A READER'S DIGEST SONGBOOK

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Remembering the '50s 100 Top Hits to Play and Sing

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Introduction

"So tell me, Grandpa, what was it really like to grow up in the '50s?"

Drifting with varying degrees of resistance into middle age, a whole generation finds itself facing that innocuous little question. In answering it, many a once-upon-atime prom queen or BMOC (that's Big Man on Campus, for those who weren't around then) has made a startling discovery: there are actually *two* versions of growing up in the '50s.

One—fed by TV, movies and the other pop culture trappings—would have us believe that it was all a real-life storyboard for *Happy Days*: hot rods, leather jackets and duck-tail haircuts, "Hound Dog" and "Shake, Rattle and Roll." No nerds need apply. That's how it

was; right, Gramps?

Well, yes and no. Another version of the '50s, marching alongside the Happy Days scenario like the parallel universe in a sci-fi short story, takes a more sober-sided view. World War II wasn't long over, and already we were involved in another war, this time in Korea; Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy was finding Communists in the unlikeliest of places; and otherwise reasonable people were building atomic bomb shelters in their basements.

According to this scenario, the '50s were a time when you grew up fast, got married young and took on responsibility the minute you walked off the campus. No wonder that the photos of seniors in mid-'50s yearbooks look so much older than today's counter-

parts do.

Now have a look at the following pages, at the songs we sang and listened to in those complex years. Did the same decade really produce Nat King Cole singing "They tried to tell us we're too young," and Bill Haley urging everyone to "Rock around the clock"?

Sure did. It's almost as if the two images were united in one common philosophy: Have a ball tonight, because tomorrow—or in a year or an hour from now—you may have to grow up awfully fast.

In the meantime, we had romance ("Love Is a Many-Splen-

dored Thing"), heartbreak ("Blue Velvet"), country sentiment ("Your Cheatin' Heart"), stoic acceptance ("Que Será, Será") and nostalgia ("The Old Piano Roll Blues"). We had our own oldies ("P.S. I Love You"), songs of faith and inspiration ("I Believe"), folk favorites ("Tom Dooley") and Broadway hits ("On the Street Where You Live").

And, yes, we indeed had rock and roll; and, yes, it did cause something of a revolution. When Elvis appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show he was shown only from the waist up, so as not to incite either undue hormonal activity or righteous indignation, depending on who was watching. The countless thousands of teenagers on whom the Fonz was modeled were indeed central players in this part of the drama. When Jerry Lee Lewis pounded out "Great Balls of Fire," Jimmy Forrest honked his way through "Night Train" and Elvis hip-swiveled through "Jailhouse Rock," it was nothing short of insurrection.

But it wasn't the whole story. Not by a long shot. Just part of a decade that, viewed in retrospect, was one of the most complicated, varied and challenging in the history of our century. And the music on the following pages brings it all back.

What was it like growing up in the '50s? Hey, you can dig it. Just sit down at the piano, turn the page and start playing and singing. The music will tell the rest of the story in its own amazing and utterly irrepressible way.

How to Use This Book

As in all Reader's Digest music books, the arrangements in Remembering the '50s were designed to be easy to play while still being musically interesting and artistically gratifying. For vocalists and players of any treble clef instruments, the melody is on top, clear and uncluttered, with the stems of the notes turned up. However, if one plays 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 an electronic keyboard. 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.

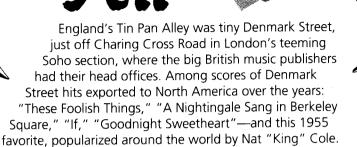
The chord symbols also are designed for pianists who have studied the popular chord method; players can read the melody line and improvise their own left-hand accompaniments. The chord symbols may be used, too, by bass players (string or brass); just play the root note of each symbol, except where another 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



