THE SONGS OF Charlie
Chaplin BOURNE CO./ New York

THE SONGS OF Charlie Chaplin

This collectors' edition, which has never been available before, is comprised of songs written by Charlie Chaplin. All are derived from the music he composed for his films.

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BOURNE CO./ New York

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SMILE

from MODERN TIMES

Lyric by JOHN TURNER and GEOFFREY PARSONS

Music by CHARLIE CHAPLIN



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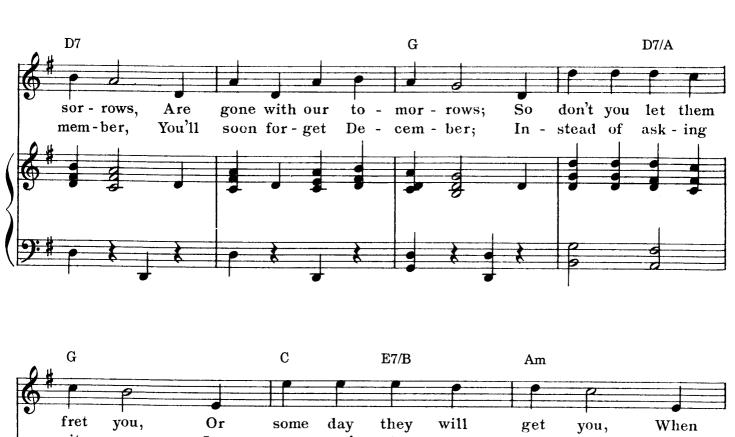
SING A SONG

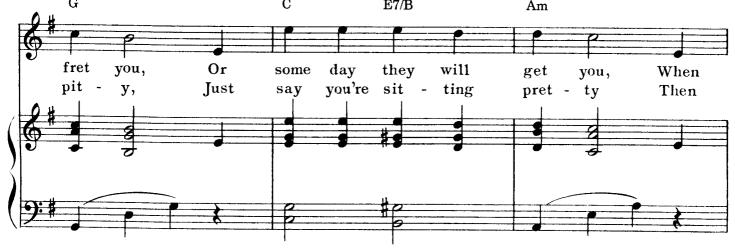
from THE GOLD RUSH

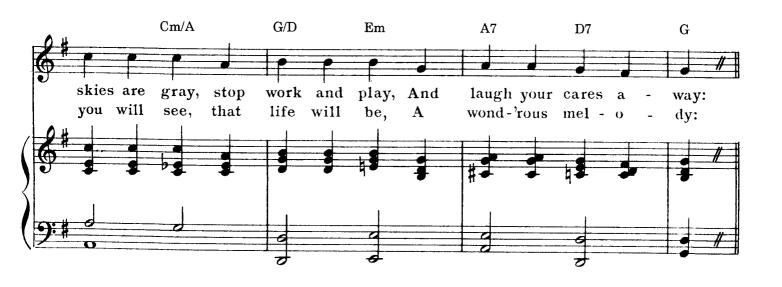
Lyric and Music by CHARLES CHAPLIN ABE LYMAN and GUS ARNHEIM



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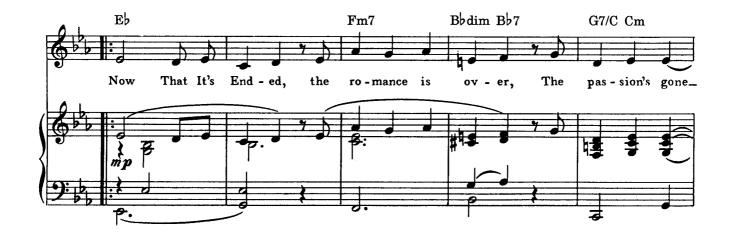


