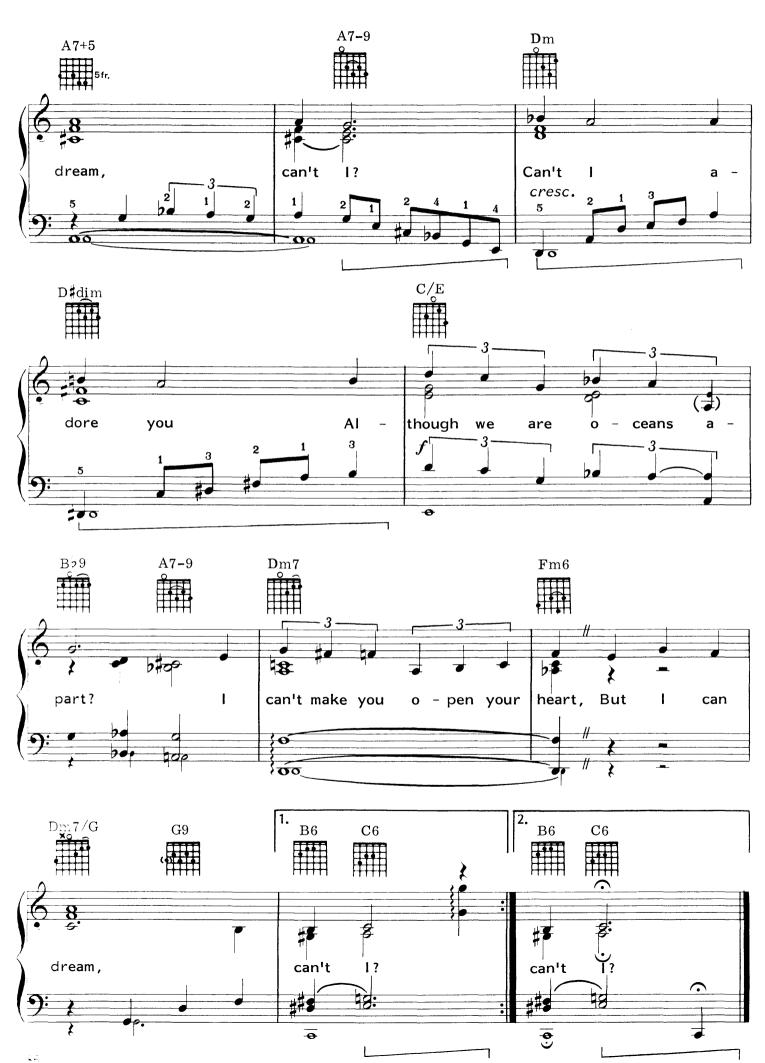


Music by Sammy Fain

of standards, including
"When I Take My Sugar to
Tea," "You Brought a New
Kind of Love to Me" and "I'll
Be Seeing You," which, like
"I'll Walk Alone," was one of
the prototypical World War
II songs. With other lyricists.
Fain's hits include "That Old
Feeling," "April Love" and two
Academy Award winners,
both written with Paul Francis
Webster, "Secret Love"
(1953) and "Love Is a ManySplendored Thing" (1955).







Walkin' My Baby Back Home

Words and Music by Roy Turk, Fred E. Ahlert and Harry Richman

Fred Ahlert and Roy Turk, who were principally Tin Pan Alley songwriters — as opposed to Broadway or Hollywood — turned out some very handsome tunes together, including "Walkin' My Baby Back Home," "I'll Get By," "Mean to Me," "Where the Blue of the Night (Meets the Gold of the Day)" and a too-often-overlooked lovely called "I'll Follow You." "Walkin' My Baby Back Home" was first popularized by one of the great song-and-dance men of the 1920s and '30s. His name was Harry Richman, and while the theater and movies weren't his metiers, in nightclubs few entertainers could touch him. Nearly a quarter of a century later, the song was made famous again by a young man from Oregon who set the country afire for a couple of years just before the advent of rock 'n' roll. Indeed, Johnnie Ray may have helped to usher rock 'n' roll in. His wild. abandoned — and tearful — caterwauling and arm thrashing earned him the title Prince of Wails. But after several hits, including "Cry" and "The Little White Cloud That Cried" ("Walkin' My Baby Back Home" was his only fairly cheerful success), Ray descended almost as abruptly as he had arrived. The Prince was gone. Elvis was now King.





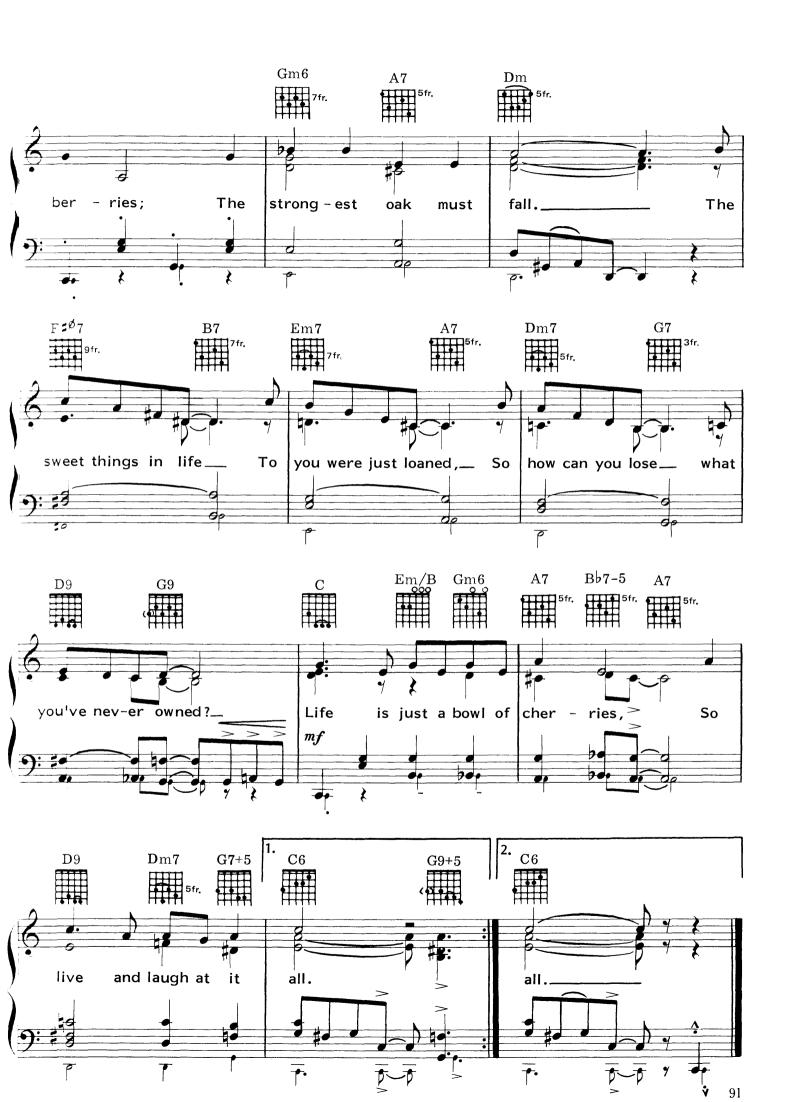


Words and Music bv Lew Brown and Ray Henderson

It was Ethel Merman who introduced this song in George White's Scandals of 1931. Miss Merman had made her epic stage debut the prior season in Girl Crazy, in which she held the high C note in "I Got Rhythm" for 16 bars, half a chorus, while the orchestra played the melody. She recorded "Life Is Just a Bowl of Cherries," as did Rudy Vallee, and, in one of the earliest attempts at recording a Broadway score, Bing Crosby and The Boswell? Sisters sang it — and other hits from the 1931 Scandals — on both sides of a 12-inch Brunswick record. The song had a resurgence of popularity in the mid-1950s, via a recording by singer Jaye P. Morgan.

ust a Bowl of Cherries







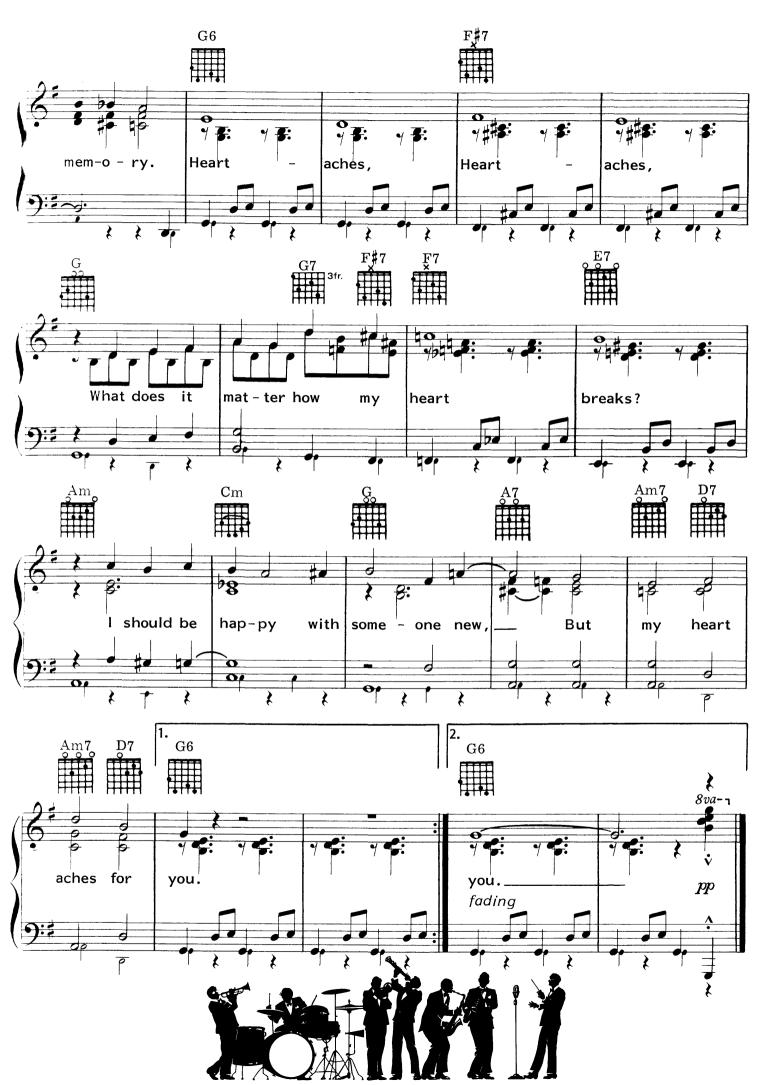
Words by John Klenner Music by Al Hoffman

Back in the glorious Big Band Era (roughly 1935 to 1945), a good many of the orchestras were "Chicago bands," working in and out of the Windy City from places like the Aragon and

Trianon ballrooms, the Marine Dining Room of the Edgewater Beach Hotel and the Blackhawk Restaurant. One of those bands was led by Ted Weems, whose young vocalists were Perry Como and Marvel (her real name, which Hollywood later changed to Marilyn) Maxwell. The Weems band recorded "Heartaches" in the mid-'30s with a pseudo-Latin beat, but nothing happened. Then, in 1947, a disc jockey found the recording in his station's 78-rpm archives and started playing it. Others picked it up, and the song became a hit. Elmo Tanner did the whistling on the record, and the maracas were played by a singer who was just launching an apparently unending career — Perry Como.



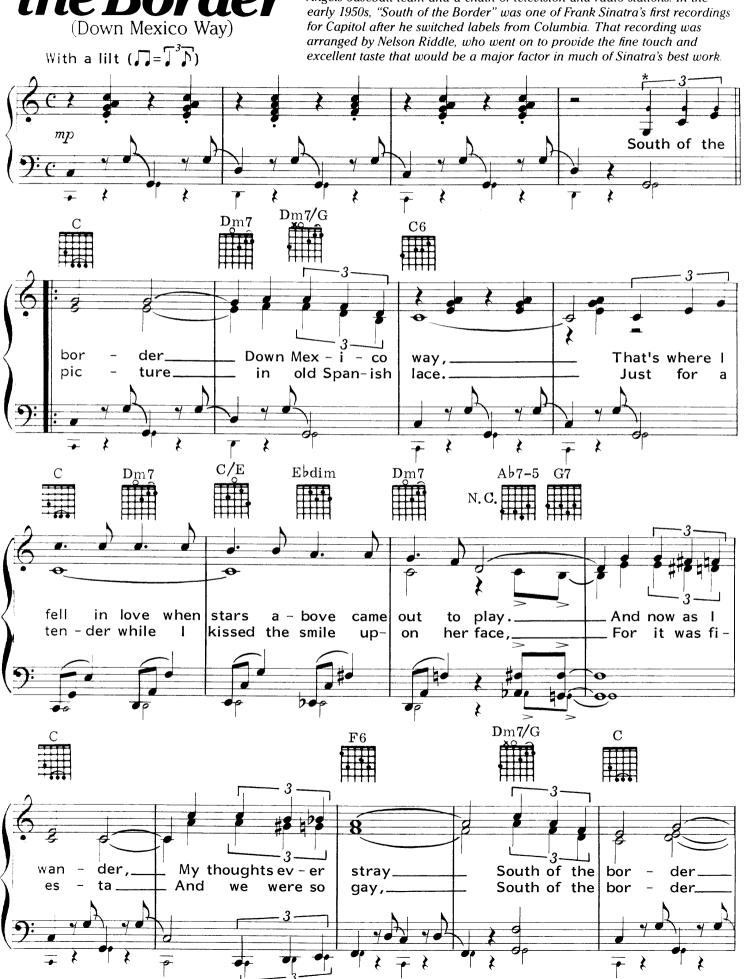


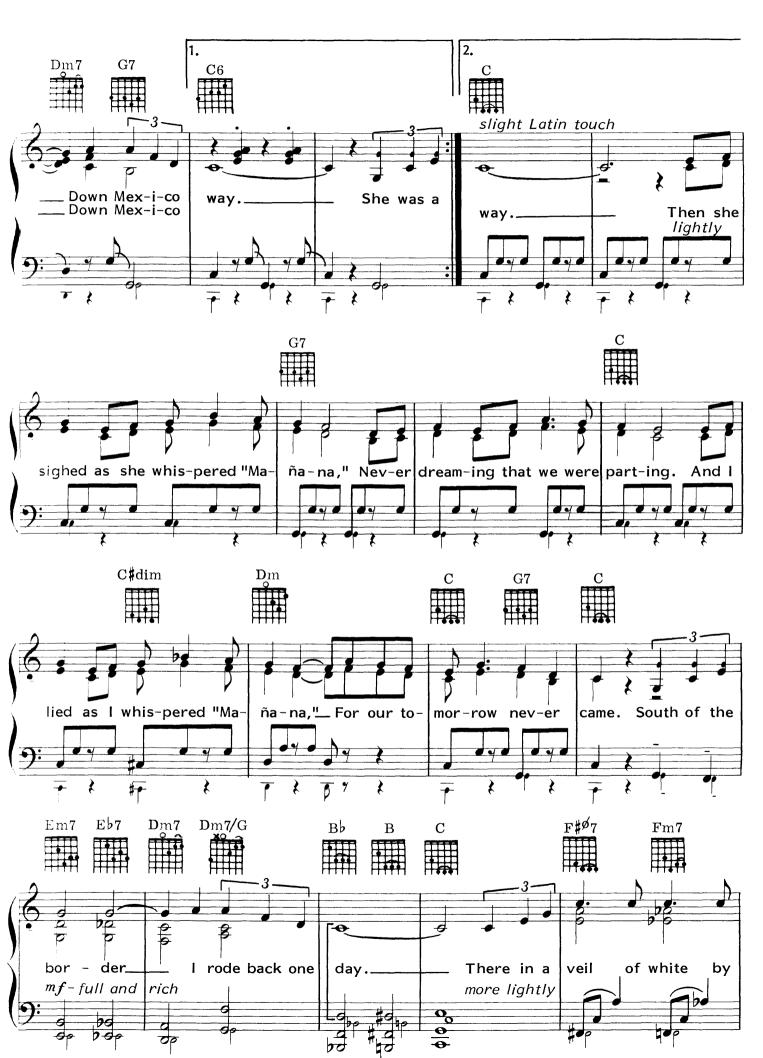


South of the Border (Down Mexico Way)

Words and Music by Jimmy Kennedy and Michael Carr

"South of the Border," a song about Mexico written by two Englishmen, gave its name to a 1939 movie starring the king of the singing cowboys, Gene Autry, who also recorded it. Today, royalties from that multimillion-seller would seem small potatoes to Autry, whose possessions include the California Angels baseball team and a chain of television and radio stations. In the early 1950s, "South of the Border" was one of Frank Sinatra's first recordings for Capitol after he switched labels from Columbia. That recording was arranged by Nelson Riddle, who went on to provide the fine touch and excellent taste that would be a major factor in much of Sinatra's best work



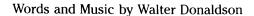






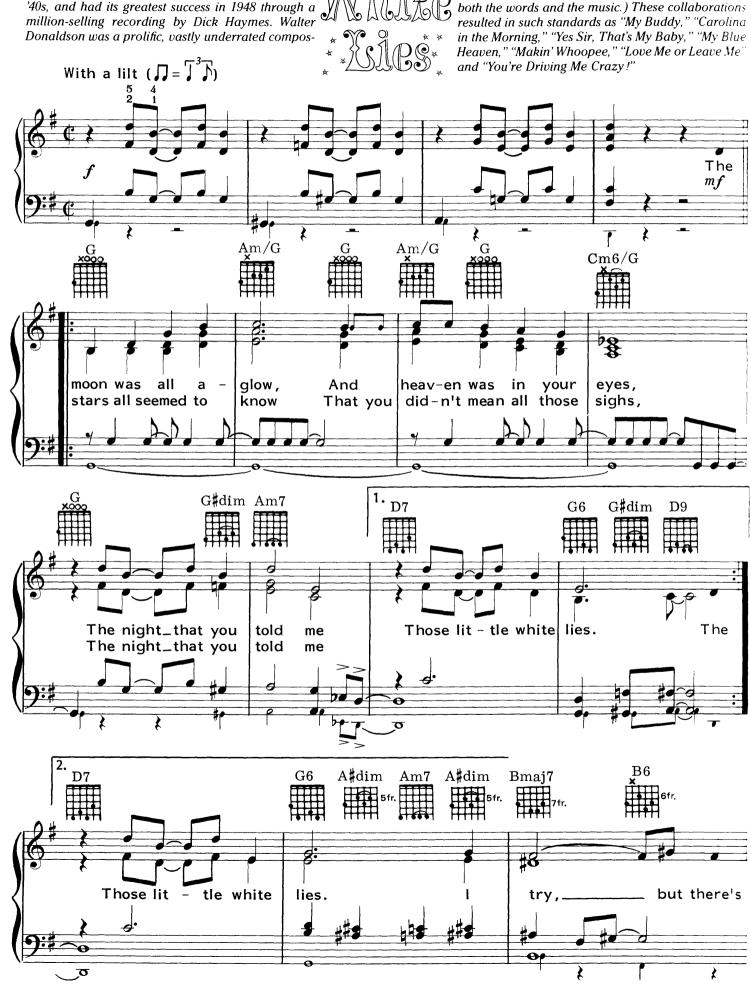






This song was first popularized in 1930 by Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians, became a hit for Tommy Dorsey and Frank Sinatra in the early '40s, and had its greatest success in 1948 through a million-selling recording by Dick Haymes. Walter Donaldson was a prolific yeastly undersated compos-

er. During his career (which began before World War I and ended in 1947, when he died at the age of 54). he teamed up with many lyricists — Gus Kahn, Johnny Mercer and Harold Adamson among them. ("Little White Lies" is one of the few songs for which he wrote both the words and the music.) These collaborations resulted in such standards as "My Buddy," "Carolina in the Morning," "Yes Sir, That's My Baby," "My Blue Heaven," "Makin' Whoopee," "Love Me or Leave Me"



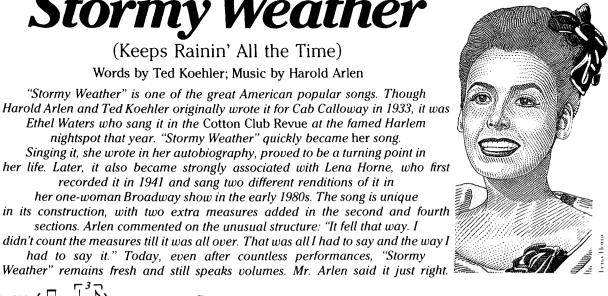


Stormy Weather

(Keeps Rainin' All the Time)

Words by Ted Koehler; Music by Harold Arlen

"Stormy Weather" is one of the great American popular songs. Though Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler originally wrote it for Cab Calloway in 1933, it was Ethel Waters who sang it in the Cotton Club Revue at the famed Harlem nightspot that year. "Stormy Weather" quickly became her song. Singing it, she wrote in her autobiography, proved to be a turning point in her life. Later, it also became strongly associated with Lena Horne, who first recorded it in 1941 and sang two different renditions of it in her one-woman Broadway show in the early 1980s. The song is unique in its construction, with two extra measures added in the second and fourth sections. Arlen commented on the unusual structure: "It fell that way. I didn't count the measures till it was all over. That was all I had to say and the way I had to say it." Today, even after countless performances, "Stormy