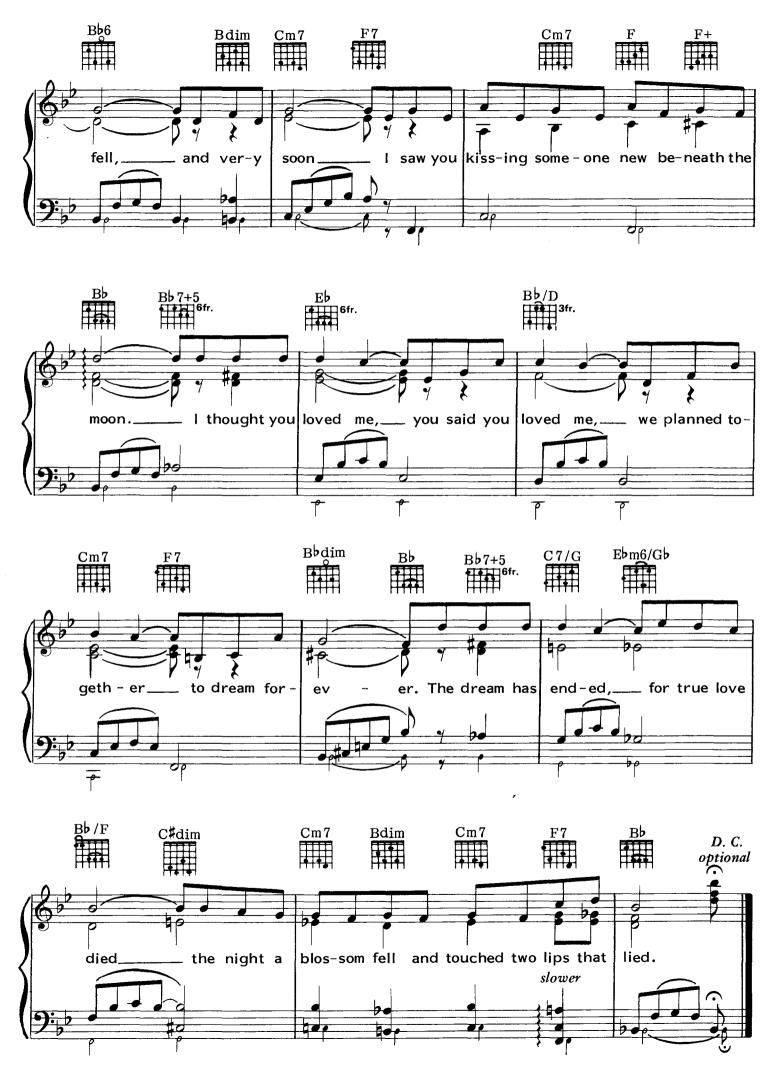


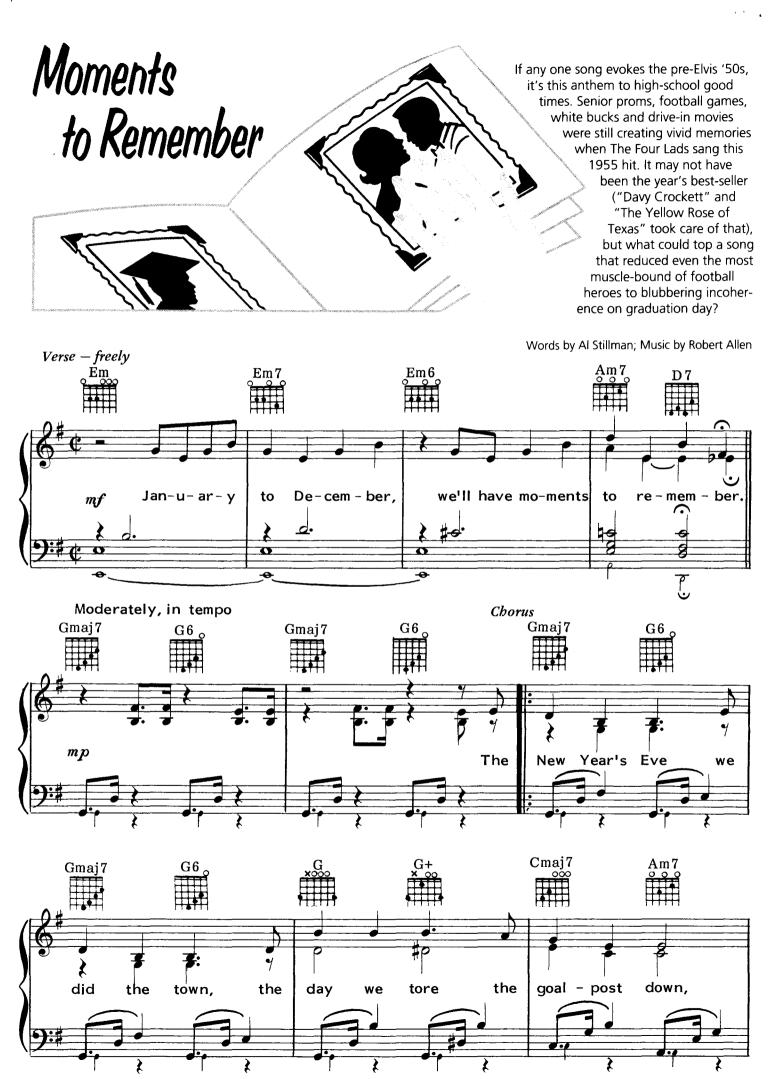
A Blossom



Words and Music by Howard Barnes, Harold Cornelius and Dominic John









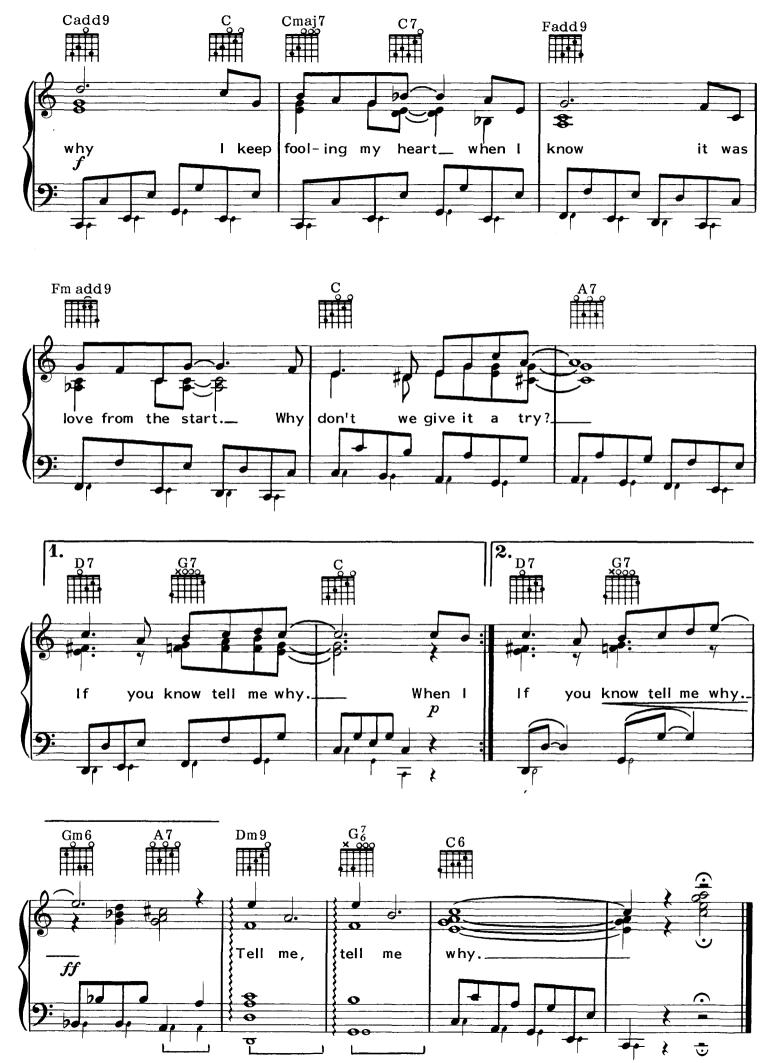


Tell Me Why

Vocal groups became a national mania after The Four Aces, boyhood pals who got their start in the Philadelphia area, hit the big time in 1951 with their recording of this lover's plea. Former band pianist Al Alberts, leader and soloist of the Aces, wrote the lyrics of the song. Marty Gold, veteran arranger for another group, The Three Suns, supplied the melody.