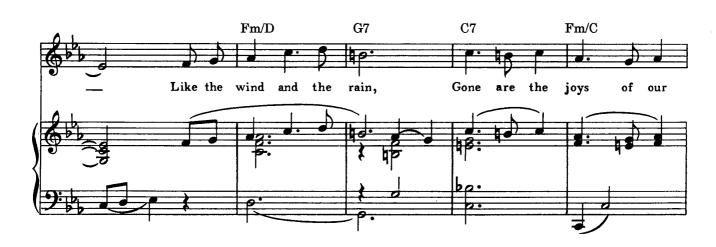
NOW THAT IT'S ENDED

from A KING IN NEW YORK

by CHARLES CHAPLIN









WEEPING WILLOWS

from A KING IN NEW YORK

by CHARLES CHAPLIN



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MANDOLIN SERENADE

from A KING IN NEW YORK

Lyric by GEOFFREY PARSONS and

Music by



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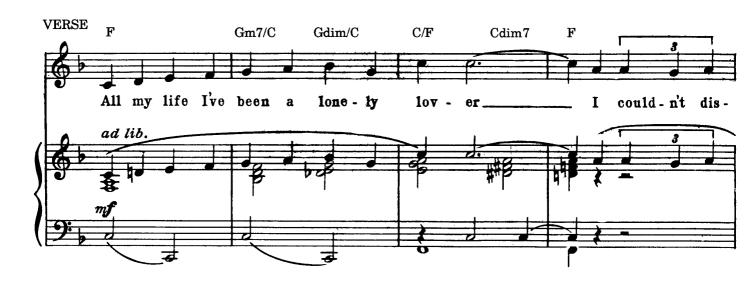


FALLING STAR

from THE GREAT DICTATOR

Lyric and Music by CHARLES CHAPLIN MEREDITH WILLSON EDDIE DeLANGE







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CHAPLIN & MUSIC

by David Robinson © 1989



Charles Chaplin remembered precisely the moment when, as he said, "music first entered my soul." As a small boy, living in poverty in Kennington, he heard a pair of street musicians playing "The Honeysuckle and the Bee" on clarinet and harmonica at Kennington Cross. "It was here that I first discovered music, or where I first learned its rare beauty, a beauty that has gladdened and haunted me from that moment.'

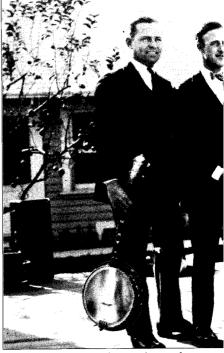
His powerful response to music was

which was from the start marked by a strong rhythmical, balletic character. Music played an important part in the presentations of the Karno comedy sketch company with whom young Chaplin toured the vaudeville circuits before going into pictures. He recalled that Karno would achieve comic contrast by accompanying the grossest slapstick with delicate 18th century airs.

As soon as he was able to afford instruments, Chaplin taught himself to play the violin and cello, and spent hours improvising on piano and organ. In 1916 he published three songs of his own composition. Later he wrote and published theme songs for The Kid, The Idle Class and The Gold Rush. In the silent period it was usual to commission professional arrangers to compile suitable accompaniments for films from published music: these were then performed live by whatever instrumental combinations each cinema could afford. There is every indication however that as early as A Woman of Paris (1923) Chaplin was involving himself closely in the musical preparation.

For City Lights, his first picture with synchronised sound, Chaplin announced that he would compose the musical accompaniment himself. The orchestrater was Arthur Johnston. "I really didn't write it down," Chaplin said, in an excess of modesty; "I la-laed and Arthur Johnston wrote it down, and I wish you would give him credit, because he did a very good job. It is all simple music, you know, in keeping with my character."

Chaplin had very clear ideas of what he wanted. He did not, for instance, want the arranger to make the music funny, like a cartoon film. "I wanted no competition, I wanted the music to be a counterpoint of



elegant and romantic music to frame my comedies."

The recording was done under the direction of Alfred Newman, United Artists musical director. Sheaves of notes evidently taken down at Chaplin's dictation during the sessions reveal his concern with every phrase and note and instrument.

The recording techniques of the time could not do full justice to the music however; and Chaplin was certainly disappointed with the result. His assistant Henry Bergman technica commented. "the terrible deficiencies of the medium are too apparent I don't think they will ever overcome them Thirty-five of the very finest artists player the score for City Lights so beautifully or the set. Through the mechanics of the







microphone it became something else.'

More than half a century later, Carl Davis re-recorded some passages of the score for use in Kevin Brownlow and David Gill's *Unknown Chaplin*. They were all astonished by the quality of the music, and concurred with Bergman's view of the inadequacies of the original recording. They suggested to Lady Chaplin that the music might be entirely re-recorded. She felt that Chaplin himself would have welcomed the possibility, and from then on generously supported the project.

At first it all looked quite easy, since the original score and instrumental parts were preserved – a few missing fragments of the conductor's score could be made up from the parts. When the written score was compared with the original recording however, considerable differences became apparent. It was clear that extensive revisions had taken place in the recordings. Originally the corrections would have been made on slips stuck over the parts; but these had become detached and lost. Only by painstaking comparison of the recording and the score was Chaplin's final approved version eventually reconstituted.

"It was evident that Chaplin had constantly sought to simplify, to get rid of arrangements that were too complicated," says Carl Davis; "In this way he was making the score stronger and also less distracting. It was a process of intense simplification." One of the new arrangers commented sympathetically, "The man who did it must have wept. He did some wonderful arranging, but Chaplin pared it down."