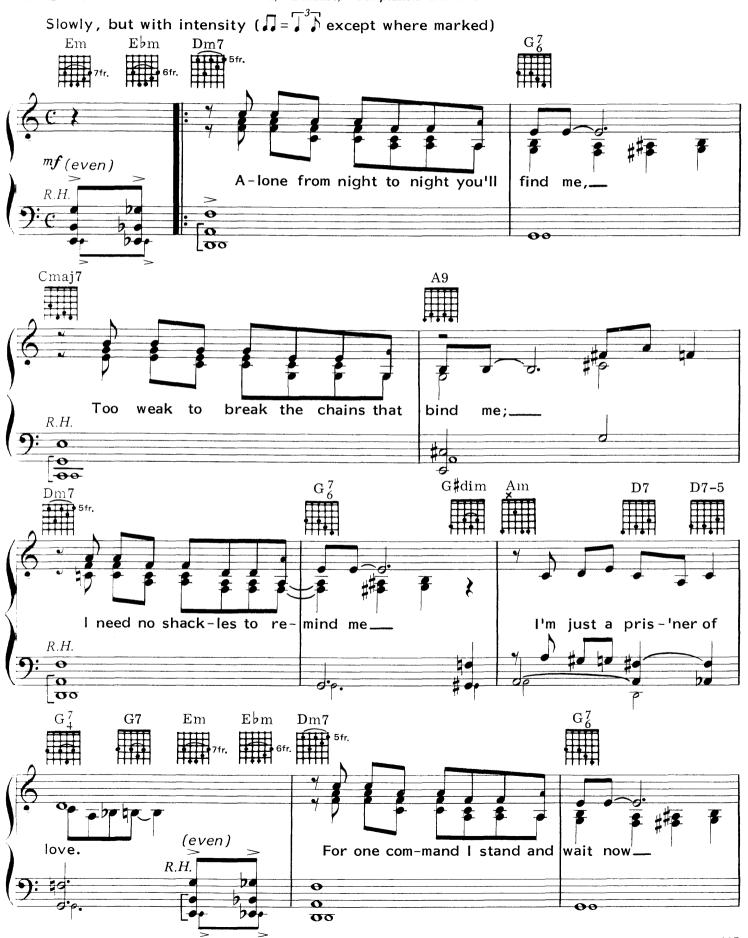


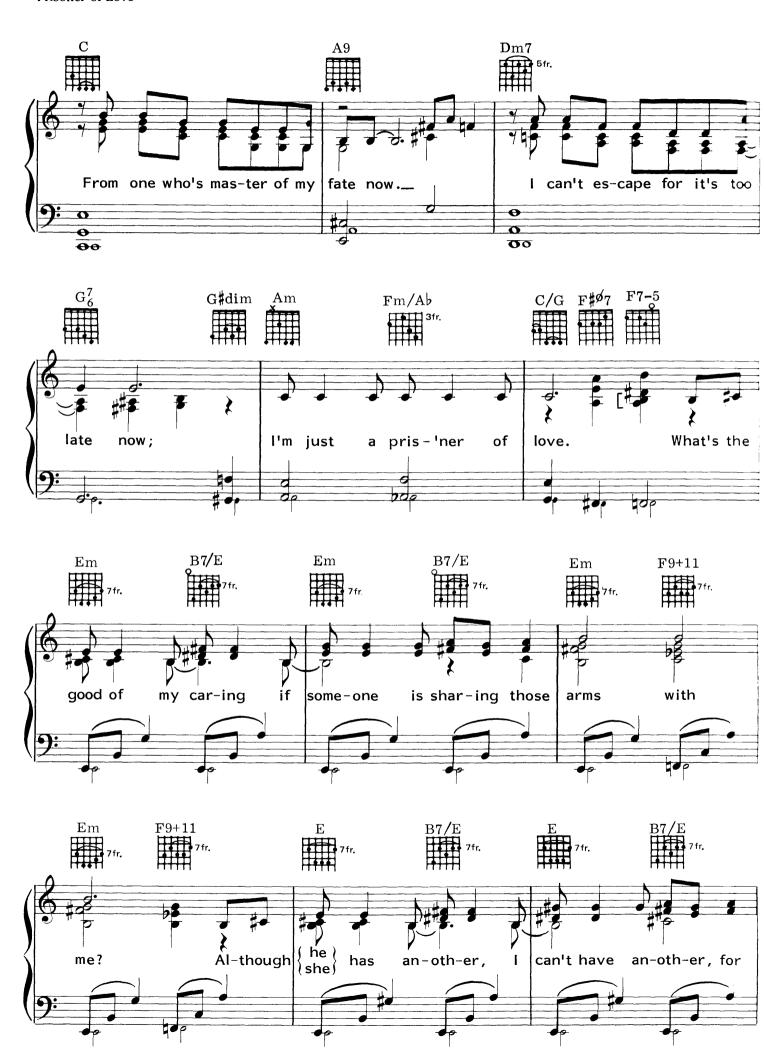


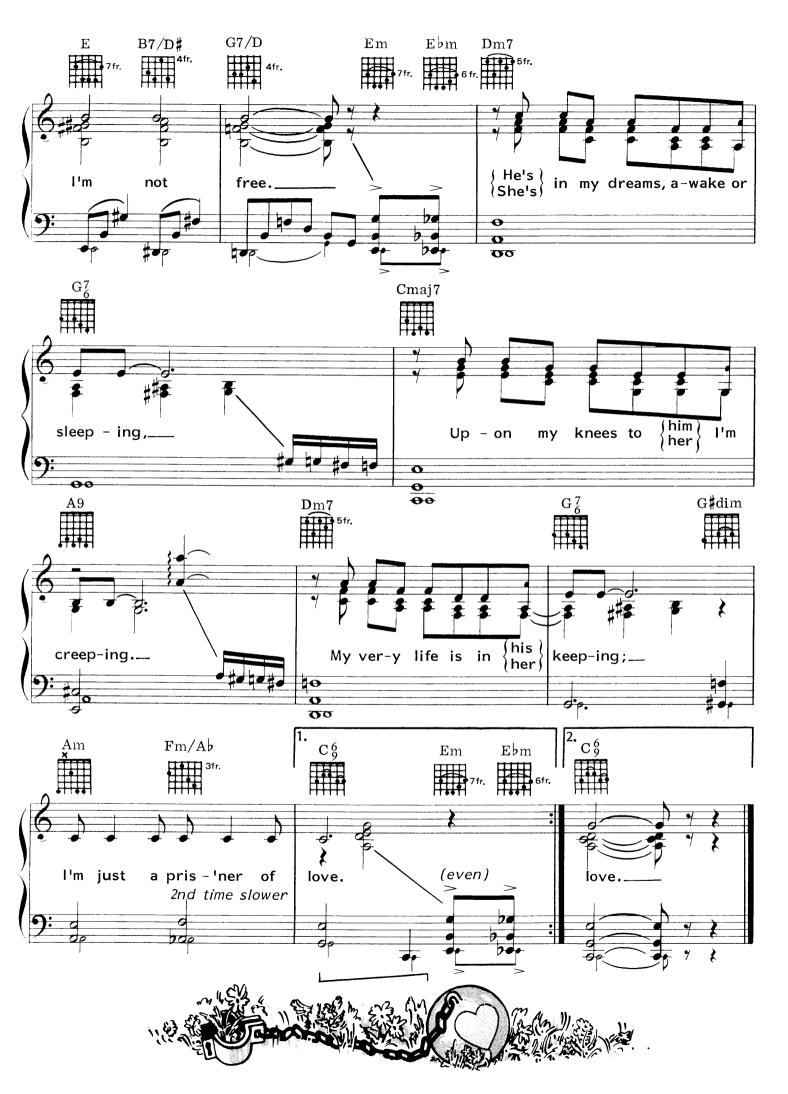


Words by Leo Robin; Music by Russ Columbo

Crooner Russ Columbo introduced "Prisoner of Love" in 1931, sharing the writing credit with Leo Robin. Another crooner, Perry Como, revived the song 15 years later. In 1942, after six years with Ted Weems' band, Como had returned to his hometown of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, determined to follow his original profession, barbering. But a year later, an agent lined him up with a deal he couldn't refuse — a CBS radio show and an RCA recording contract. Perry went on to turn out hit after hit, including "Till the End of Time," "Because," "Temptation" and his blockbuster version of "Prisoner of Love."







Words by Carroll Loveday Music by Helmy Kresa

4 man named Helmy Kresa wrote the melody of "That's My Desire" in 1-11 It turned out to be his only Tit But then, Kresa wasn't primari-3 2 songwriter. For many years he Less the musical arranger for none ther than Irving Berlin (whose ge-This was coupled with minimal shifts on the piano and understanding of chord structure). Later, Kresa also became the professional manager of Berlin's publishing mpany. "That's My Desire" made



Frankie Laine

a star of a highly stylized singer from Chicago named Frankie Laine, who pursued fame for a dozen years before he finally caught up with it (or it caught up with him). Frankie found the song while working in a defense plant in Cleveland during World War II. He wandered into a little club one night and heard a lady singing the by-then-forgotten tune in a sultry, bluesy way. He recorded the number in 1947, and the best-selling disc changed his life. Unfortunately, his attempts to find the singer in order to thank her proved fruitless.



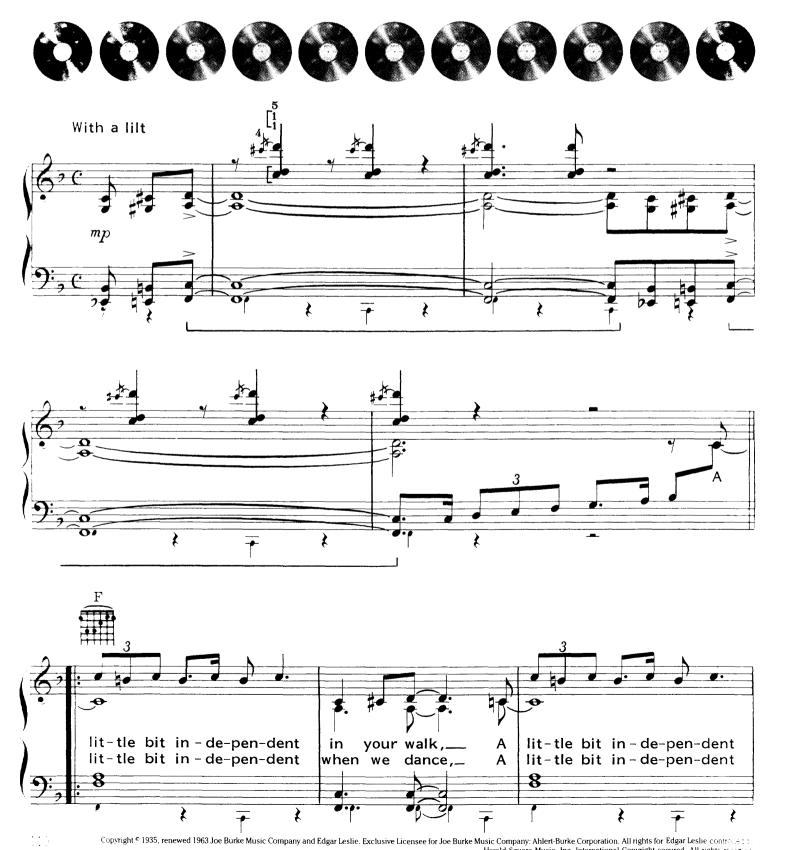


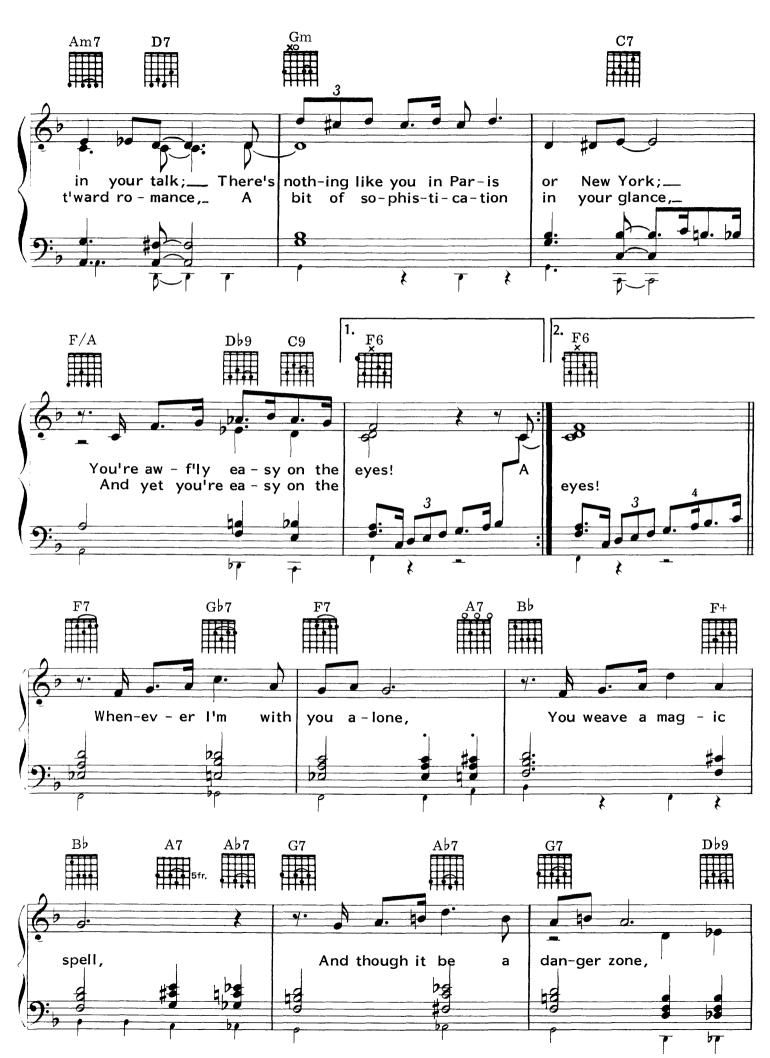
A Little Bit Independent

Words by Edgar Leslie; Music by Joe Burke

Through the years, there have been many songs written either about New York City or at least mentioning The Big Apple in the Frics (There probably would have been a lot more but for the fact that there isn't much — an exception is Mamie O'Rourke — that even comes close to rhyming with "New York.") In "A Little Bit Independent," however, lyricist Edgar Leslie added a touch of a New York accent and came up with "A little bit independent in your walk, A little bit independent in your talk, There's mathing like you in Paris or New York." The rhyme works

especially well in the big city itself, where the true "New Yalker" doesn't pronounce the letter r in words. The song was introduced by Fats Waller in 1935 and recorded in the late '40s first by Dick Haymes and later by Georgia Gibbs with Bob Crosby's orchestra. It was successfully revived in the early '50s by both Nat King Cole and Eddie Fisher. Besides "A Little Bit Independent," Leslie and Joe Burke got together on such other hits as "Moon Over Miami," "On Treasure Island," "In a Little Gypsy Tearoom" and the World War II song "We Must Be Vigilant."







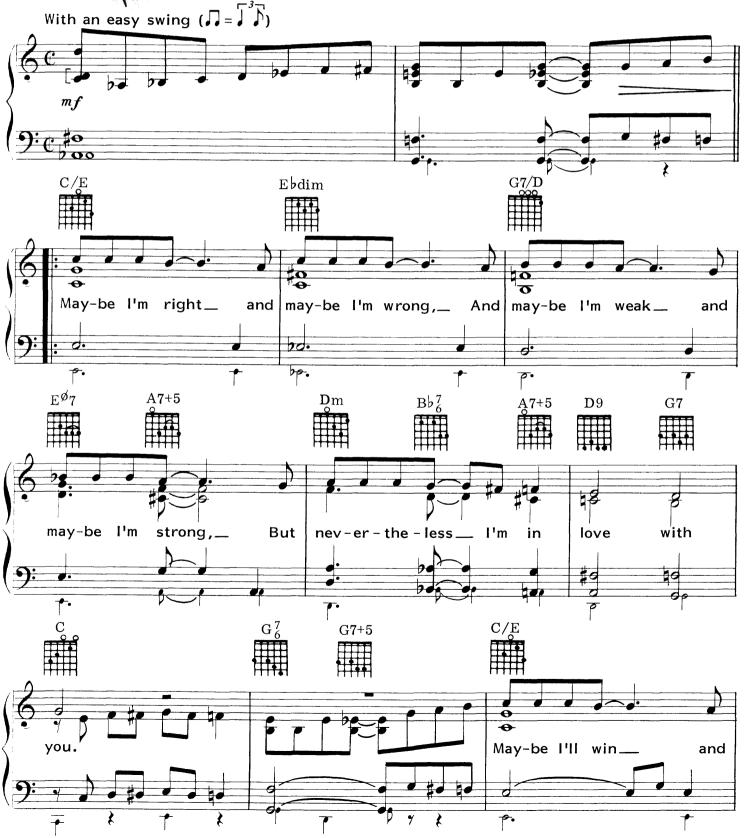


Nevertheless

(I'm in Love with You)

Words and Music by Bert Kalmar and Harry Ruby

One of the great songwriting teams — lyricist Bert Kalmar and composer Harry Ruby — wrote "Nevertheless" in 1931. Their collaboration, begun in 1916, spanned the early days of vaudeville through the Broadway musicals of the 1920s, into the beginnings of the film musical in the '30s and ended only with Kalmar's death in 1947. In 1928, the duo collaborated with The Marx Brothers on the stage version of Animal Crackers and soon found themselves in Hollywood. Two years later, they wrote the first of their many hit film songs, "Three Little Words." Among their best-known songs are "Who's Sorry Now?," "I Wanna Be Loved by You," "A Kiss to Build a Dream On" and "Thinking of You." Fred Astaire and Red Skelton portrayed the pair in the 1950 MGM musical biography Three Little Words. And a year later, Oscar Hammerstein II revised and retitled one of their songs, originally called "Moonlight on the Meadows." As "A Kiss to Build a Dream On," it earned Kalmar and Ruby their final Academy Award nomination.







Your Feet's Too Big

Words and Music by Ada Benson and Fred Fisher

Your Feet's Too Big" was made a hit by one of the great characters of American popular music — Thomas "Fats" Waller So closely is the song associated with Fats and his recording of it that Dan Fox based this arrangement on the record.) Born in Harlem in 1904, Waller learned to play the organ at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, where his father preached. At 15, he took first prize in a contest for amateur pianists, and upon graduating from high school he got his first job, as a console player at the Lincoln Theatre on 135th Street. Though Fats was an accomplished pianist, organist and performer, it was as a composer that he made his greatest mark. Among his songs are

"Ain't Misbehavin' " (his biggest hit, which he reportedly wrote in 45 minutes), "Honeysuckle Rose" (he took the lyrics over the phone and came up with the melody within the hour). The Joint Is Jumpin'," "I've Got a Feelin' I'm Fallin' " and "Keepin Out of Mischief Now." (But Ada Benson and Fred Fisher supplied him with "Your Feet's Too Big.") Fats had many other talents as well. Louis Armstrong described him as the funniest man he had ever met, and he lived faster and harder than most people. He died in 1943, at the age of 39, but as the saving goes, "There are 39-vear-olds and there are 39-vear-olds." He and his work were immortalized in the late-1970s hit musical Ain't Misbehavin'.







Additional Words

When you go and die, a body will sob; That old undertaker will have quite a job. You'll look mighty funny when you lay in that casket, Your feet stickin' out that basket. CHORUS and INTERLUDE