Remember Johnnie Ray, sobbing and grimacing and tearing at his hair while intoning "If your suhweetheart sends a letter of goodbye . . . "? Parents hated him—but tearful teens sobbed right along as "Cry" shot to No.1 on *Your Hit Parade* in 1952 and stayed there for five weeks. The flip side of "Cry," the equally weepy "Little White Cloud That Cried," went to No. 2



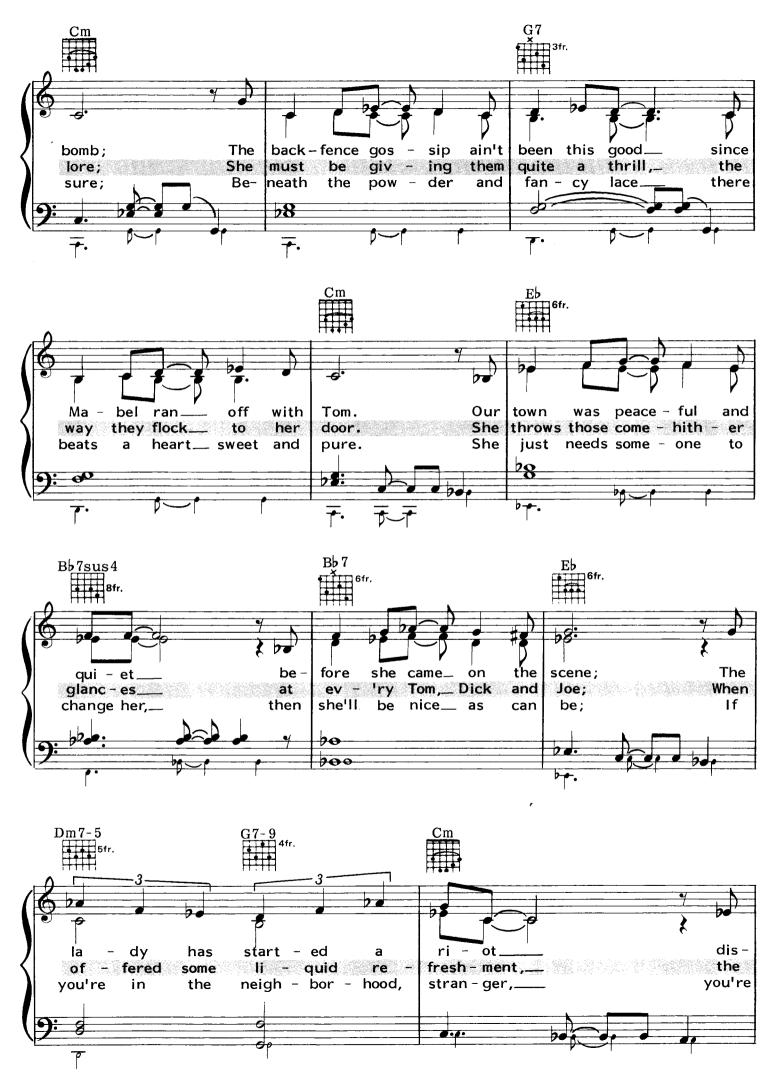
* Chord symbols represent a simplified version of the piano part.



The Naughty Lady of Shady Lane

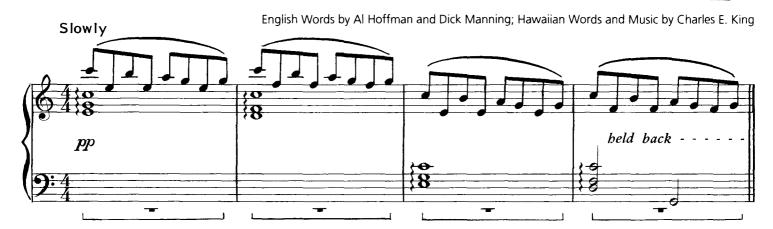
As Roy Bennett recalled it, whenever his wife or Sid Tepper's wife was pregnant, the songwriting team ("Red Roses for a Blue Lady") had a hit. Mrs. Tepper was expecting in 1955 when the composers' tale of a precocious femme fatale—recorded by The Ames Brothers—racked up 15 weeks on the charts.