The musicians all listened to the original recording before performing each cue, and would occasionally claim or disclaim notes on the strength of what they heard. They were impressed with the original performances and worked to capture the instrumental styles of the period: it was essential to get the right *sound* as well as the right *notes*. Kenny Baker, who performs on trumpet, particularly admired the work of his 1931 counterpart: "Such a *wet* sound he achieved."

As the work progressed, Davis, Gill, Brownlow and the players were more and more impressed by the quality of the original music. Even so, they did not anticipate the extent of the problems of fitting score to film, given the precision and subtlety of Chaplin's counterpointing of his musical themes. In the end several additional recording sessions were needed to do justice to Chaplin's conception.

From the start Lady Chaplin had approved



the idea of a series of live performances, before the release of the newly recorded synchronised version. This is perhaps the first time that a score written for sound synchronisation has been performed, with the film, live before an audience. These performances make exceptional demands on the conductor and his musicians, since Chaplin matched his score so precisely to the image, primarily intending it for recording in the studio, fragment by fragment.

Everyone concerned in the project, however, agrees that they are more than rewarded in the outcome, by their fuller recognition of Chaplin's extraordinary musical understanding, and by the chance to offer this special birthday present for the centenary of the cinema's greatest personality.



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WITHOUT YOU



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YOU ARE THE SONG



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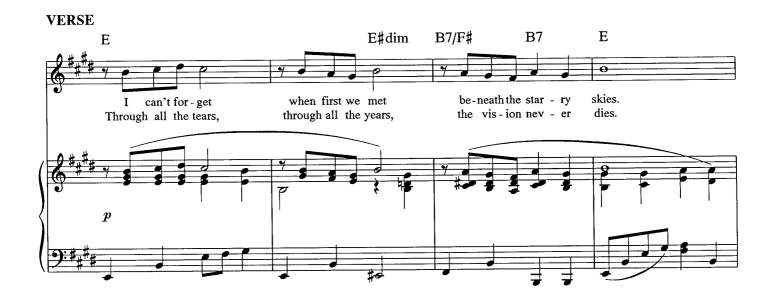


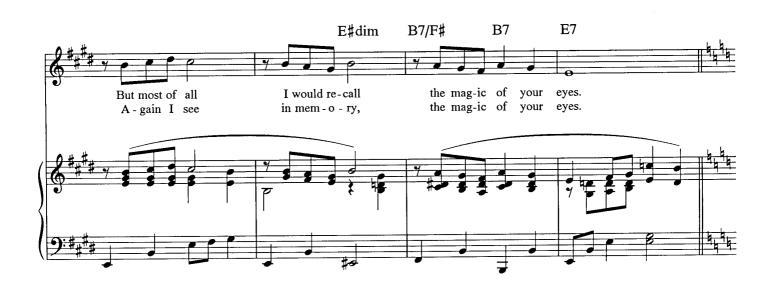


BEAUTIFUL, WONDERFUL EYES

from CITY LIGHTS







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THE SPRING SONG

from A KING IN NEW YORK



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ETERNALLY

from LIMELIGHT (The Terry Theme)



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THE TERRY THEME

from LIMELIGHT ("Eternally")

Piano Solo



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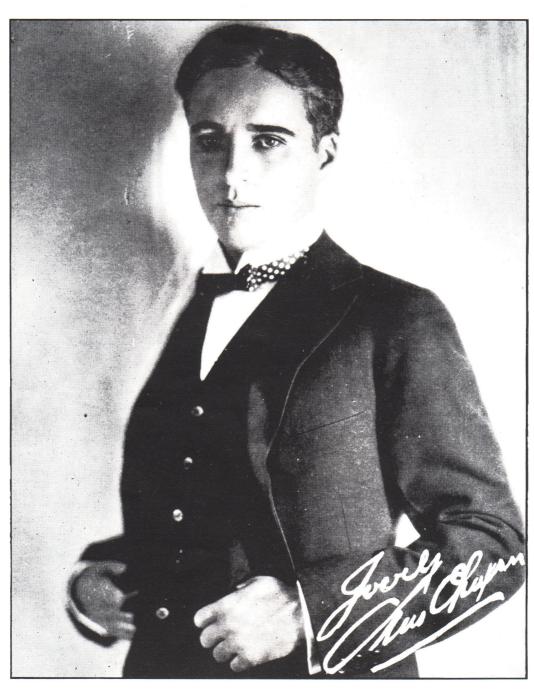


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ROBERT DOWNEY, Jr. as CHARLIE CHAPLIN from the MOTION PICTURE CHAPLIN