Section 4 HITS FROM THE GREAT BAND ERA



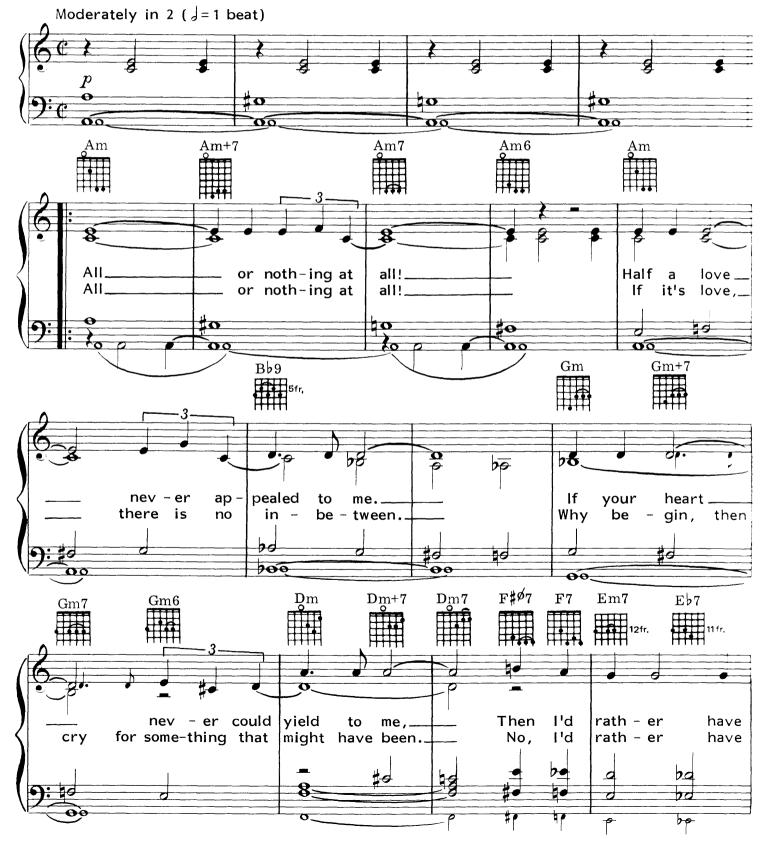


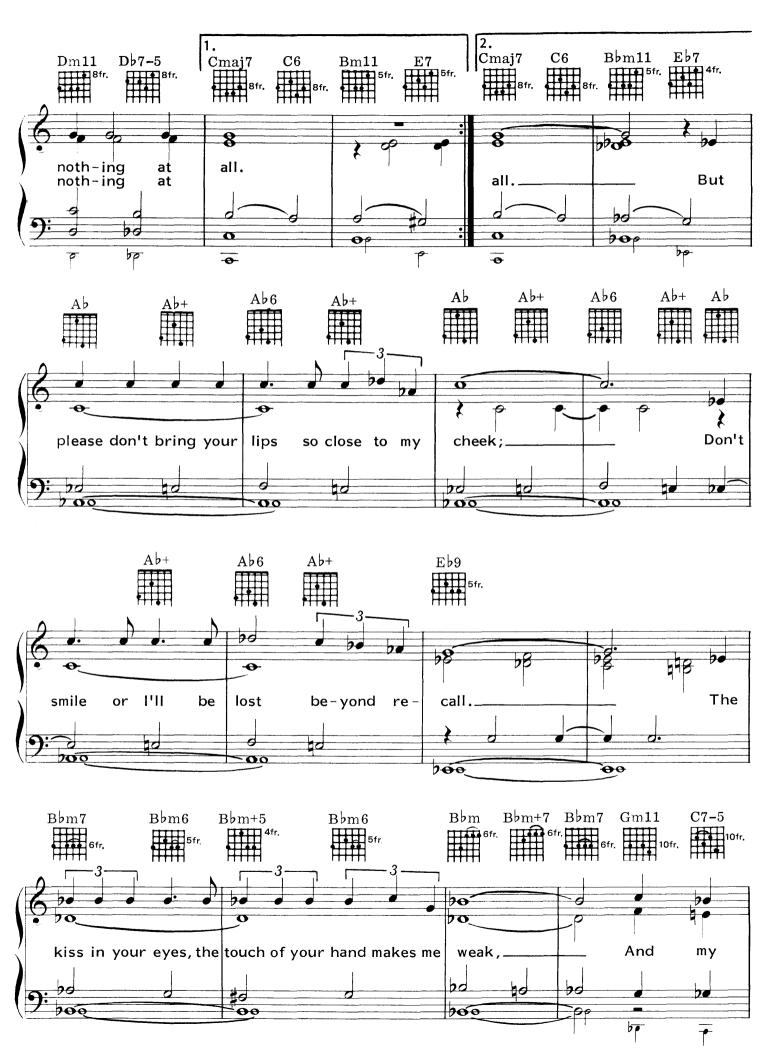


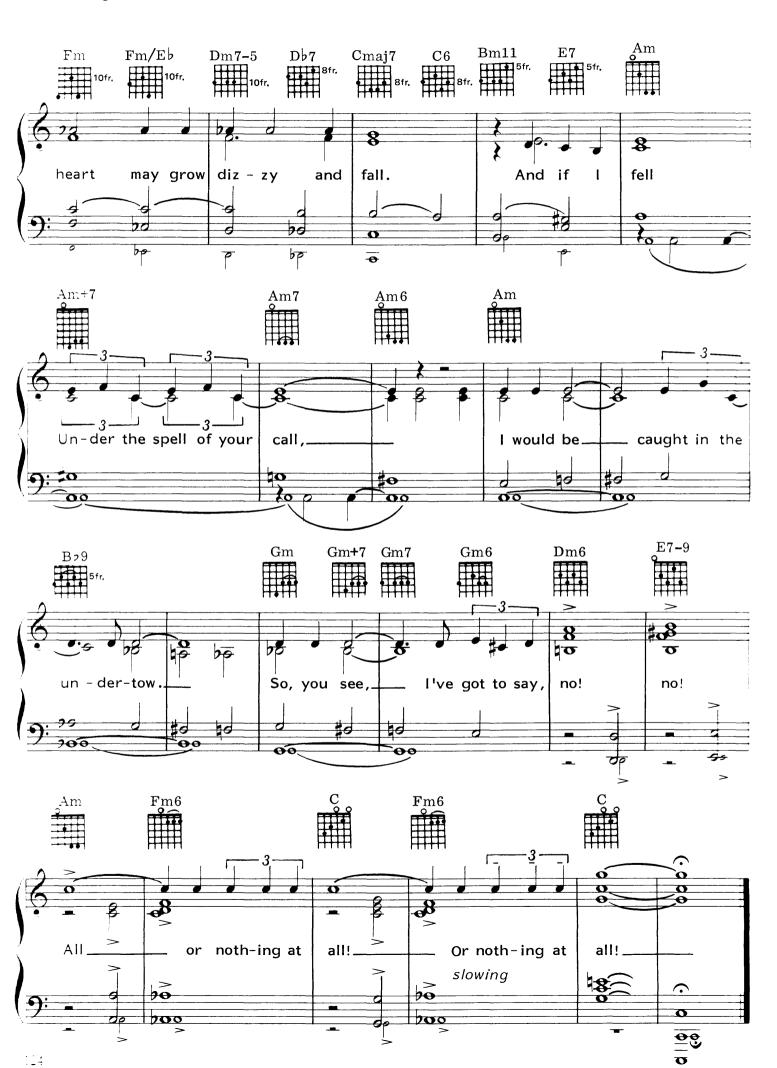


All or Nothing at All

Frank Sinatra together with Harry James recorded "All or Nothing at All" in 1940, with only modest success. Then, in the summer of 1943 in the middle of the singer's Paramount days and the ban on recording called by the mussicians' union, that same record was revived and sold more than a million copies. Since then "All or Nothing at All" has remained one of the most popular numbers in Sinatra's repertoire. He recorded it again in 1961 with Don Costa and in 1967 with Nelson Riddle. In 1977, Sinatra even cut a disco version of the song which was intended to be the flip side of his disc. "Night and Day" but was never released



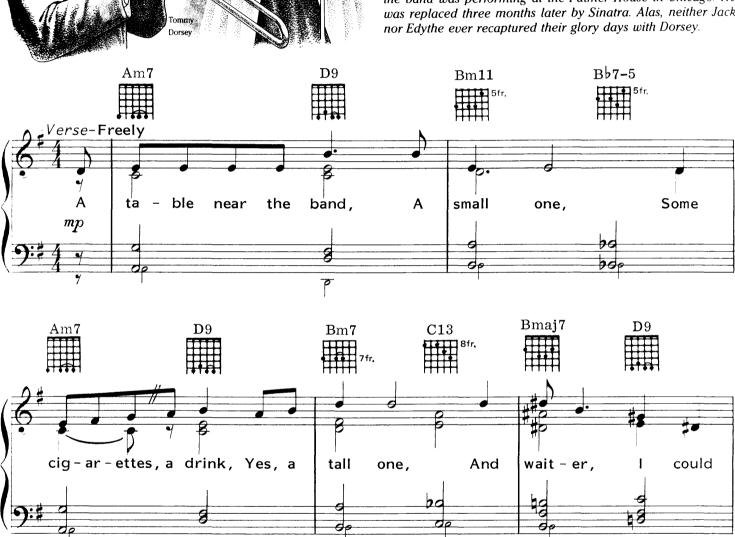


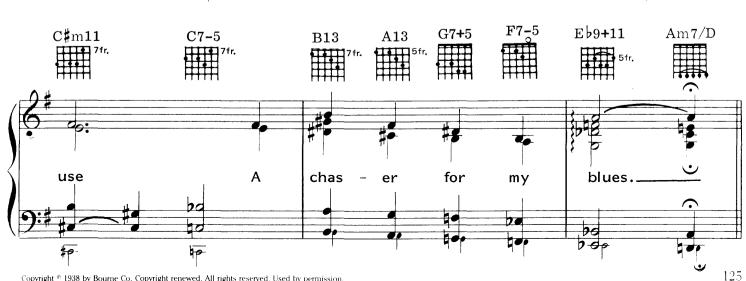


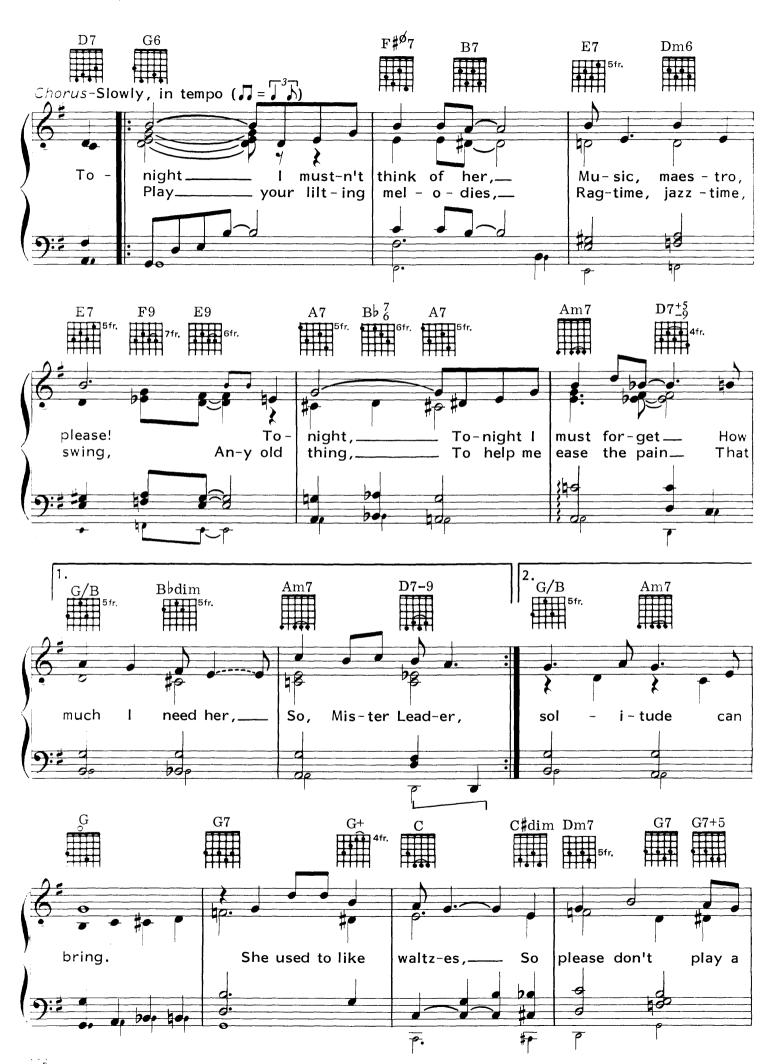


Words by Herb Magidson; Music by Allie Wrubel

When Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey broke up the Dorsey Brothers Band after their legendary fight on the bandstand at the Glen Island Casino in New Rochelle, New York, in 1935, Tommy took over what had basically been the Joe Haymes orchestra. Haymes was an excellent arranger but never quite made it as a bandleader. Tommy's vocalists in those long-ago pre-Frank Sinatra Pied Piper days were Edythe Wright and Jack Leonard. Edythe was the singer on "Music, Maestro, Please!," which became a No. 1 hit for the Dorsey organization in the summer of 1938. She left the band the following year, in October, and ultimately was replaced by Connie Haines, along with The Pied Pipers and the great Jo Stafford. Jack Leonard, who at times almost sounded as if he were whispering or cooing — but with intimate and effective results — left that November after a spat with Tommy while the band was performing at the Palmer House in Chicago. He was replaced three months later by Sinatra. Alas, neither Jack nor Edythe ever recaptured their glory days with Dorsey.









Throughout the Big Band Era, a song written by a member of an inchestra was often credited not only to the composer but to his bundleader and sometimes even to the music publisher as well. A prime example is this 1945 hit, which credits no fewer than four collaborators — Duke Ellington, his star alto saxophonist Janny Hodges, Don George and Harry James. Each had a hand in the song. Ellington worked on the melody; George wrote the

lyrics; and James' orchestra had the big hit with it. But a rule of thumb was that if Hodges got a credit on a tune, you could figure he had pretty substantial input. The joke in the Ellington band was that when Johnny would whip off a gorgeous phrase or chorus while they were playing a blues tune, Duke would write it down, name it and suddenly have himself another song. And "The Rabbit" would sit in the sax section and just glare.





Memories of You

Words by Andy Razaf Music by Eubie Blake Ethel Waters introduced "Memories of You," one of the greatest and most enduring American popular songs, in an all-black revue, Blackbirds of 1930. Since then it has been associated with Benny Goodman, Glen Gray and the Casa Loma Orchestra (featuring a spectacular solo by trumpeter Sonny Dunham) and many others. Musicians gravitate to the song because of the beauty, simplicity and logic of Eubie Blake's melody, and Andy Razaf's lovely lyrics almost seem to sing themselves. In a 1983 celebration at Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center, honoring Blake's 100th birthday (he died just five days later), singer Joe Williams resurrected another Blake-Razaf evergreen — "I'd Give a Dollar for a Dime." After hearing the song, Eubie reportedly said, "Did I write that? Gee, that's pretty."





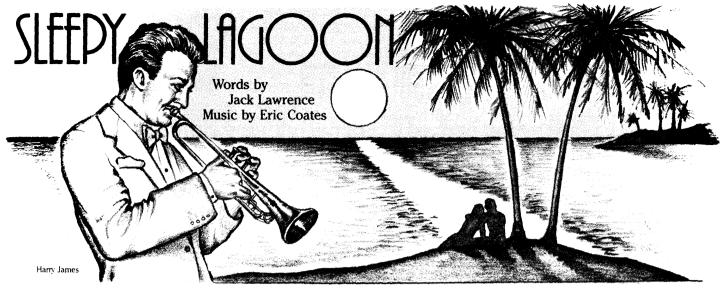


In the 1930s and '40s, "Mickey Mouse bands" was a derogatory name for the sugary-sounding members of the Russ Morgan-Sammy Kaye-Kay Kyser-Guy Lombardo-Jan Garber school. A better name might have been Hotel bands, because of their popularity in hotel ballrooms. They played very danceable music and they were entertaining to watch and listen to as well. Russ Morgan, for example, played a trombone so schmaltzily that one could say he had to drain it regularly of chicken fat. His singing was equally caloric. Yet his was a warm, easy-to-listen-to sound. This song, which Russ co-wrote, was his biggest hit.

Else Is Taking My Place

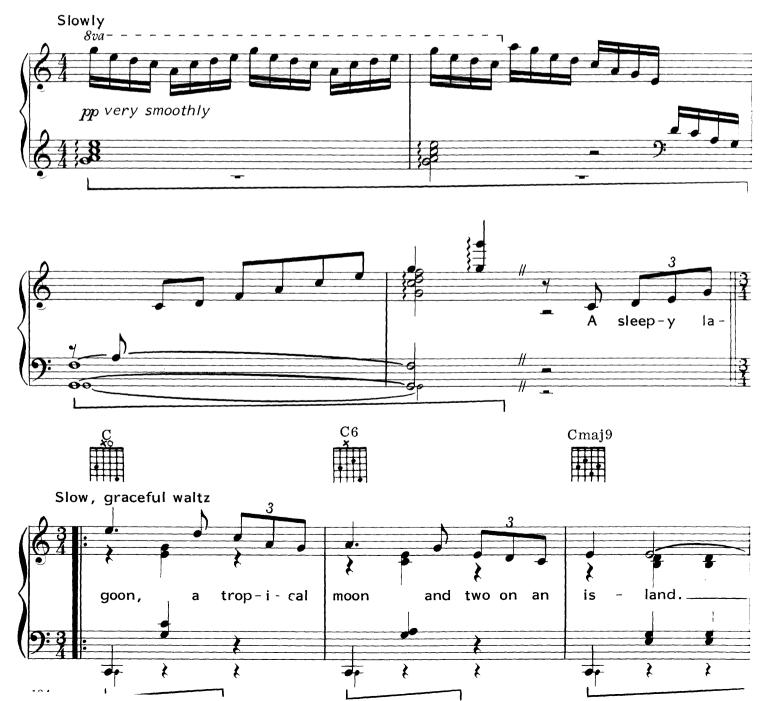






"Sleepy Lagoon" has an interesting lineage. English light-classical composer Eric Coates wrote the melody in 1930, and 10 years later, American Jack Lawrence added the lyrics. Tommy Dorsey was the first to popularize the song, via a trombone solo on Red Seal, RCA's classical-music label. In 1942, the song appeared on Your Hit Parade 18 times and became a No. 1

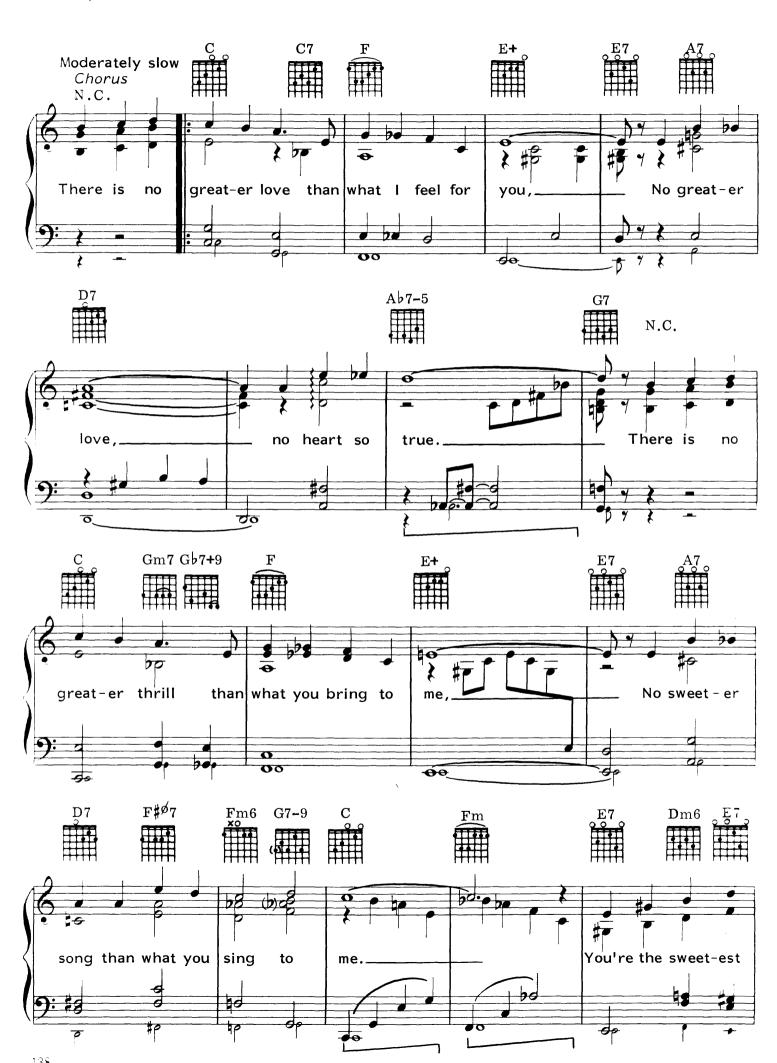
success for Harry James on Columbia. It was one of Harry's first big hits and, along with other performances such as "Ciriburbin," "Two O'Clock Jump" and "The Flight of the Bumble Bee allowed him to maintain one of the few bands that lasted well past the end of the Big Band Era. Astonishingly, that era, sainted in memory, lasted only 10 years — roughly from 1935 to 1945













UNDECIDED

Words by Sid Robin; Music by Charles Shavers

"Undecided" was introduced in 1939 by Chick Webb and His Orchestra, featuring a vocal by Ella Fitzgerald. It has also been associated with Don Redman and with Benny Goodman, who played it throughout his career, obviously finding its unusual rhythmic feel most interesting. The song, though, had its greatest success in 1951, when The Ames Brothers had a million-selling recording of it. The story behind the title is amusing. Composer Charlie Shavers dropped his tune off with New York music publisher Lou Levy as he was about to go on tour. Levy wired him on the road: "What's the title?" Shavers hadn't thought about one, so wired back: "Undecided." And that's what the name became.

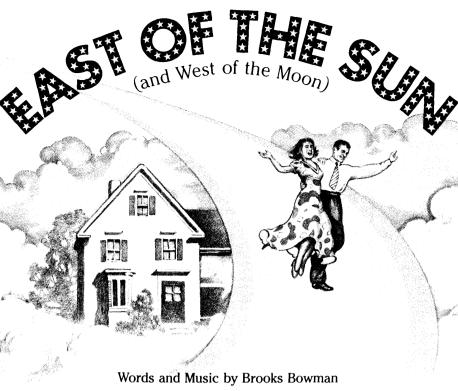




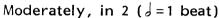




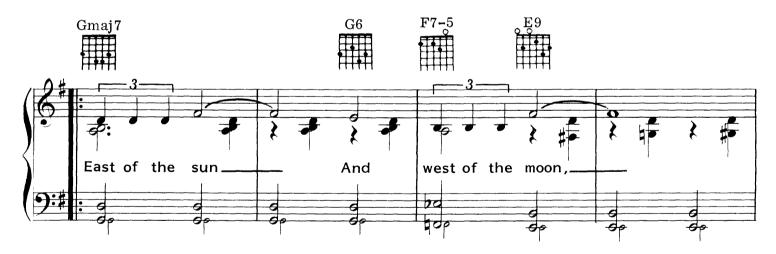
the 1930s, the luy ... zgue was not only a rayor force in U.S. coleze football, but it also zzsionally cracked e Top Ten with ongs — tunes that rere written for the Pennsylvania Universi-Masque and Wig C'2b and the Princeton Trangle Club shows. After all, the Ivy League Tin Pan Alley nnection goes back Cole Porter's writing "Yale Bulldog ng" in the early part f the century.) The Princeton **Triangle** show of 1935, Stags at Bay, contained the

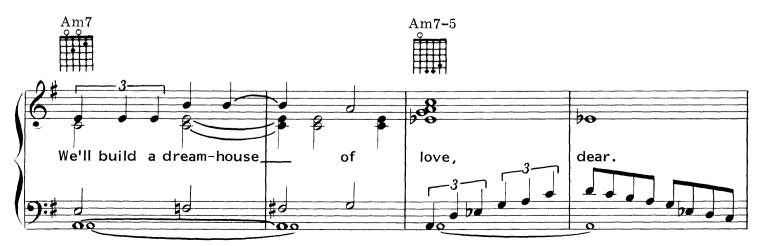


longest-lasting and loveliest of these collegiate tunes, East of the Sun (and West of the Moon)," written by a very talented young man named Brooks Bowman. It was a great misfortune of the music world that Bowman was killed in a car crash in 1937 at the age of 24. "East of the Sun" enjoyed its greatest success in 1940, when Tommy Dorsey recorded it with Frank Sinatra, using the band as choir, as he had done so successfully a few years earlier with "Marie" and "Who?"





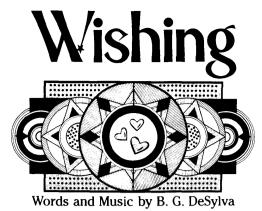








Buddy DeSylva did it all — songwriting, producing, heading a major film studio. And sometimes he did more than one thing at a time. A case in point is a 1939 film called Love Affair, which starred Charles Boyer and Irene Dunne and this song, "Wishing." (A 1957 remake was entitled An Affair to Remember.) Leo McCarey, the film's director, needed a wistful ballad to enhance the story. On whom did he call? Buddy DeSylva, of course. De-



Sylva, then producing at Fox, had always been a good lyricist, and. in addition to the other two members of the team of DeSylva, Brown and Henderson, he had worked with George Gershwin, Jerome Kern and Victor Herbert, so obviously he knew his way around a melody. Several bands were successful with this tune, but many people remember Skinnay Ennis singing it on Bob Hope's Pepsodent radio show and putting his stamp on it.