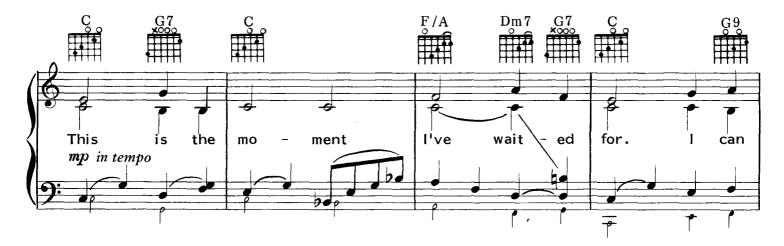


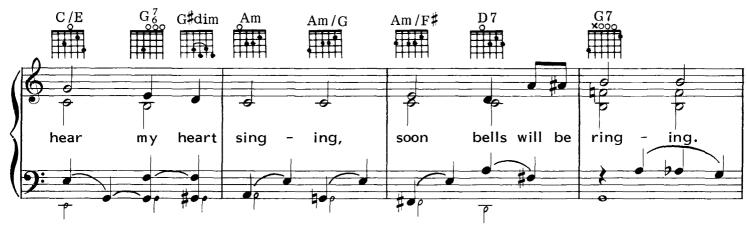




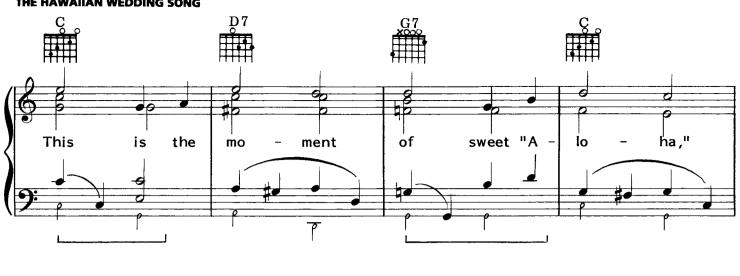


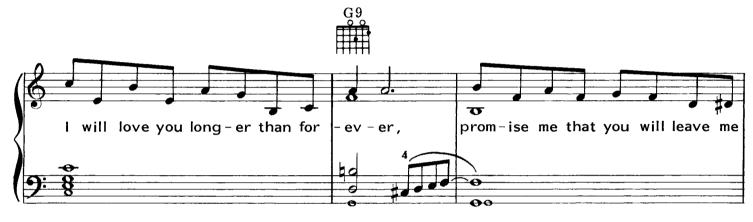


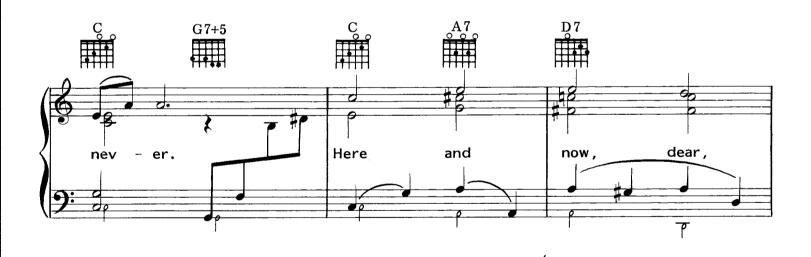


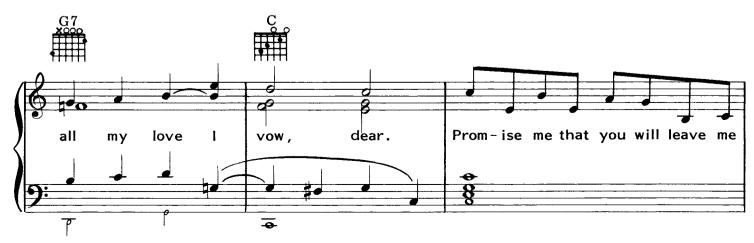












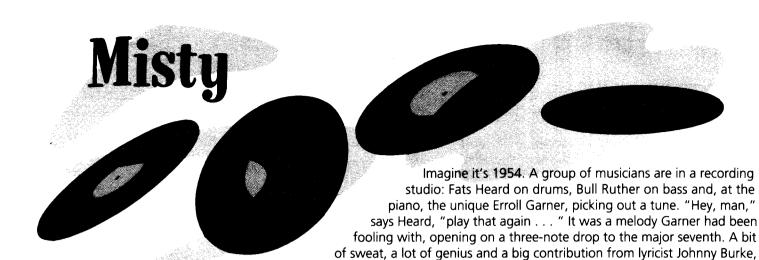




Is it possible these days to imagine a top TV show featuring a relaxed guy in a V-neck cardigan, perched on a stool singing? Well, that was precisely the formula of the very popular *Perry Como Show*. And during that hit show's long run and Perry's even longer career, the laidback crooner produced dozens of hit records of songs like this 1958 gem. Other No. 1 Como