Moderately slow, but in 2 (d=1 beat)



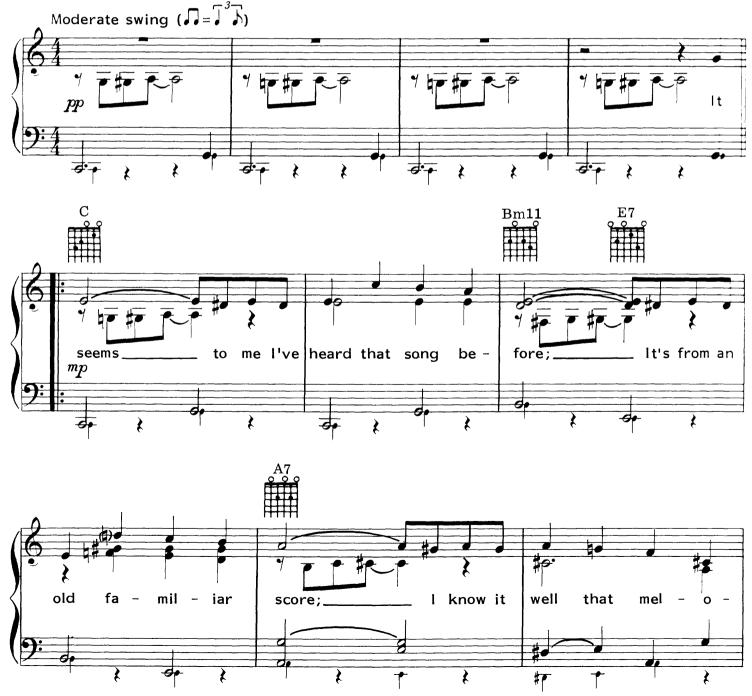


I've Heard That Song Before

Words and Music by Jule Styne and Sammy Cahn

By 1940. Jule Styne had been a vocal arranger and singing coach at 20th Century-Fox for some time. Tiring of his routine and confident that he could write songs with the best of them, he approached Darryl Zanuck, the head of the vast studio. Just at that time, however, Zanuck had announced a halt on musicals. After fulfilling his Fox contract by going on the road as coach and accompanist with actress Constance Bennett, Styne signed on with Republic Studios, known primarily for "oaters" starring Gene Autry, Roy Rogers and other Western heroes. But sometimes the company turned out cheap musicals such as the 1942 film Youth on Parade, which Jule was assigned to write with a

man he had never met, a struggling young lyricist named Sammy Cahn. When the two were introduced, Styne was busy plucking out a melody. Years later, Sammy recounted that the first sentence he uttered to the sensitive composer almost ended their association before it began. What he said was, "It seems to me I've heard that song before." Well, the mere suggestion of plagiarism is enough to incite the mildest-mannered songwriter to riot, and Styne exploded. It took Sammy some time to explain that he meant that the last five words of his sentence should be the title of the tune that Jule was working on. It was the beginning of a beautiful — and most profitable — friendship









(Pretty Little Poppy)

Words by Albert Gamse Music by Joseph M. Lacalle

ther band was built around its sing-- 75 25 much as Jimmy Dorsey's. And that 23 by accident Furthermore, his sing-Bob Eberly and Helen O'Connell, and been with the band for several years that accident happened. In 1939, mmy took on a radio series for Raleigh zarettes. (In those days, cigarette comand one of a 15-minute show, and one of a risey's arrangers. furties were big big-band sponsors.) It rsey's arrangers, Tutti Camarata,



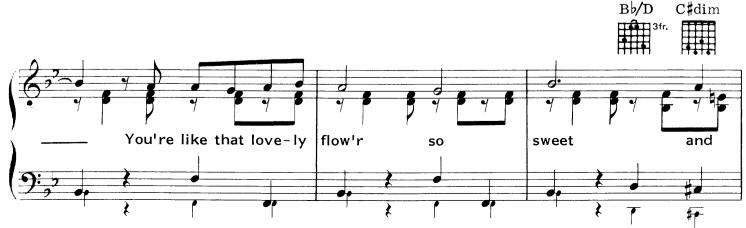
worked out a plan to feature both singers. He would take a song, slow it down as a ballad for Bob, then speed it up and let Helen swing it. The formula was an immediate success. "Amapola" was their first hit and was followed by many others, including "Green Eyes" and "Brazil." Eberly was perhaps the most popular of all the big-band singers, Frank Sinatra included, with a rich, romantic baritone that won him most of the band-singer polls of 1939-42. It was his misfortune to be drafted into the Armed Forces at the peak of his career, just after filming The Fleet's In, in which he scored on "Tangerine" with Helen and on "I Remember You" with Dorothy Lamour. When Bob returned from the war, Sinatra, Dick Haymes and Perry Como had left the bands they sang with and become big singing stars on their own. Eberly found himself largely forgotten.

Jimmy Dorsey with Bob Eberly and Helen O'Connell

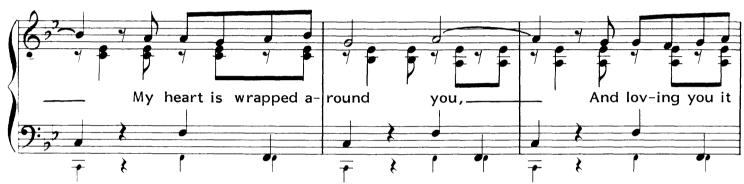


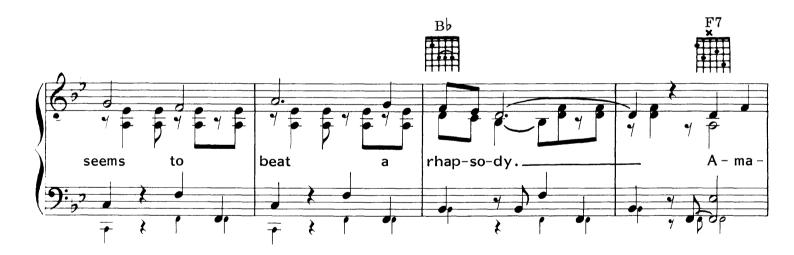














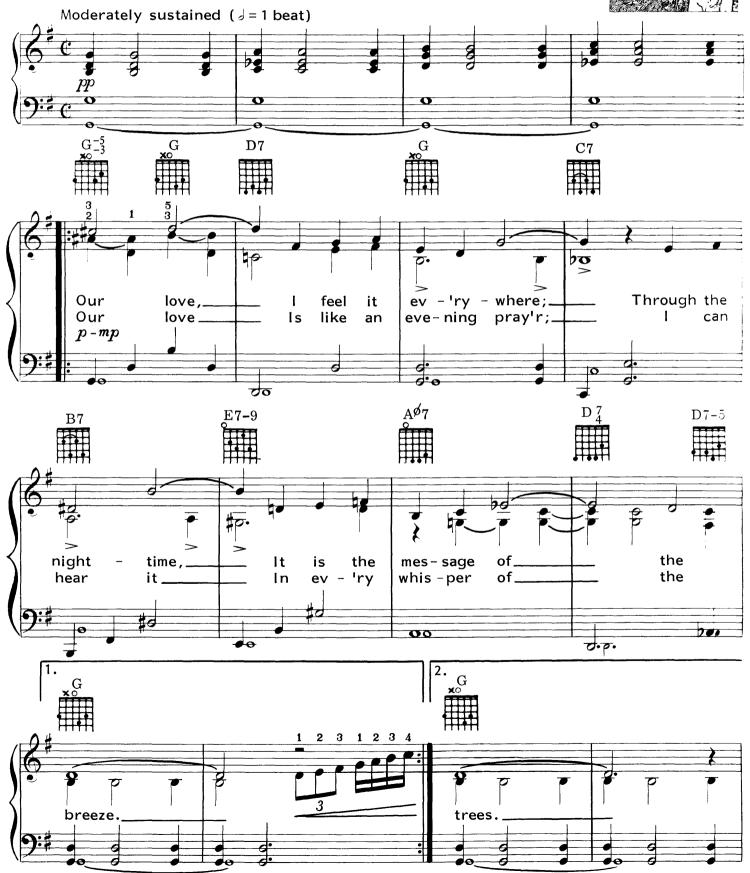




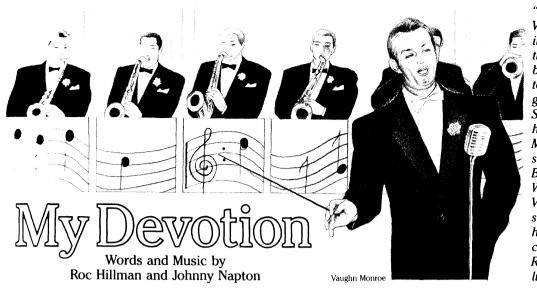
Words and Music by Larry Clinton, Buddy Bernier and Bob Emmerich

In 1938. Larry Clinton adapted French composer Claude Debussy's "Reverie" for his band. He called the ballad "My Reverie," and his vocalist, Bea Wain, sang it into the No. 1 spot on Your Hit Parade. From then on, the classical masters were fair game for Tin Pan Alley. Soon, Maurice Ravel had been tapped for "The Lamp Is Low." Sergei Rachmaninoff for "Full Moon and Empty Arms," Frédéric Chopin for "Till the End of Time" and Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky for "Moon Love," "Tonight We Love" and others. It was to the Russian master that Clinton turned in 1939 for another No. 1 song. This time, he took his pencil to Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture." The result was this lovely song, perhaps the most haunting of all the adaptations.









"My Devotion" was a big hit for Vaughn Monroe on Victor Records in 1942. It was the first success for the singer-bandleader, who had been around since the mid-'30s. After a three-year dry spell, he struck gold again in 1945 with "There, I ve Said It Again." From then on, it was hit after hit. In the early 1950s. Monroe was so hot that RCA Victor signed him to a long-term contract But when you're not, you're not Within a few months of the signing. Vaughn's records abruptly stopped selling. Eventually, the story has it. he worked out his contract by becoming a television pitchman for RCA TV sets. There's no business like show business.









Section 5 RECORD HITS OF THE 40s AND '50s

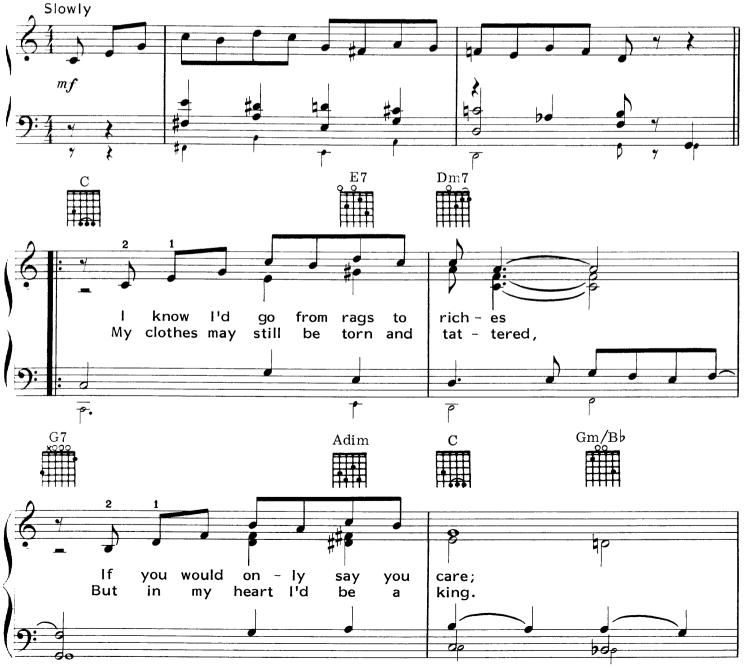


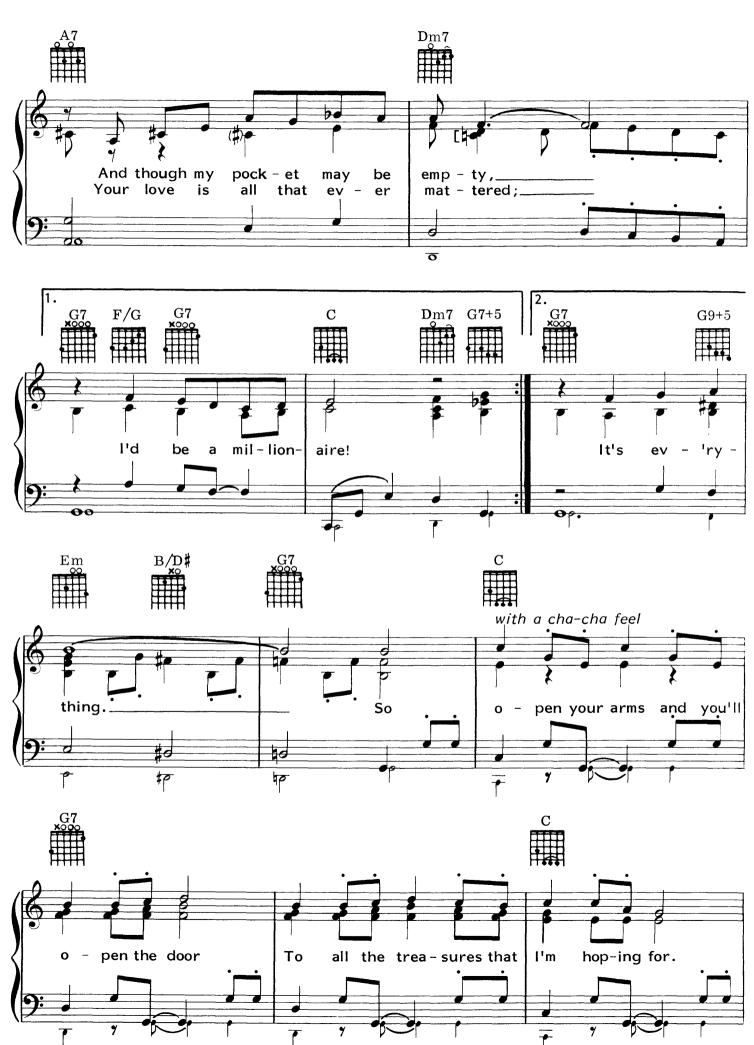
Words and Music by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross

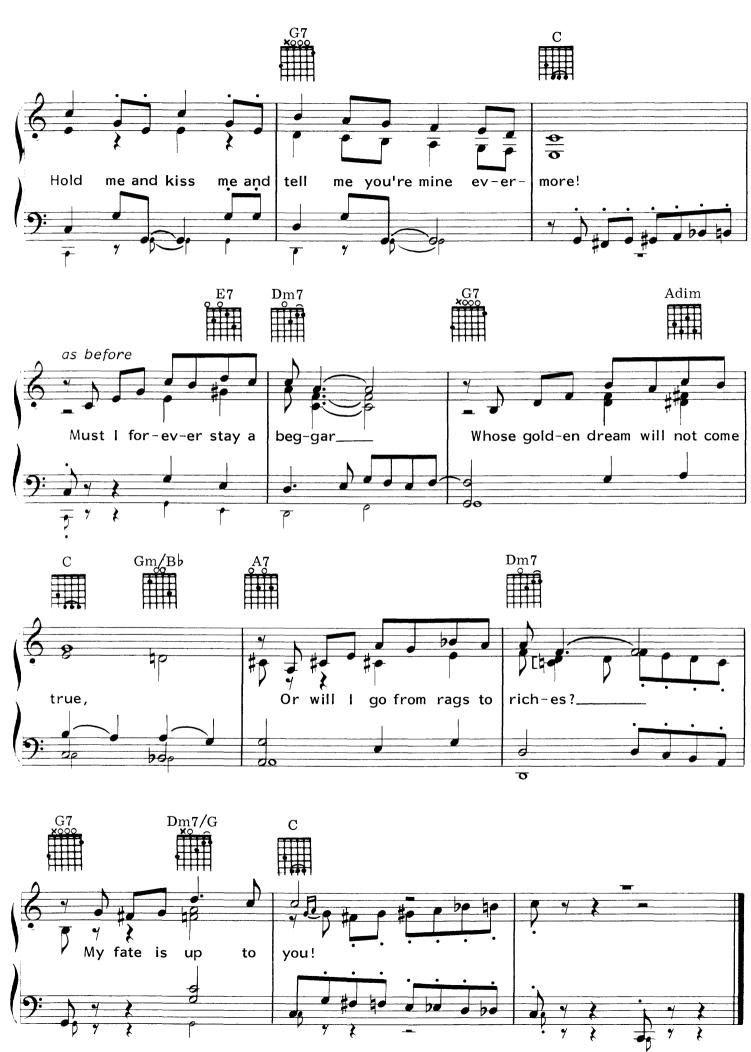
In 1950. Mitch Miller went to Columbia Fecords, and the music business was never quite the same again. The former classical oboist immediately prought his own strong opinions about popular music into play. He beselved in "sounds" and songs with simple to-the-point lyrics. Soon the aircares were alive with tunes like Tome On-a My House," sung by Frankie Laine; and "Feet Up (Pat Him to the Po-Po)," by Guy Mitchell. This sait to say that during Miller's long caure all of Columbia's recordings



were novelty tunes. Given the company's connection with the musical theater, Miller recorded many lovely ballads during the 1950s and early '60s. And, to Mitch's credit in many people's eyes, he kept rock 'n' roll from surfacing at Columbia during his reign. One of Miller's protégés was a young Italian-American from New York City who called himself Tony Bennett. The Columbia people — and Tony — were wise in the material they selected for him: "sound" songs to be sure, yet tunes for which he had a special feel, with his rich, romantic baritone. One of these songs was "Rags to Riches," a No. 1 hit for Tony in 1953.



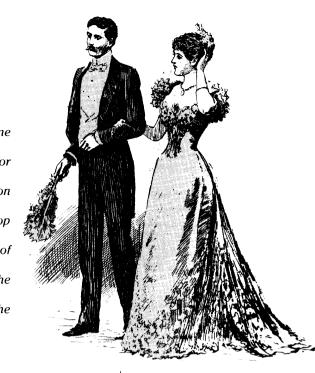


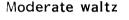


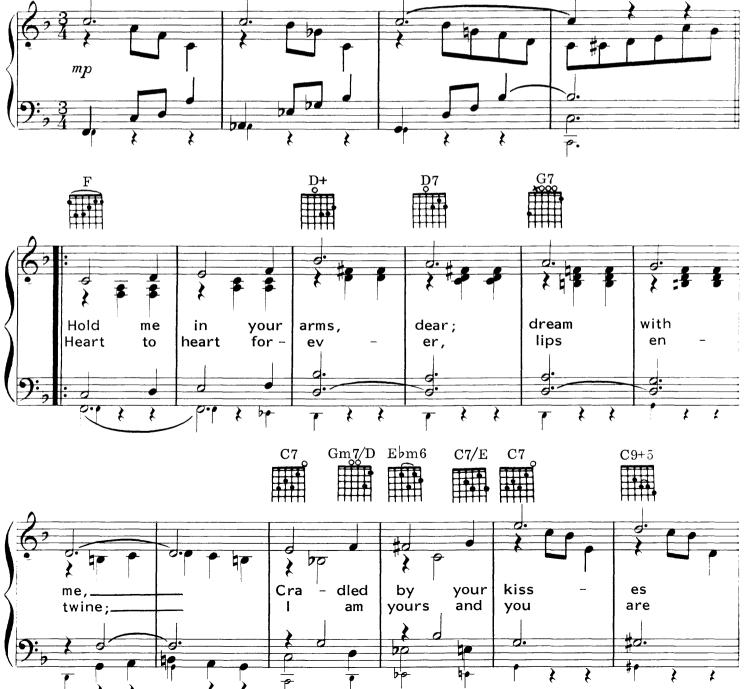
Melody of Love

Words by Tom Glazer; Music by H. Engelmann

"Melody of Love," with lyrics by Tom Glazer, was
based on a melody published in 1903 by one H. Engelmann. It became
a best-selling instrumental hit in 1955 for Billy
Vaughn and His Orchestra on Dot Records and was also a vocal hit for
The Four Aces on Decca and for Dinah Shore and
Tony Martin on RCA Victor. The song first landed on the charts on
January 8, 1955, and a month later hit No. 1, where it
remained for six weeks. "Melody of Love," in fact, remained in the Top
Ten for nearly six full months. This type of success
naturally spawned a series of "cover" records by other artists. One of
the most notable of these belonged to Frank Sinatra,
who recorded the song with Ray Anthony and His Orchestra while he
was with Capitol. It was released as a single (the flip
side was "I'm Gonna Live Till I Die") and to this day remains one of the
hardest-to-find Sinatra Capitol recordings.









CRY

Words
and
Music
by
Churchill
Kohlman

Elsewhere in these pages we've talked about that rara avis, the song so big that it provided a hit for more than one artist. But there's an even rarer rara avis in the music business — the single record that provides two hit songs, one on each side of the disc. That happened in 1952 for a young man named Johnnie Ray. "Cry" was on one side of his recording, while one of Johnnie's own tunes, "The Little White Cloud That Cried," was on the other. Furthermore, both songs hit the charts in the same week that January! In less than a month, "Cry" reached No. 1, and its companion soon got as high as No. 4. This was the start of the cliché "He cried all the way to the bank." But as somebody once said, "What's trite is right."









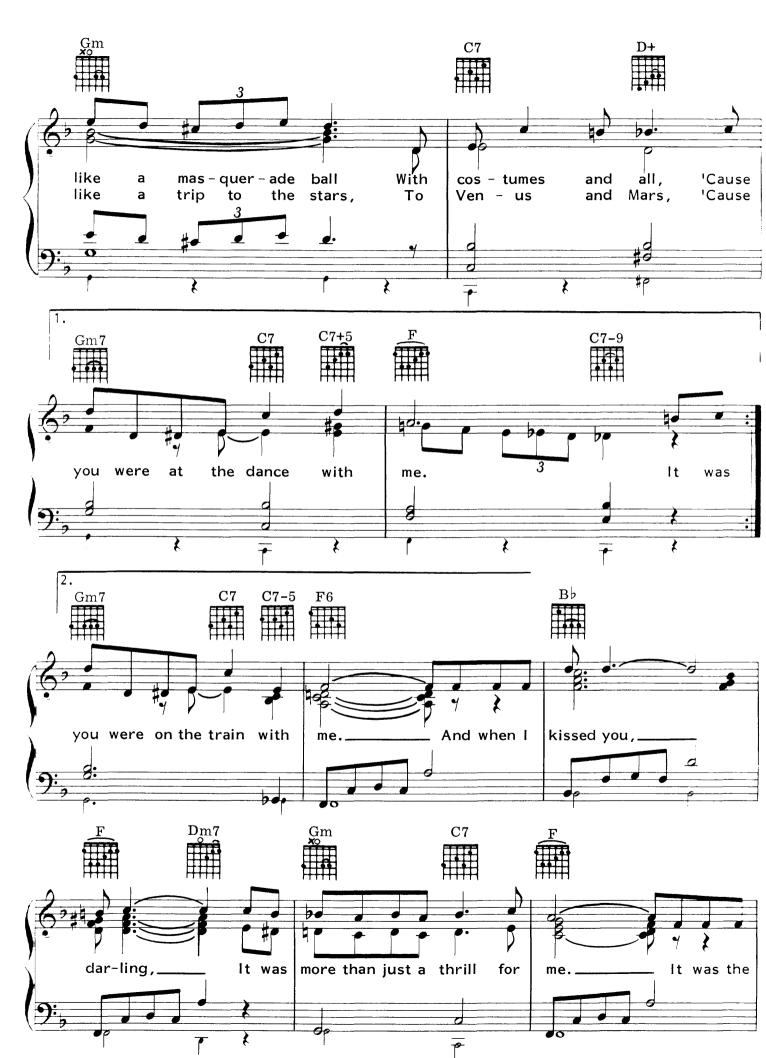
Pianist Frankie Carle, one of the composers of "Oh! What It Seemed to Be," had one of the best-selling recordings of it, in 1946, with his daughter. Marjorie Hughes, as vocalist. And one of the great show-business stories revolves around George Weiss, who collaborated on the song with Carle and Bennie Benjamin. After the trio had finished the tune, Weiss's publisher managed to arrange an audition with Frank Sinatra. Although George wasn't really a pianist, the publisher told him that even after he played the first chorus he should continue playing in order to hammer the song home. Off they went to Sinatra's office. With Bennie Benjamin harmonizing, George performed one chorus. At that point, Sinatra called Mannie Sachs, an A&R (Artists and Repertoire) man at Columbia Records, to tell him that he had a great new song and that Sachs should arrange a recording session. The conversation then drifted on . . . and on . . . to other matters. Weiss, meanwhile, continued to pound out the melody as instructed. Eventually, after about 20 minutes, his publisher had to go over to the piano, lift George's hands off the keys, pull him up from the piano bench by his armpits, tell him

OH! WHAT IT SEEMED TO BE

Words and Music by Bennie Benjamin, George Weiss and Frankie Carle

to say good-bye and lead him out of the room. It was worth it. though. Sinatra recorded "Oh! What It Seemed to Be" in late 1945. and, oh, what a smash it was!







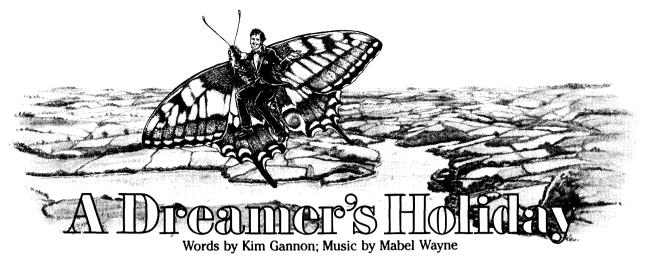
Words by Sammy Cahn This song Music by Gene De Paul marks the first collaboration between lyricist Sammy Cahn and composer Gene De Paul. At the time, Cahn was under contract to Warner Brothers in Hollywood, and the studio had the right of first refusal on the tune. After Warners decided to turn it down, the song finally wound up at a company called Hub Music. "Teach Me Tonight" was originally recorded on Decca by a singer named Janet Brace and sold, according Sammy, exactly three copies — one bought by Miss Brace, one by Gene - Paul and one by Sammy himself. But The DeCastro Sisters' 1954 recording turned the song into a big hit which was on the charts from We ember 1954 through February 1955. The song subsequently became Te of Cahn's most enduring standards. Among the diverse performers no have recorded it over the years are Jo Stafford, Joe Williams, Erroll arner. Sammy Davis and many others, including rock singer Phoebe struction the '70s. In 1983, Frank Sinatra commissioned Sammy to write a set of lyrics for "Teach Me Tonight" and another Cahn song, "Until Real Thing Comes Along" (see page 97), and recorded the two tunes the new verses. As is usually the case, however, great lyrics are better et alone. We've therefore used Sammy's original wordings in this book.





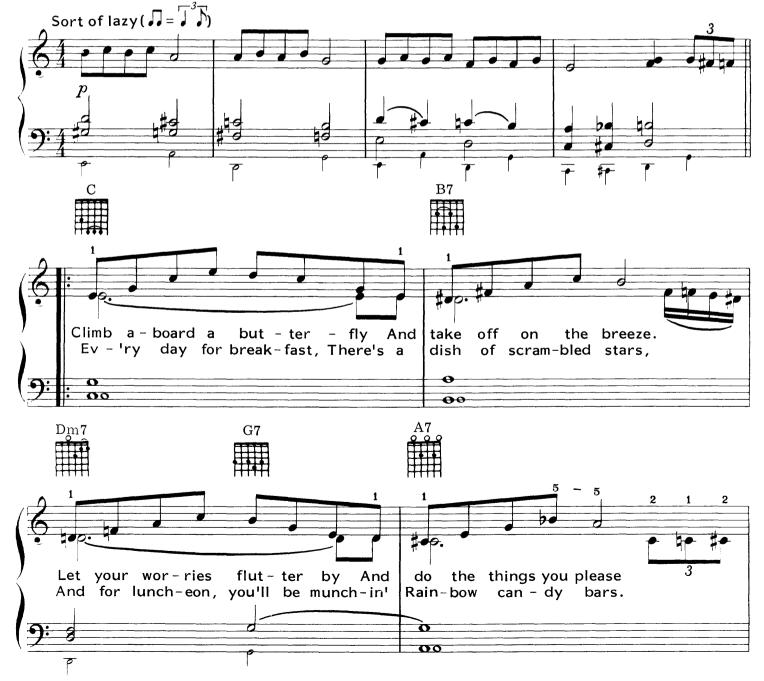




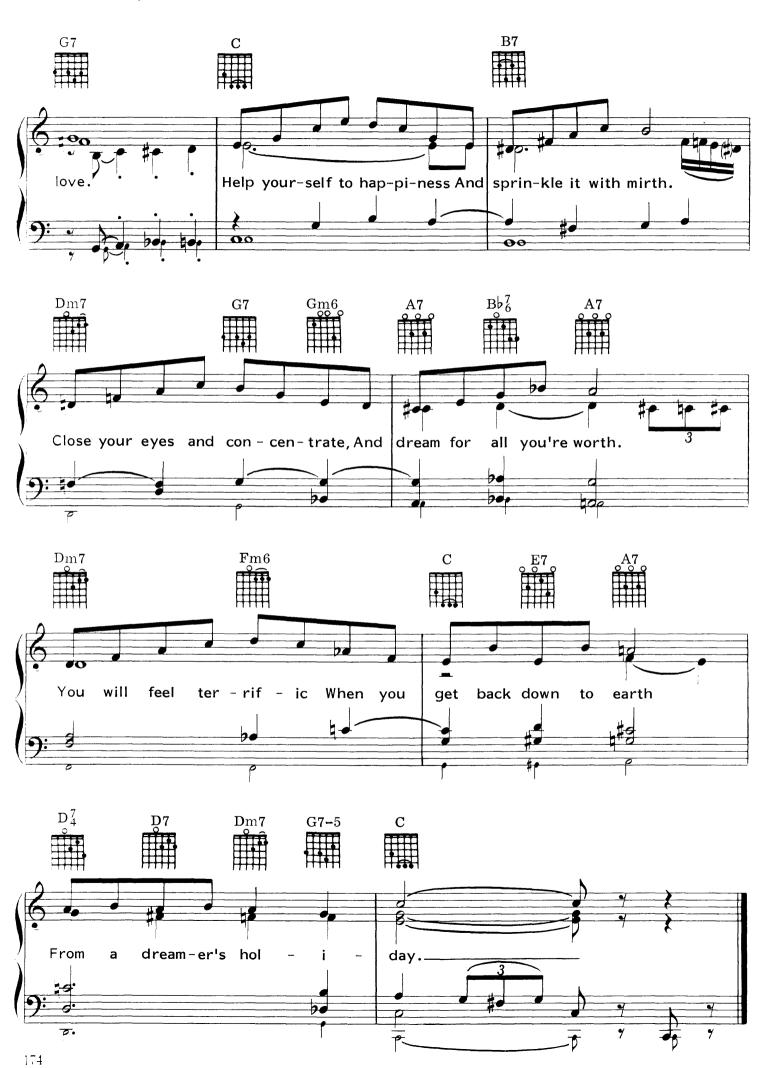


Although female songwriters are now commonplace, that hasn't always been so. Until fairly recently, the field was pretty much a male preserve. The distaff exceptions, however, were major ones. Lyricist Dorothy Fields, for example, had hits ranging through four decades and, shortly before her death in 1974, was represented on Broadway with Seesaw, written with Cy Coleman. Some of Dorothy's bellringers were "On the Sunny Side of the Street," "I'm in the Mood for Love" and the Academy Awardwinning "The Way You Look Tonight." Ann Ronell gave us one of the great standards of all time in 1932, with "Willow Weep for

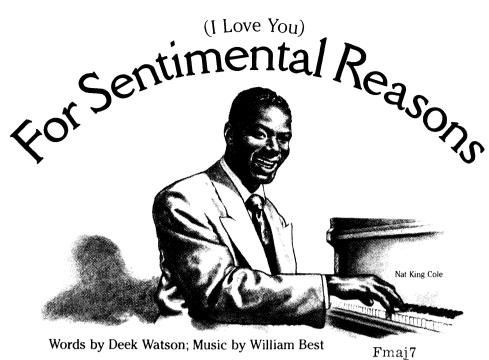
Me." Kay Swift had scored earlier with, among others, "Fine and Dandy." And one of the biggest exceptions to the male-preserve rule was a young woman from Brooklyn who was barely out of her teens when she wrote the two biggest Latin-flavored melodies of the late 1920s, "In a Little Spanish Town" and "Ramona." As if these weren't enough, she gave us "It Happened in Monterey" in 1930. Her name was Mabel Wayne. She added the lovely "A Dreamer's Holiday" to her long list in the late 1940s, and it became a hit for a particularly good singer named Buddy Clark, who died from injuries received in a plane crash in 1949.

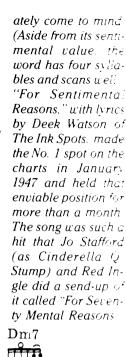






· I Love You) For Sentimental Reasons" was among Nat King Cole's many hits. He recorded it in 1946, before he concencrated on singing and when he was still playing piano with his trio. For sears, the word sentimental" has been a favorite with songwriters: "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You," "In a Sentimental Mood," Sentimental Me" and "Sentimental Durney" <mark>immedi-</mark>









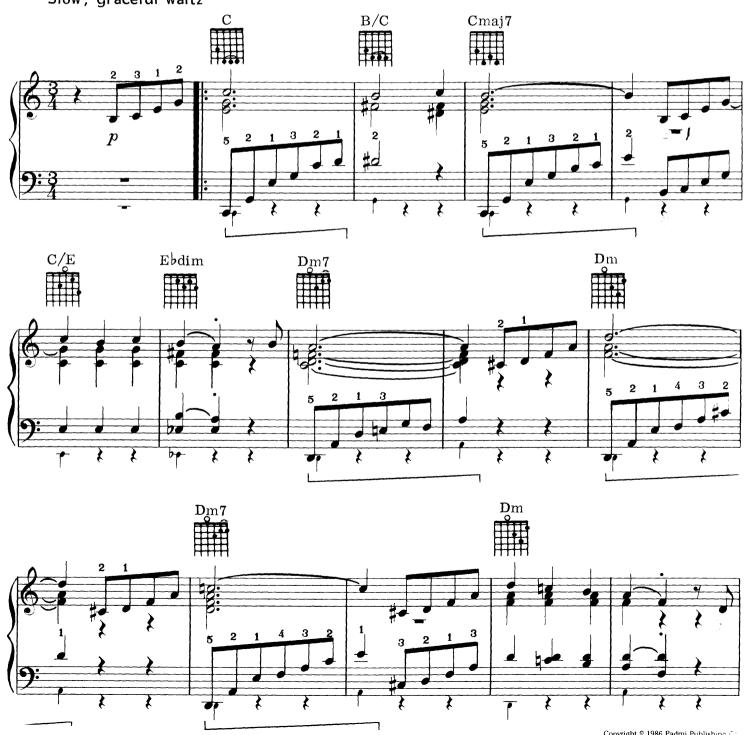


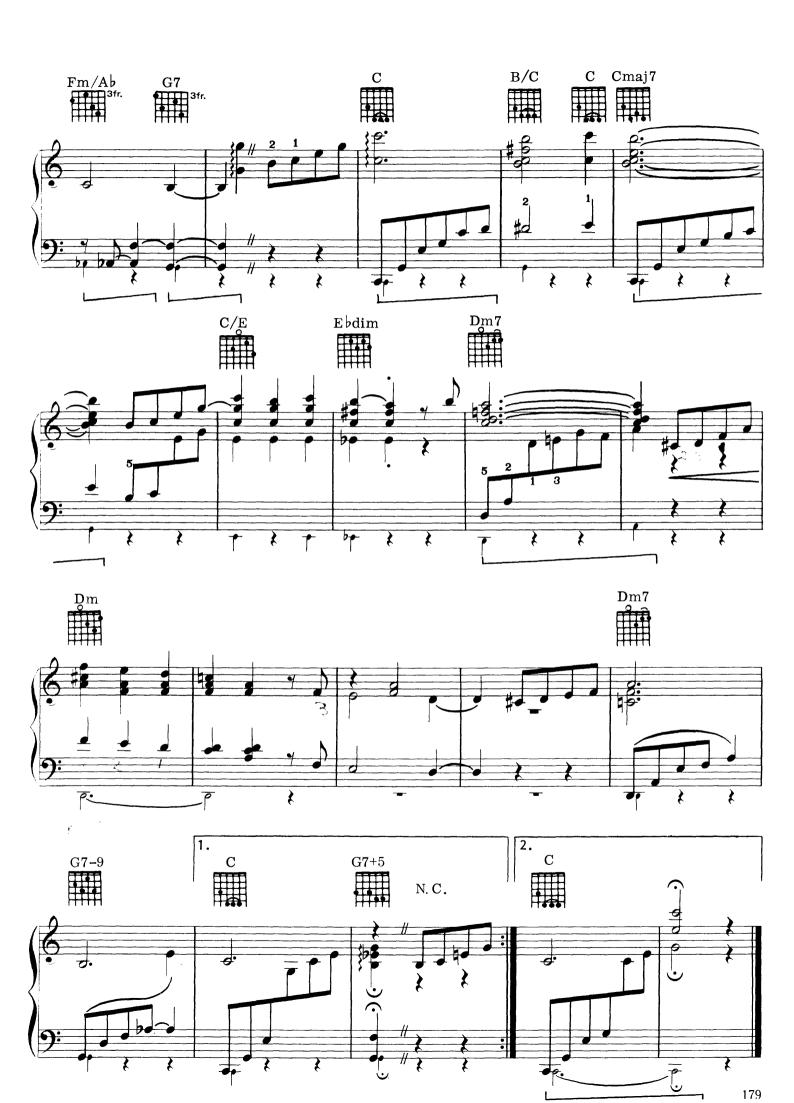


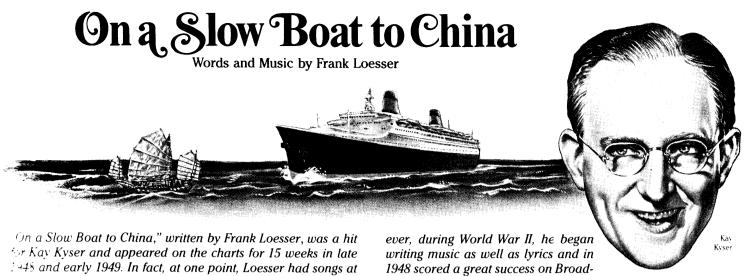
F. D. Marchetti wrote this valse tzigane (gypsy waltz) in 1904 as a piano piece, as we've used it here. For years, it was one of the staples of the light-classical repertory, but by the 1950s it was heard less and less often, as the kinds of groups that might play it — string ensembles in restaurants, for example — disappeared. The melody returned to prominence in 1957 when, played by a troupe of violinists, it was the recurring theme in the film Love in the Afternoon. "Fascination" might have faded into

oblivion again if New England-born Jane Morgan, who had spent so many years singing in Paris that she was considered a "Continental chanteuse," hadn't had a tremendous hit with it the same year. A nice coincidence for this songbook: Our annotator. Jim Lowe, recorded his one big hit, "Green Door," in the same studio in which Miss Morgan recorded "Fascination." His recording session followed hers by just a few hours. Jim says that he'd be most happy to follow Jane into a studio again, anytime.

Slow, graceful waltz







On a Slow Boat to China," written by Frank Loesser, was a hit for Kay Kyser and appeared on the charts for 15 weeks in late 1948 and early 1949. In fact, at one point, Loesser had songs at No. 1 and No. 2 on the charts — this one and "My Darling, My Darling." "On a Slow Boat to China" was later interpolated into the MGM musical Neptune's Daughter (1949) as background music for a bathing-suit fashion-show sequence. The film also featured another Loesser standard, the Academy Award-winning "Baby, It's Cold Outside." Earlier in his career, Loesser had worked in Hollywood as lyricist for many composers, including Hoagy Carmichael, Arthur Schwartz and Jimmy McHugh. How-

way with the show Where's Charley? From then on, he devoted himself almost exclusively to the Broadway stage. In 1950, he produced Guys and Dolls, followed by The Most Happy Fella (1956), Greenwillow (1960) and How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying (1961), for which he received a Pulitzer Prize. Loesser was a true heir to the mantle of Irving Berlin and Cole Porter — the complete songwriter. His death in 1969 at the age of 59 was a tremendous blow to the American musical stage.







Words and Music by Dick Robertson, Nelson Cogane and Sammy Mysels

Infortunately, "We Three" came out in late 1940, just before ASCAP hanned its tunes from heing played on the radio. The ban deprived people of their favorite songs for nearly a year and filled off or compromised the popularity of several new ones, including "We Three." But the song, thanks to The Ink Spots' recording, had already received enough air play to reach to 1 on the eve of the ban and the played on the nation's tens of thousands of juke-

My Echo, My Shadow and Me)

The Ink Spots

boxes. The Ink Spots' 1939 recording of "If I Didn't Care" launched them on their tremendous career. Indeed, there are at least two singing groups around who still call themselves by that name - even though the last surviving member of the original foursome, Bill Kenny, died in 1978. Kenny, with his fantastic falsetto tenor, was the star attraction. His high, romantic singing was balanced by a heartfelt spoken interlude, delivered (originally by "Hoppy" Jones and, later, by Bill Kenny's brother Herb) in a bass voice full of despair.









"Canadian Sunset" is among that rare breed of song — one that sells more than a million copies for two different artists. The year was 1956. The artists were Hugo Winterhalter, who recorded his instrumental on RCA Victor, and Andy Williams, whose wocal version on Cadence was his first big hit. The song was composed by the great jazz pianist Eddie Heywood, who played the piano part on Winterhalter's recording. Eddie has a bad stutter, and, as with Ray Charles, that stutter or stammer some-

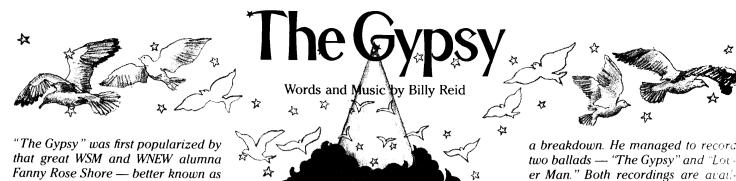
times comes out and even permeates his playing. And to great advantage. Eddie had a long association with Billie Holiday. They first recorded together in the late 1930s, and by the early '40s, Eddie had pretty much replaced Teddy Wilson as Lady Day's primary accompanist on records. You can hear them together on countless Columbia and Commodore small-group recordings. Their association ended, on discs at least, when the recording ban by the musicians' union hit in 1942.









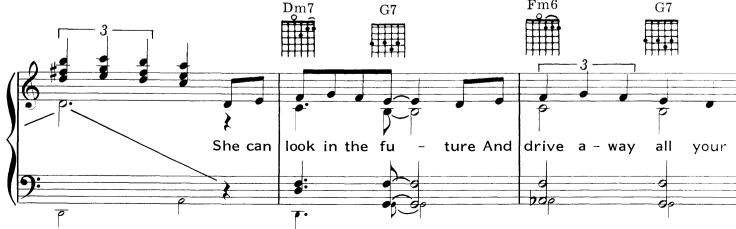


"The Gypsy" was first popularized by that great WSM and WNEW alumna Fanny Rose Shore — better known as Dinah Shore. It was also a big hit for The Ink Spots on Decca Records. There was one other famous — or, if you prefer, infamous — recording made of the song in 1946. The great bebop alto saxophonist Charlie "Bird" Parker was then working at Billy Berg's Jazz Club in Los Angeles and recorded the tune for Dial Records. At that time, Bird's drug habits were getting the better of him, and in the studio that day he had what amounted to



a breakdown. He managed to record two ballads — "The Gypsy" and "Lover Man." Both recordings are available today and are beautiful, frightening and excruciating at the same time You can almost see the man falling to pieces in front of you. Shortly thereafter, Parker was put into a mental institution. Six months later he emerged a changed man (although his years of addiction eventually caused his death in 1955, at the age of 34), but his rendition of "The Gypsy remains as a terrifying record of one man's descent into a hell on earth









BlueVelvet

Words and Music by Bernie Wayne and Lee Morris

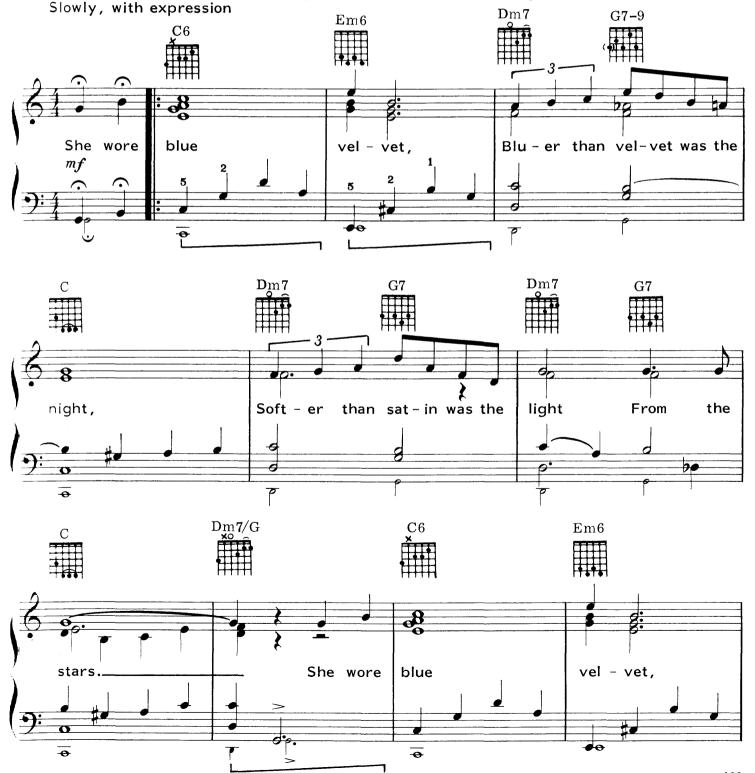
"Blue Velvet" was first popularized in 1951 by Tony Bennett. For years, comedians have had a field day with this tune, mimicking Tony's New York accent and ever-so-slight and entirely endearing speech impediment. They somehow manage to turn "She wore blue velvet" into "See woah bwew velvut." Now, decades later, with his singing career going stronger than ever

going stronger than ever and his paintings (done under his real name, Anthony Benedetto) yielding large amounts of acclaim and income, Tony probably doesn't spend much time brooding about his mimics. "Blue Velvet"



was revived in 1963 with tremendous success on Epic Records, this time by that Polish Prince Bobby Vinton. It proved to be an even greater hit than Tony's version and to this day remains one of the singer's most requested songs. Vinton, at the time, was going against the rock 'n' roll of the era, recording such other smooth ballads as the 1940s'

"There, I've Said It Again" and another "blue" song, Burt Bacharach and Hal David's "Blue on Blue." Bobby, by the way, is a product of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, hometown of another singer of no small repute — Perry Como.



194

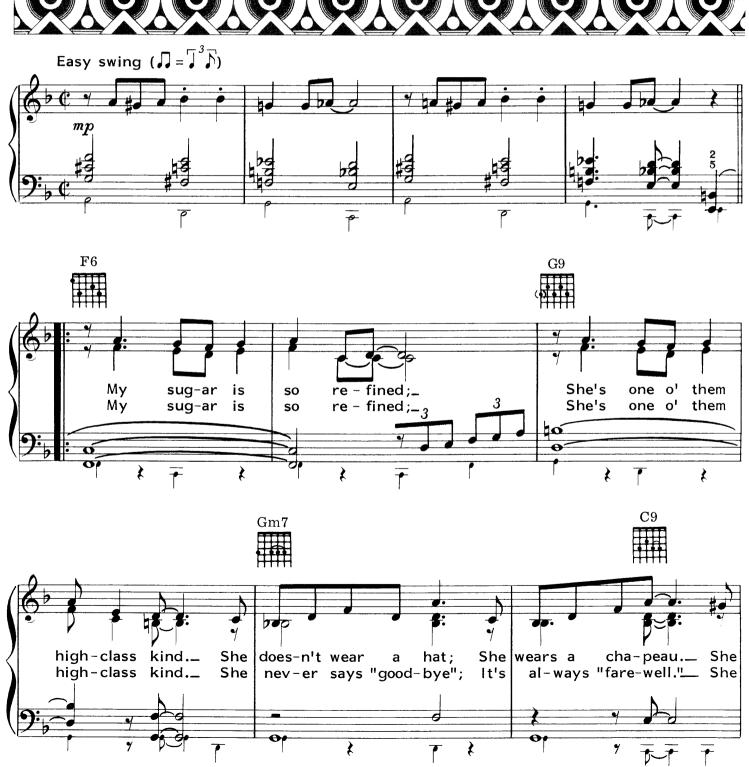


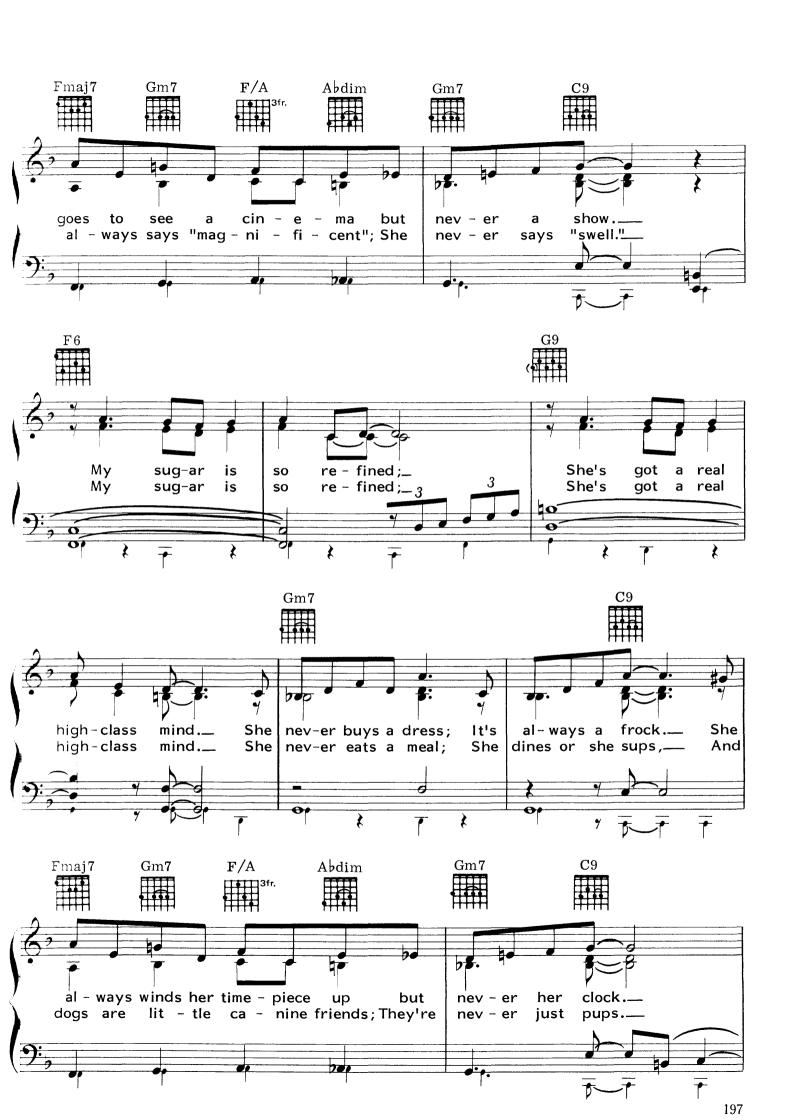


"My Sugar Is So Refined," written by the team of Sylvia Dee and Sidney Lippman, was one of those songs that arrive, make a small ripple and then pretty much disappear. The tune had its greatest success in 1946 in the hands of Johnny Mercer, marking one of the few occasions when the lyricist had a hit (though a modest one) with someone else's material. Of course, Mercer's biggest hit with a song that wasn't his own was with "Personality," by Johnny Burke and Jim-



my Van Heusen. "My Sugar Is So Refined" was also recorded by Nat Cole and by The Hi-Lo's. This modest little number can't help but bring to mind other "sugar" songs — "When I Take My Sugar to Tea," "Sugar Blues," "Sugar" and the like. Not the greatest song ever written, far from the worst, it is simply, in its melodic freshness and lyric inventiveness, an example of the good, solid American songwriting craftsmanship of its era. An era that now. sadly, appears to have passed.





198





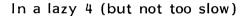
CARFIESS

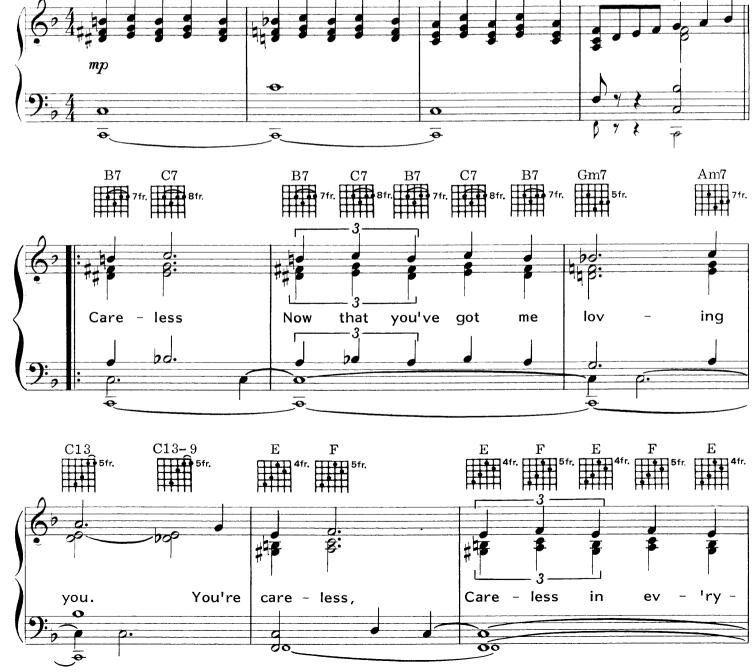
Words and Music by Lew Quadling, Eddy Howard and Dick Jurgens



"Careless" came out of Chicago. Although never really a rival of New York with its Tin Pan Alley, the Windy City was in direct competition with Gotham when it came to bands. A number of songs originated with or were written for Chicago-based crews, particularly by Isham Jones for his orchestra in the early 1920s and later by Ted Fiorito, Art Kassel and Dick Jurgens. Jurgens' own band was particularly productive in generating hits, turning out "My Last Goodbye," "Cecilia," "A Million Dreams Ago," "Elmer's Tune" and this song, among others. "Careless" was written by Jurgens, his vocalist, Eddy Howard, and his pianist, Lew Quadling, and became No. 1 in February 1940. Notice the clever word usage at the end of the tune: "Are you just careless as you seem to be, or do you just care less for me?" The song's publisher none other than Irving Berlin — suggested this twist, which was responsible for making "Careless" a big hit.





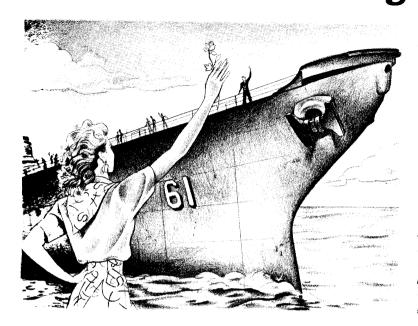






We'll Meet Again

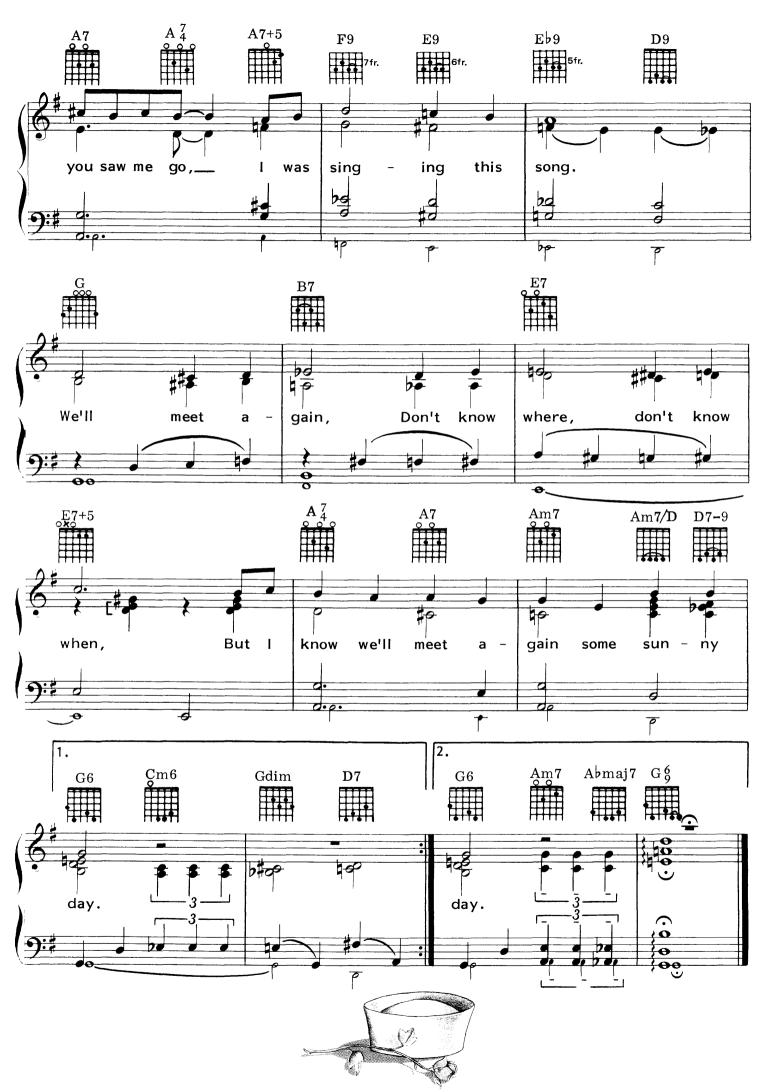
Words and Music by Ross Parker and Hughie Charles



"We'll Meet Again," by the English songwriting team of Ross Parker and Hughie Charles, was introduced in 1939 by the British Kate Smith — Vera Lynn. One might go so far as to say of Miss Lynn that, although she didn't win World War II singlehandedly, she certainly made a significant contribution to the effort. The song itself is another of the great ballads of the war years. It could be called a British cousin to such American wartime ballads as "I'll Be Seeing You," "I'll Walk Alone" and the like. Years later, in 1964, the song was to reappear with blistering effectiveness at the end of Stanley Kubrick's black comedy Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb. At the end of that film, when the dreaded Doomsday Machine has been activated, triggering a slow-motion, almost balletic, series of nuclear explosions and mushroom clouds, we hear a chorus singing "We'll Meet Again." The effect of the words on the listener is simply overwhelming: "So will you please say hello to the folks that I know, / Tell them I won't be long. They'll be happy to know that as you saw me go, / I was singing this song.'





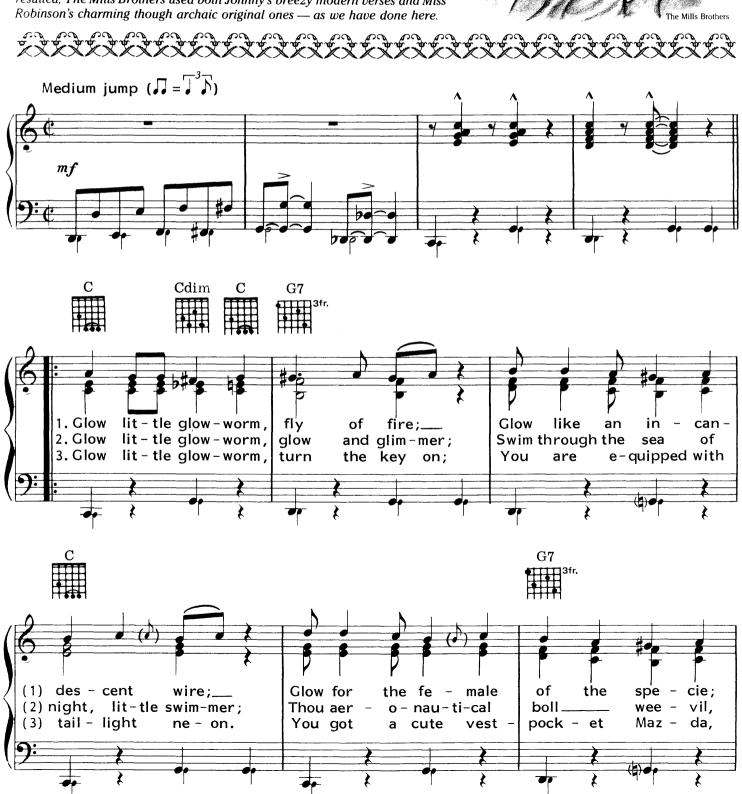


INOM INOUTION Original words by Lilla Cayley Robinson; Modern words by

Mercer: Music by Paul Lincke

Johnny Mercer: Thismusical salute to the lightning bug is really two different songs. The original, written in Germany in 1902, was a sprightly little dance tune. Enter, in 1952, The Mills Brothers and Johnny Mercer. "The Glow-Worm," a song based upon the old tune with lyrics by Lilla Cayley Robinson, had long been a favorite of beginning pianists, and that's how the quartet first heard it, played by a little girl at a piano recital. Intrigued with the melody, they asked Mercer, the sentimental gentleman from Georgia and commercial gentleman from Tin Pan Alley, to write new lyrics for it. On the best-selling recording that resulted, The Mills Brothers used both Johnny's breezy modern verses and Miss Robinson's charming though archaic original ones — as we have done here.







Shine little glow-worm, glimmer, (glimmer); Shine little glow-worm, glimmer! (glimmer!) Lead us lest too far we wander, Love's sweet voice is calling yonder!

Shine little glow-worm, glimmer, (glimmer); Shine little glow-worm, glimmer! (glimmer!) Light the path below, above, And lead us on to love!



Section 6 PRE-SWING POP AND JAZZ HITS



HONEYSUCKLE ROSE

Words by Andy Razaf; Music by Thomas "Fats" Waller

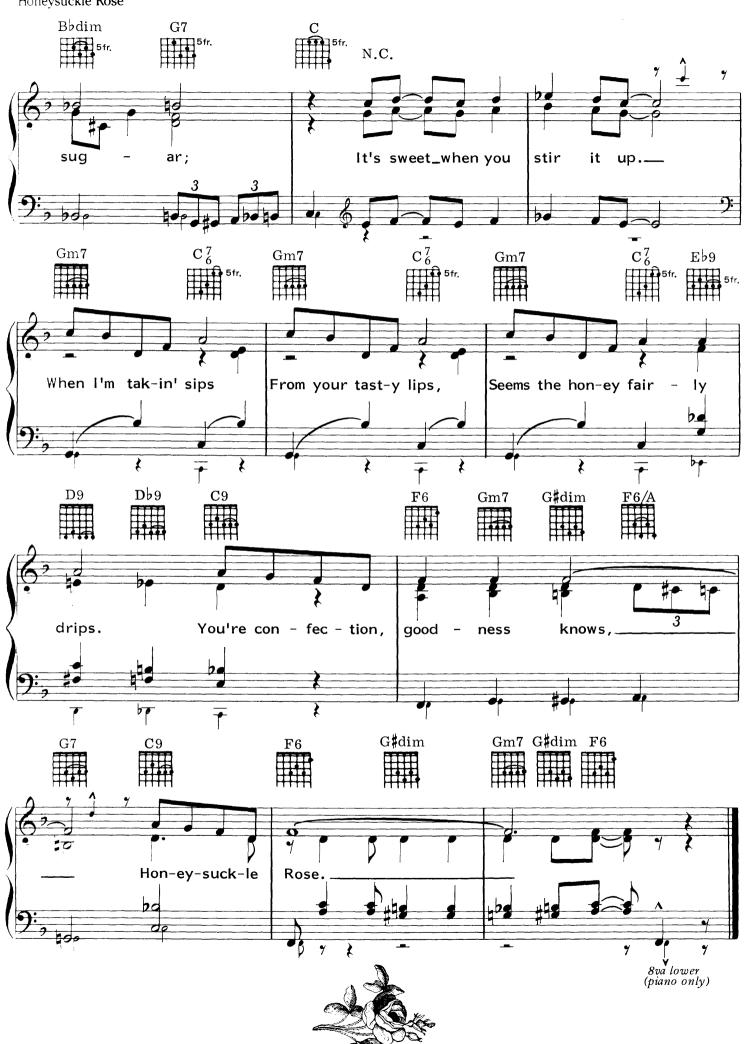


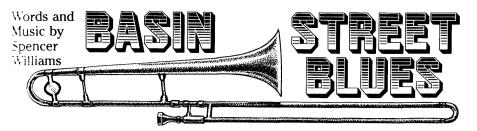
Much has been written about Fats Waller, but let's take a moment to talk about his longtime lyricist, Andy Razaf. Andy was born in Washington, D.C., the son of a Malagasy nobleman. In fact, his real name was the exotic Andrea Paul Razafkeriefo. After joining ASCAP as early as 1929, he started working with Waller. The tunes they turned out were just glorious. Some of them, in addition to the one you're looking at, were: "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Keepin' Out of Mischief Now," "Blue Turning Gray Over You" and that early protest song "What Did I Do to Be So Black and Blue." In addition, he wrote the words to "In the Mood" after it became an instrumental hit for Glenn Miller. That was Andy Razaf, another of the many songwriters whose tunes we know but whose name we don't. Alas.





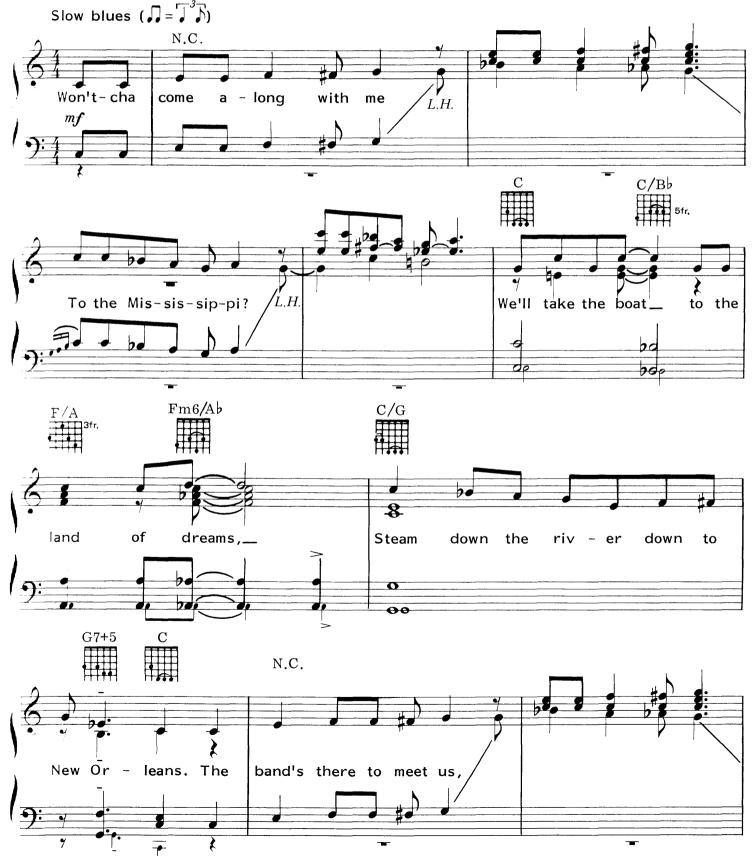


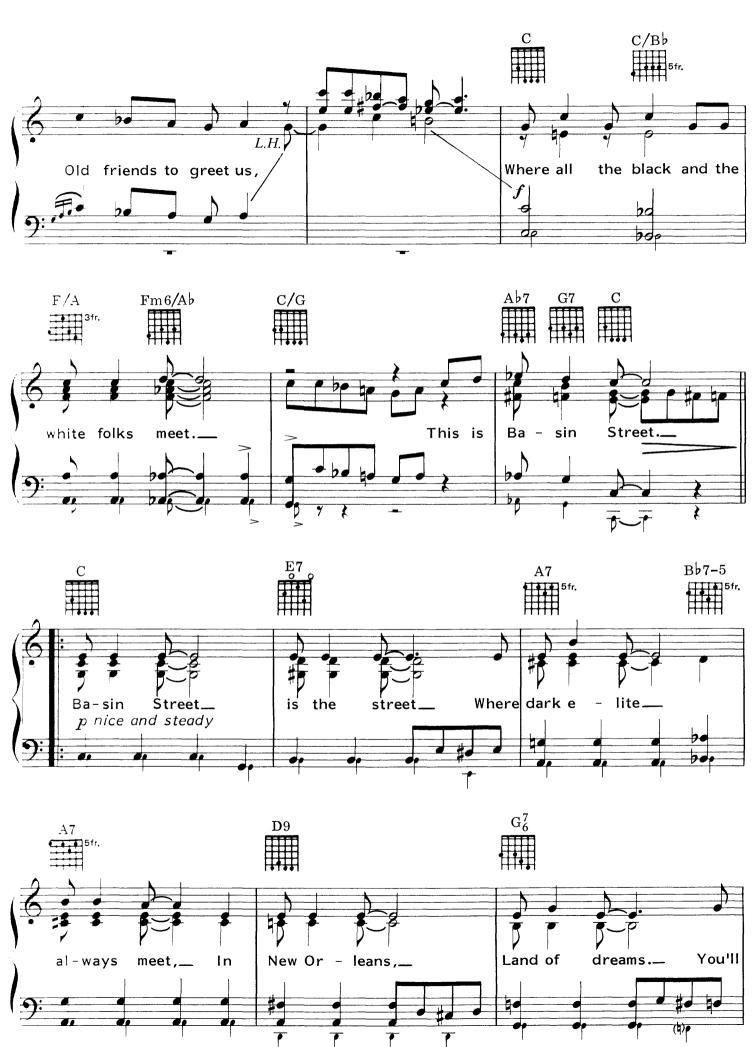




Basin Street Blues" was written by one of the best and most overlooked early jazz imposers — Spencer Williams. Williams, a Louisianan, was a rarity for his time: a fack man with a college education. Among his other hits are "Everybody Loves My Eaby." "I've Found a New Baby," "I Ain't Got Nobody" and two songs made famous by Luis Armstrong and Bessie Smith — "Mahogany Hall Stomp" and "I Ain't Gonna"

Give Nobody None of This Jelly Roll." "Basin Street Blues" became famous via a 1931 recording that featured a vocal by the great jazz trombonist Jack Teagarden. The band was The Charleston Chasers, organized for the date by Benny Goodman, with Teagarden and Glenn Miller on trombones. Miller's biographer George T. Simon maintains that Glenn arranged the song and also wrote words and music for what subsequently became the published verse — the part that begins "Won't-cha come along with me" — though he never claimed credit or royalties.







BACK IN YOUR GIMEN BACK YARD

This song, though with different lyrics and a different title ("It's Nobody's Fault But Mine"), was one of the many introduced by the man who has been called the greatest entertainer of them all — Al Jolson. As "Back in Your Own Back Yard," the revised version was first performed by Paul Ash and His Orchestra at the

Words and Music by Al Jolson, Billy Rose and Dave Dreyer



York Paramount. It is one of the ironies of show business must Jolson, the first person to sing a song in talking pictures and merefore a seminal figure in Hollywood's history, was declared tex-office poison by film distributors a few years later and appeared but sparingly in movies afterward. It is a testimonial

to his stamina and self-confidence that when they filmed The Jolson Story he wanted to play himself, despite the fact that he was getting on in years. However, the role went to Larry Parks, for whom Jolson dubbed on the sound track. But the stage was Jolson's métier, and that's where he sang this song.





The Back in Your Own Back Yard," "Is It True What They Say About Dixie?" was made popular by Al Jolson, who often sang to black face. Stephen Foster, who wrote so many lovely tunes inted to the South, sojourned there only briefly. On this song, three New York tunesmiths, who perhaps had never ventured south of New Jersey, got themselves off the geographic hook by a using a question about the Southland. One of the writers, Irving

Caesar, had peaked in the '20s, contributing the lyrics for such songs as "Swanee" and the score for No, No, Nanette. Caesar was still going strong in 1984. That year, at a big night for songwriters at the Palace Theatre in New York, with such greats as Burton Lane, Johnny Green, Cy Coleman and Jerry Herman in attendance, Caesar, then nearing 90 and with failing vision, stole the show with a spirited performance of his own songs.







The music goes round and around

Words by "Red" Hodgson; Music by Edward Farley and Michael Riley



Without any doubt, this was the nonsense song of 1935. Introduced and first popularized in a New York nightclub by its composers, Edward Farley and Michael Riley, it is one of those novelty tunes that, even to this day, seem intermittently to come from way out in left field and command attention by their very absurdity. And this one for a while threatened to become a national craze, if not, some thought, a national menace. You might describe "The Music Goes 'Round and Around" as a deliberately silly primer on how the French horn is played. Riley and Farley recorded it for the then newly organized recording company Decca, and the tune was the label's first release to show a profit. It was revived by Danny Kaye in the 1959 film The Five Pennies, the story of cornet player Red Nichols. It has also been recorded by many different vocalists, including Ella Fitzgerald and Mel Tormé. Which all just goes to show that sometimes you can't keep a bad song down.





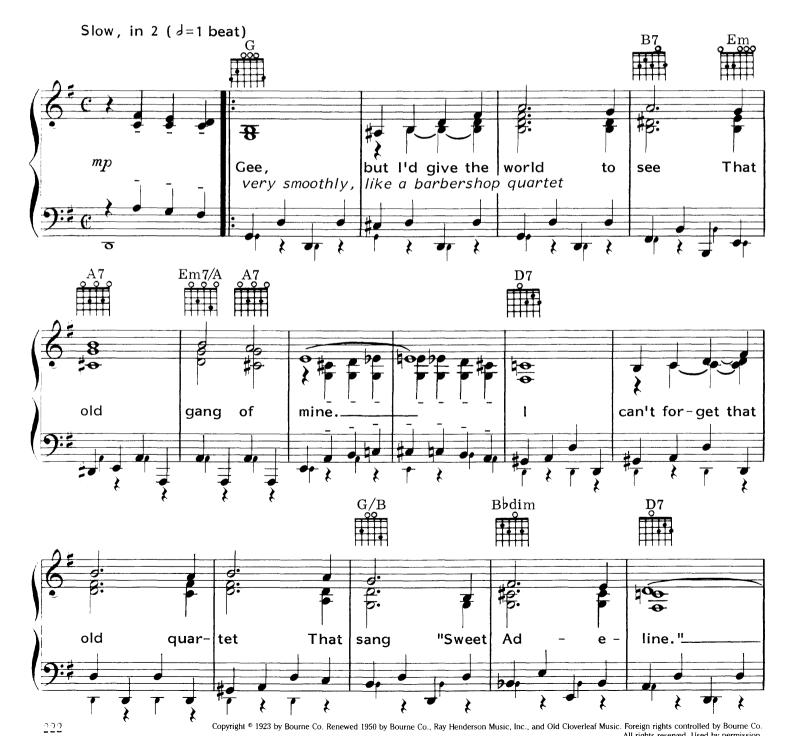


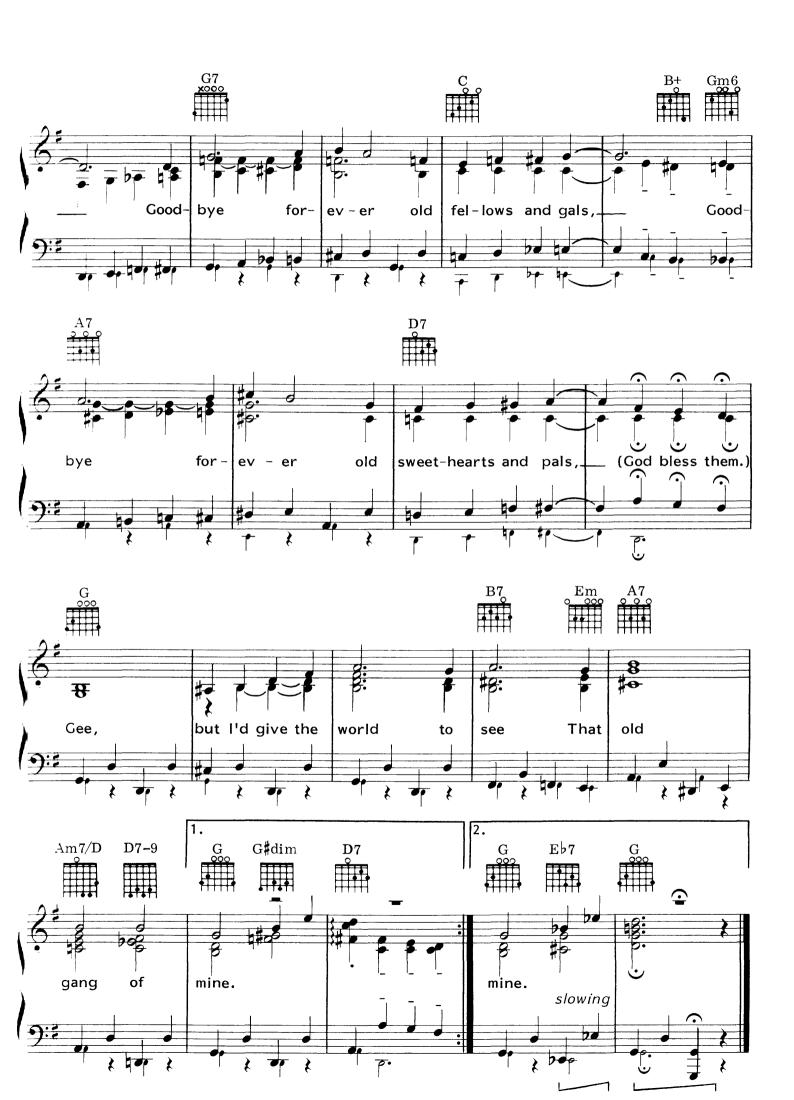
That Old Gang of Mine" was written in 1923 by the odd triumvirate of Billy Rose. Mort Dixon and Ray Henderson. At the time, Rose Las working as a court stenographer for New York City. He collaborated with Dixon on the crics (which were inspired by Charles Lamb's famous poem "Old Familiar Faces"), and Henderson later wrote a melody for them. The result was used in The Ziegfeld Follies of 1923, where it proved to be a great



Words and Music by Billy Rose, Mort Dixon and Ray Henderson

hit for the team of Van and Schenck. For several months, sheet-music sales topped 30,000 copies a week. The tune was one of Henderson's first hits and the third hit for Rose. His first came with "You Tell Her, I S-t-u-t-t-e-r," in 1922. The song had a stuttering lyric, and Rose tried a similar device the following year with "Barney Google." "That Old Gang of Mine," a song without gimmicks, gave Rose legitimacy as a lyric writer.





YOU'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY!

(What Did I Do?)

Words and Music by Walter Donaldson

"You're Driving Me Crazy! (What Did I Do?)" was written by one of the most prolific and successful composers in popular-music history — Walter Donaldson. Today, Donaldson is shockingly little known, but his contribution is enormous. Early in his career, he collaborated extensively with lyricist Gus Kahn, but by the late 1920s he had begun on occasion to write both words and music, as he did here. He originally named the song "What Did You Do to Me?" and turned it over to Guy Lombardo. However, just before Lombardo and His Royal Canadians introduced it, Donaldson revised the title to "You're Driving Me Crazy!" Lombardo played the tune nightly on his radio program, and in no time at all it took off. Today, "You're Driving Me Crazy!" stands as one of Donaldson's most enduring standards and, along with "My Blue Heaven," "At Sundown," "Makin' Whoopee" and "Love Me or Leave Me," ranks among his finest works as a composer and lyricist.









Words by Mort Dixon Music by Harry Warren This song contains one of the most memorable of all lines in the long history of American popular music, one so outrageously abrasive and gloriously insane that one wonders what went through the mind of that excellent lyricist Mort Dixon when he wrote "Back in Nagasaki where the fellers chew tobaccy and the women wicky-wacky-woo." The melody was written by Harry Warren. Both Warren and Dixon ended up at Warner Brothers, where the former was paired with the mercurial Al Dubin. In those salad days at the big Burbank studios, theirs was one of the most successful of the Hollywood teams. Although Dixon's career wasn't to be as heady, he did hit pay dirt on several occasions, with scores for such movies as the 1934 Flirtation Walk, which starred Dick Powell and Ruby Keeler.



228





230





Baby Won't You Please Come Home" was written by Charles Warfield and Clarence Williams in 1919. It was recorded and made a jazz classic by Jimmie Lunceford, who led what today is perhaps the most unjustly neglected of the great swing bands. It was a band that, alongside Duke Ellington's and Count Basie's groups, ranks as one of the greatest black bands of the Big Band Era. Lunceford, born in Fulton, Missouri, in 1902, earned a bachelor of music degree from Fisk University. In 1926, he became a



music teacher at Manassa High School in Memphis, where he formed his first band, which gained fame on local radio. After the group moved to New York in 1933, an engagement at the Cotton Club drew widespread attention. For years afterward, Lunceford's was the most popular band in Harlem and toured extensively as well. Sy Oliver, Willie Smith, Trummy Young and Paul Webster were among the greats who played with him. He died suddenly in 1947, while touring the Pacific Northwest.

Baby Wont You Please Come Home
Words and Music by Charles Warfield and Clarence Williams







Section 7 AMERICAN HITS FROM FOREIGN PLACE





Day in the Life of

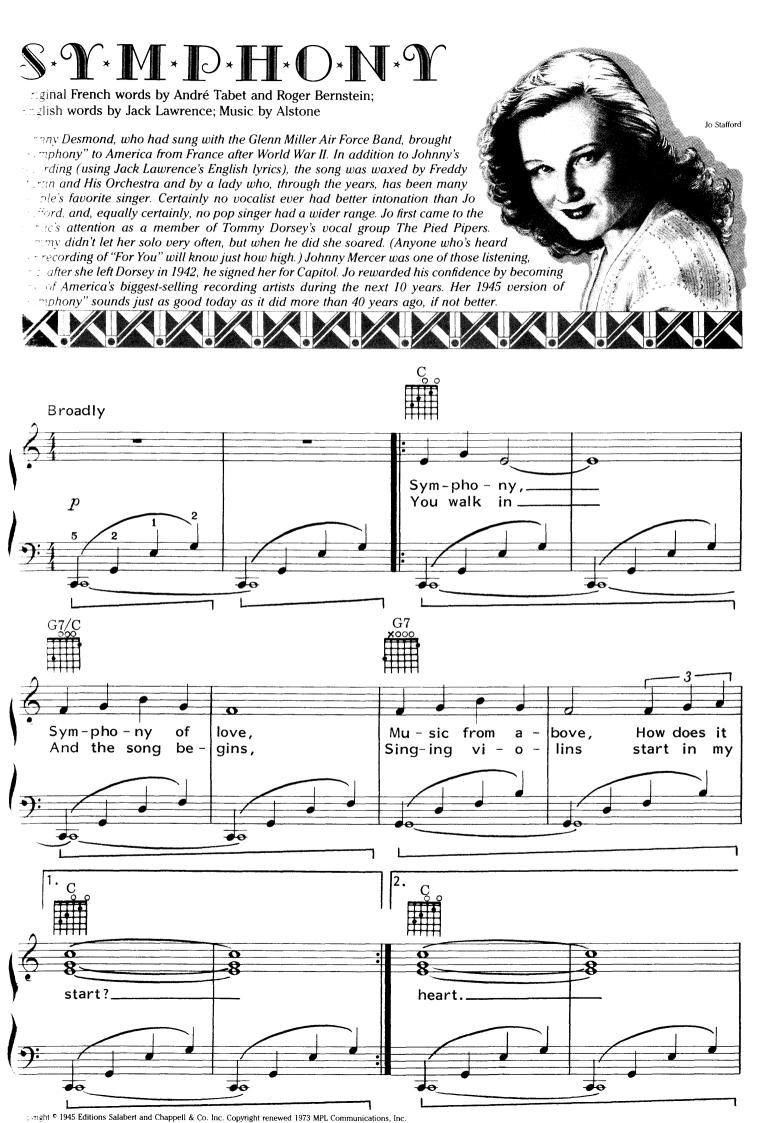
(Manhã de Carnaval) Words by Carl Sigman; Music by Luiz Bonfa

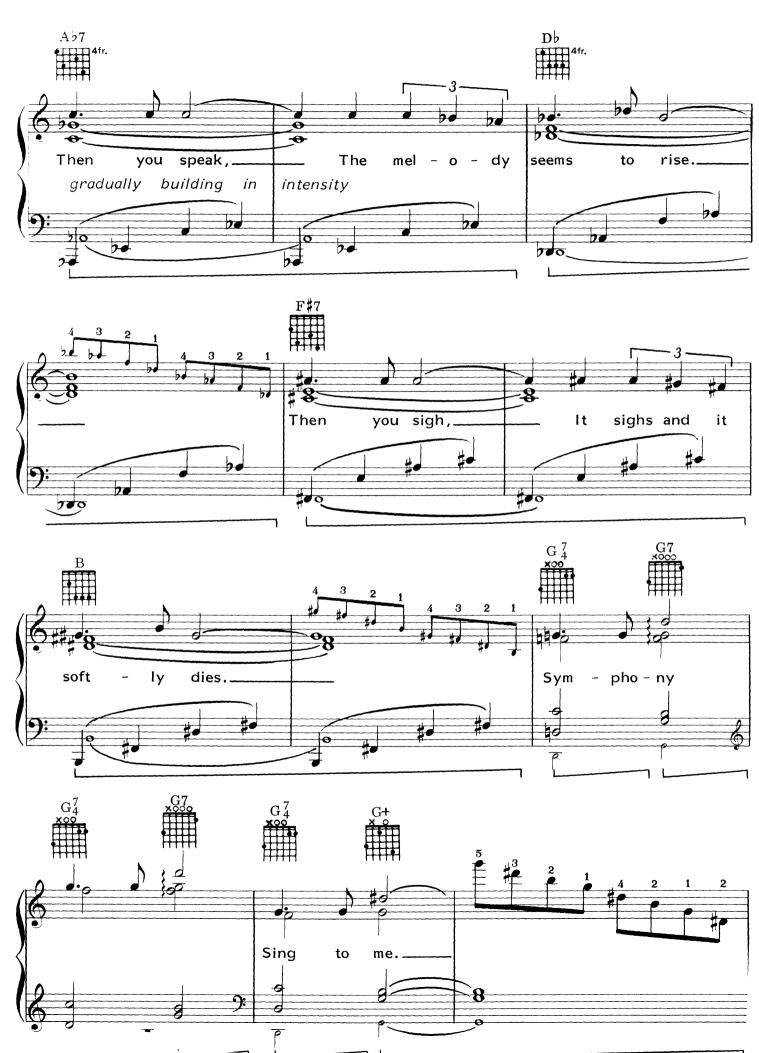
As "Manhā de Carnaval" (Morning of the Carnival), "A Day in the Life of a Fool" first appeared in the stunning 1959 Academy Award-winning film Black Orpheus. The Brazilian movie is a contemporary retelling of the tragic Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, set against Carnival time in Rio de Janeiro. The film's score was a sneak preview of the bossa nova craze that swept north from Brazil just a few years later. Luiz Bonfa, the composer of this theme and an accomplished guitarist and vocalist, went to New York in 1958 and performed and recorded with the brilliant saxophonist Stan Getz. His mood-filled song, for which Carl Sigman supplied English lyrics, has been recorded often, most notably by Frank Sinatra and Jack Jones.

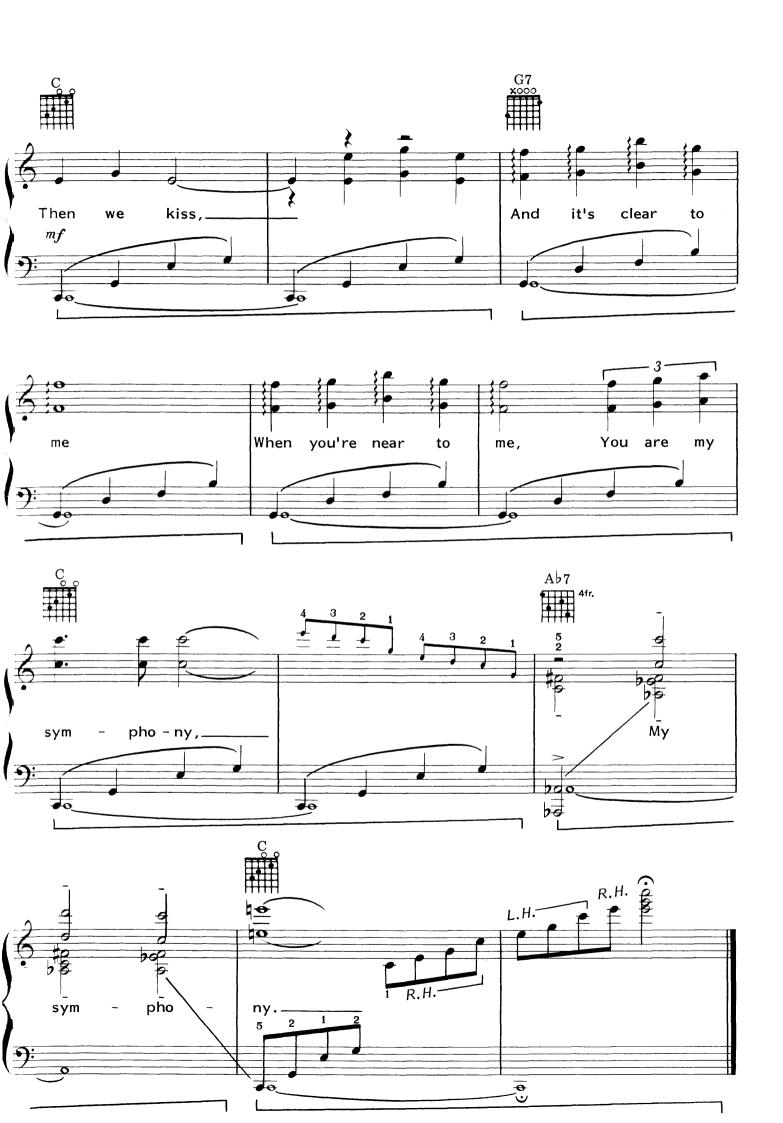












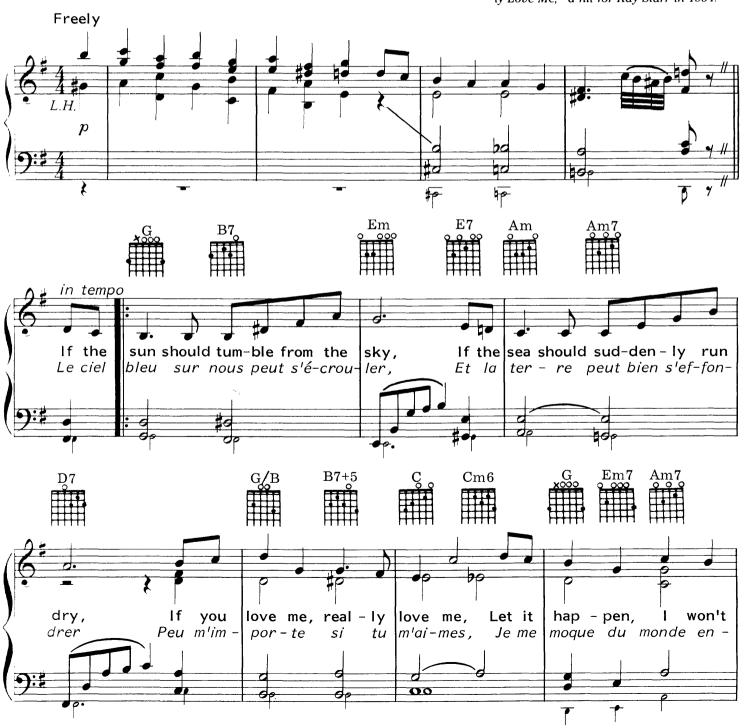
If You Love Me, Really Love Me

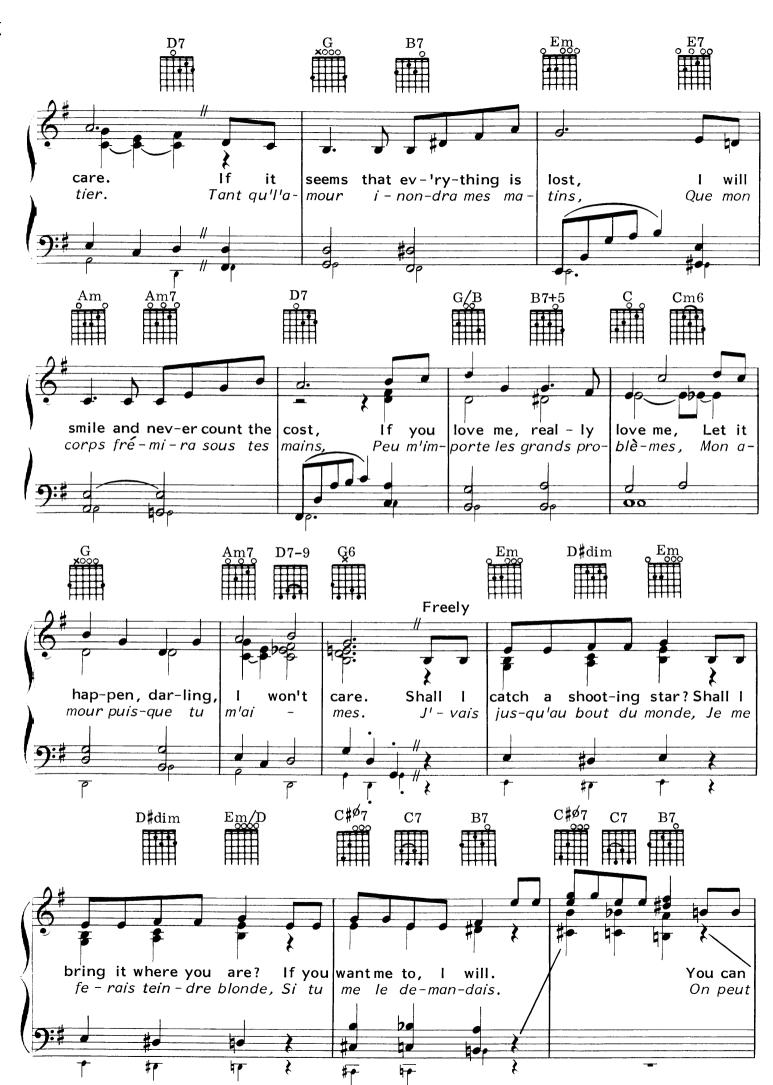
(Hymne à l'Amour)

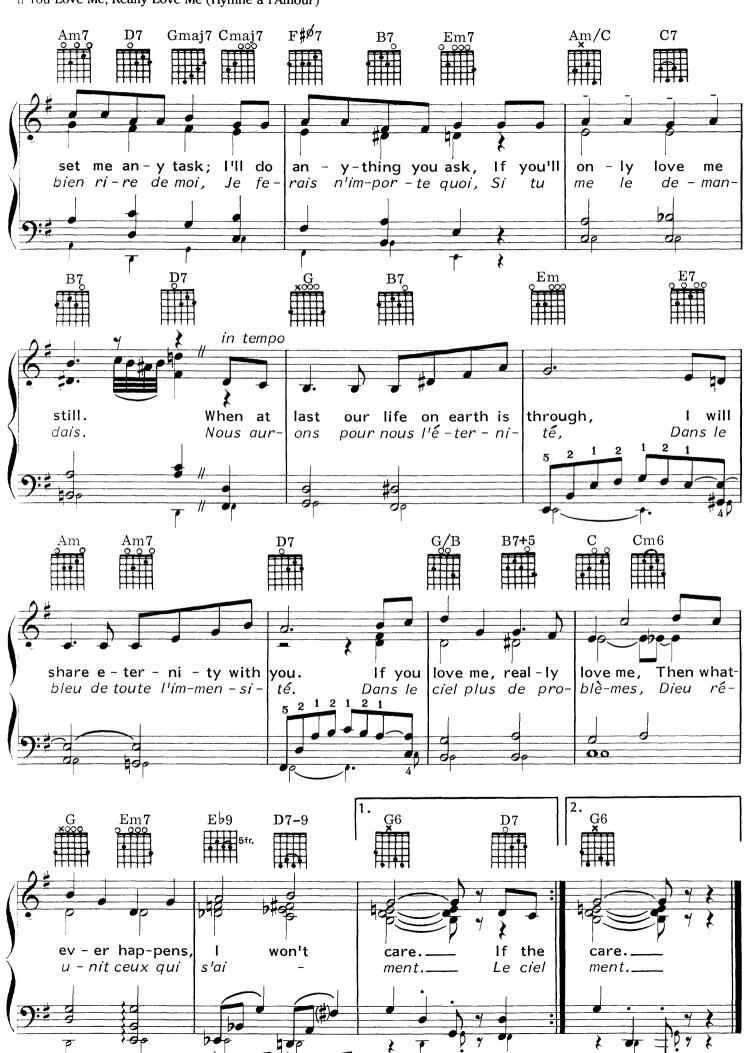
English words by Geoffrey Parsons; French words by Edith Piaf; Music by Marguerite Monnot

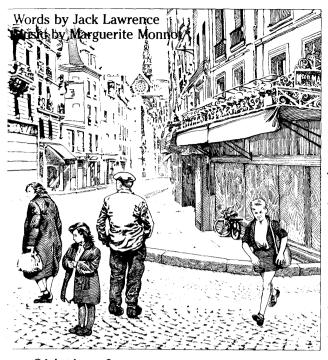


The French chanteuse Edith Piaf, "The Little Sparrow," introduced "Hymne à l'Amour" (Hymn to Love) to the world in 1949. She had written it with Marguerite Monnot, who also composed "The Poor People of Paris" (see page 243). Piaf's mother, who abandoned her, was an Italian café singer; her father, a circus acrobat. With her frail presence and melancholy songs, including "La Vie en Rose," she became a living metaphor for the disillusionment so rife in France, particularly Paris, in the aftermath of two World Wars. With English lyrics (we've included both the English and French here), her "Hymne" became "If You Love Me, Really Love Me," a hit for Kay Starr in 1954.



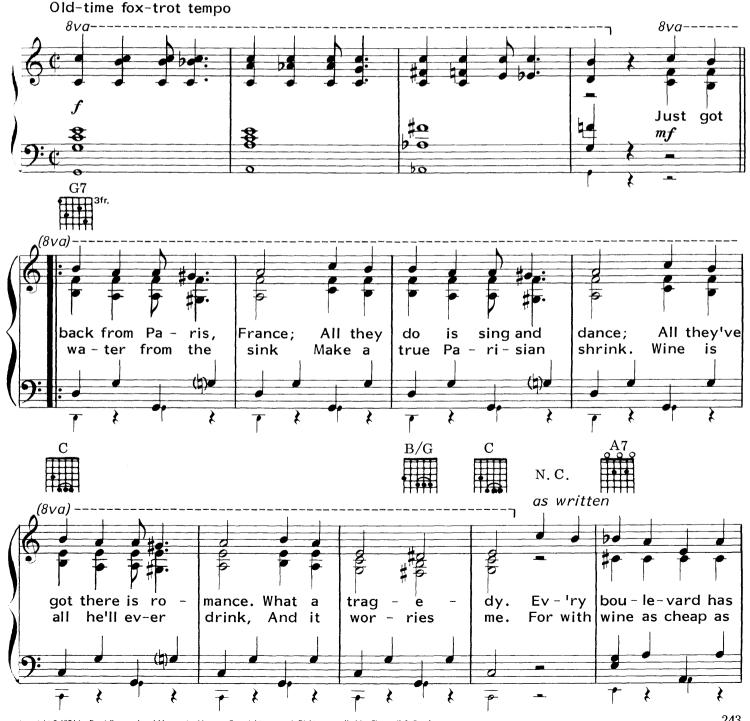




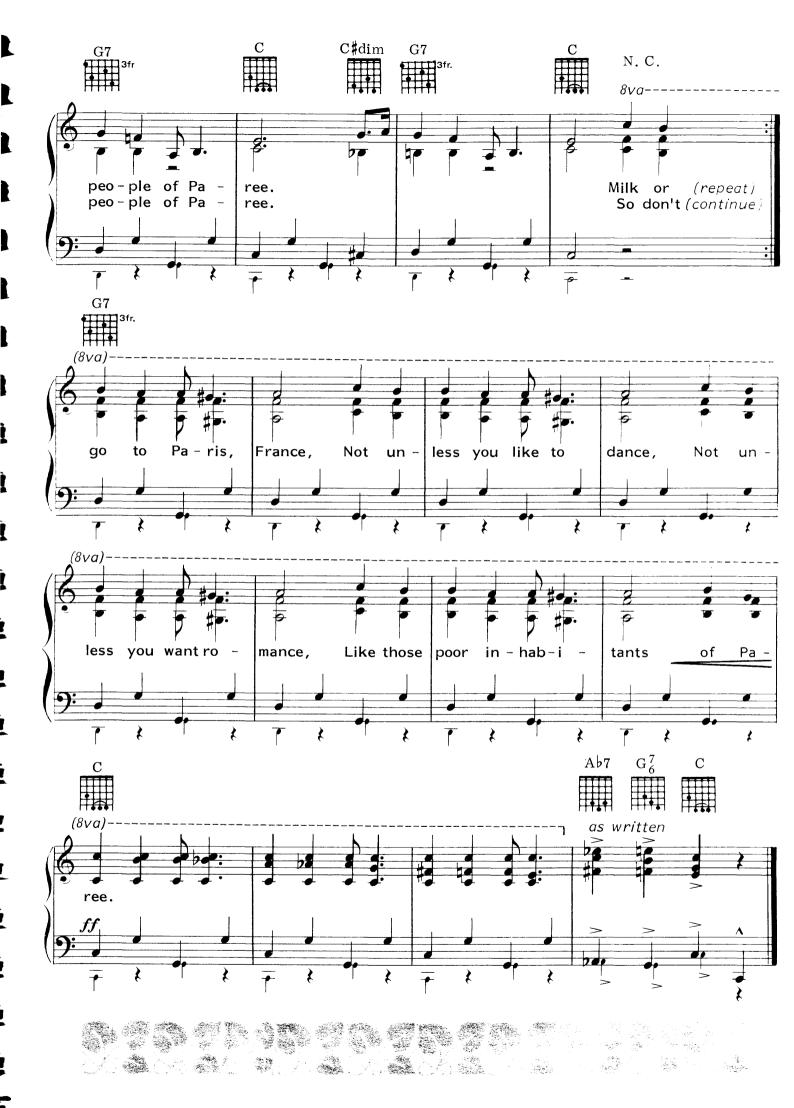


(La Goualante du Pauvre Jean)

Songwriters have always loved "city songs." In the U.S. alone (not even considering New York and New Orleans), one can think of dozens: "St. Louis Blues," "Sioux City Sue," "Wichita Lineman," "Galveston," "Seattle," "San Francisco," "By the Time I Get to Phoenix," "Chattanooga Choo Choo" and "Kalamazoo," to name just a few. Internationally, no city has received the melodic attention accorded the City of Light: "I Love Paris," "The Last Time I Saw Paris," "April in Paris." This addition to the long list of Parisian salutes was written by Marguerite Monnot and was an instrumental success for Les Baxter. Jack Lawrence, whose many hits include "If I Didn't Care," "Beyond the Sea" and "All or Nothing at All," penned these lyrics — and very well, too. But perhaps Lawrence was thinking of the French word gens instead of Jean when he heard the original title, for he turned one poverty-stricken Frenchman into all of Paris's poor.







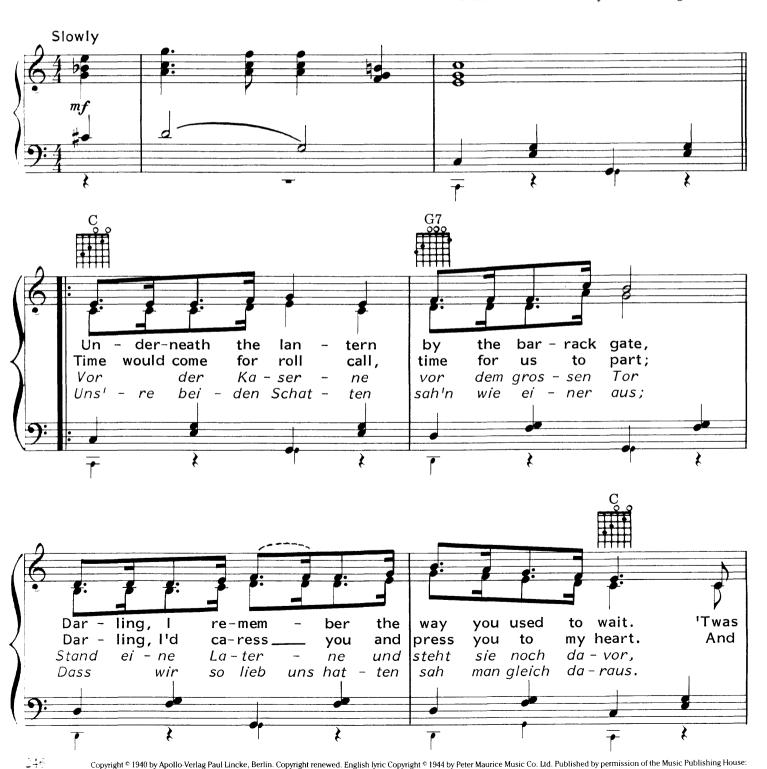


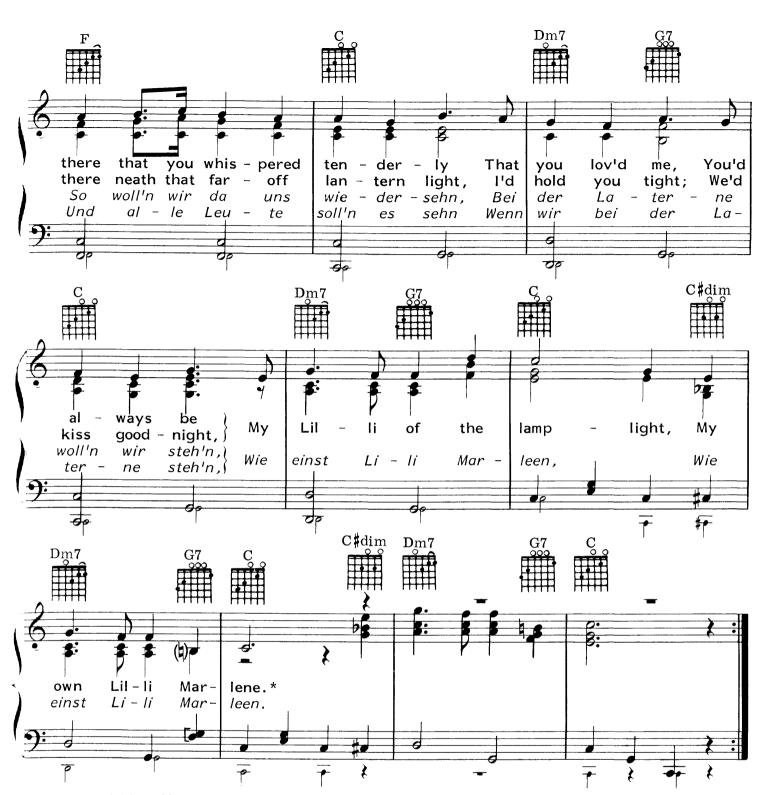
LILLI MARLENE

(My Lilli of the Lamplight)

English words by Tommie Connor; German words by Hans Leip; Music by Norbert Schultze

"Lilli Marlene" was one of the important songs of World War II. It, of course, shares that distinction with such novelty tunes as "Rosie the Riveter" and such lovely nostalgic favorites as "The White Cliffs of Dover." The difference is that "Lilli" was a favorite with both German and Allied troops. The song's international flavor was accentuated when Marlene Dietrich adopted it as her own. Most people probably look back upon even the most calamitous of times as "the good old days," and no doubt some ex-soldierboy, now gray at the temples and somewhat long of tooth, will smile wanly and take on a faraway look in his eye as he plunks out this tune, thinking of the girl "underneath the lantern by the barrack gate."





* pronounced "Lily Marlane"

Orders came for sailing somewhere over there, All confined to barracks was more than I could bear. I knew you were waiting in the street; I heard your feet but could not meet My Lilli of the lamplight, my own Lilli Marlene.

Schon rief der Posten: sie blasen Zapfen seich; Es kann drei Tage kosten! Kamerad ich komm' ja gleich. Da sagten wir auf Wiedersehn. Wie gerne wollt ich mit dir geh'n Mit dir Lili Marleen, mit dir Lili Marleen. Resting in a billet just behind the line, Even though we're parted, your lips are close to mine. You wait where that lantern softly gleams; Your sweet face seems to haunt my dreams, My Lilli of the lamplight, my own Lilli Marlene.

Deine Schritte kennt sie, deinen zieren Gang, Alle Abend brennt sie mich vergass sie lang. Und sollte mir ein Leid gescheh'n, Wer wird bei der Laterne steh'n, Mit dir Lili Marleen, mit dir Lili Marleen.

Aus dem stillen Raume, aus der Erde Grund Hebt mich wie im Träume dein verliebter Mund. Wenn sich die späten Nebel dreh'n, Werd ich bei der Laterne steh'n, Wie einst Lili Marleen, wie einst Lili Marleen.



to the studio and said that they were going to try something different, that I was going to sing to a track already cut. Today, of course, the custom is commonplace, but at that time it was a brand-new technique. They never told me that it was cut overseas. It was perfectly legal, but I guess they were afraid that I might balk. In my naiveté, I remember saying, 'What a coinci-

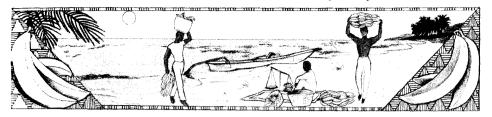
dence; it's in my key!" "She forgot all about the recording until she was stopped on the street by a song plugger a couple of weeks later. He congratulated her on her smash. "With what?" she asked. "A Tree in the Meadow'," he replied. "Oh, if it were only that easy today," laments Margaret, who continues to be a smash in nightclubs and concert halls.



THE BANANA BOAT JONG

(Day-O)

Arranged and Adapted by Dan Fox



The Banana Boat Song," or "Day-O" as it may be more commonly known to most people, was introduced by a group called The Tarriers in late 1956 on a Glory recording. However, the song was made famous by Harry Belafonte, whose 1957 version on RCA Victor sold more than a million copies. That same year it was interpolated into a Columbia film, Calypso Heat Wave, which starred none other than singer Johnny Desmond. Belafonte was, of course, almost singlehandedly responsible

for the calypso and West Indian folk-song craze that became so popular in 1956 and 1957, with such hits as "Matilda, Matilda," "Jamaica Farewell," "Come Back, Liza" and "Brown Skin Girl." In fact, Harry Belafonte was second only to Elvis Presley as the most popular singer of the '50s. Soon after Belafonte's recording, Stan Freberg did a marvelously funny parody. Freberg's version involves an attempt to record the song and centers on a recalcitrant beatnik bongo player who can't stand the singer's yelling "Day-o" and forces him to sing the phrase more and more quietly. Eventually, the bongoist locks the singer out of the studio, so that he has to sing through a glass window. But not for long. He crashes back in and utters the memorable words, "I came in through the window."