tunes of the '50s include "Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes," "Hot Diggity" and "Round and Round."



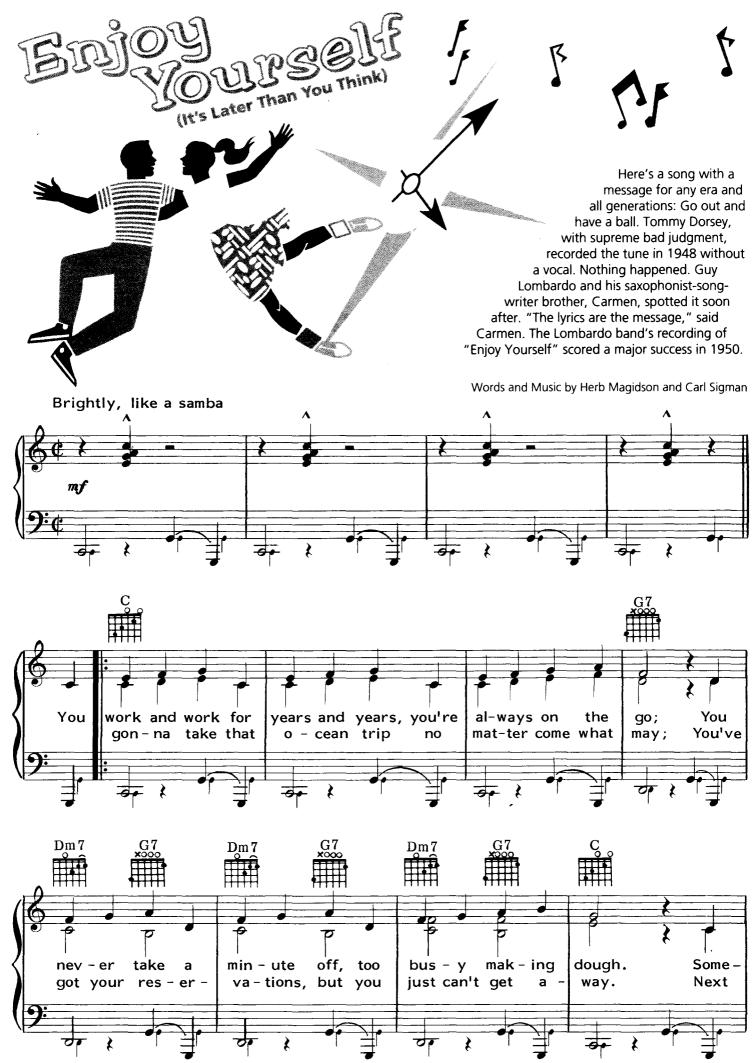




and those three little notes grew into "Misty." A hit record by Johnny Mathis in 1959, and another great standard was off and running. Words by Johnny Burke; Music by Erroll Garner Slowly Bb 7 Ebmai7 Eb7 - 9Bbm7 $L^{i}\mathbf{m}$ Look at help-less as kit-ten up me, as and thou-sand vi-olins be-gin to way Abmaj7 Ab6 Db9 feel like I'm I tree, and cling-ing cloud. to your hel - lo, might be play, the sound of that Fm7mist - y your un-der-stand;_ get just hold - ing mo - ment mist - y you're mu sic hear; get the

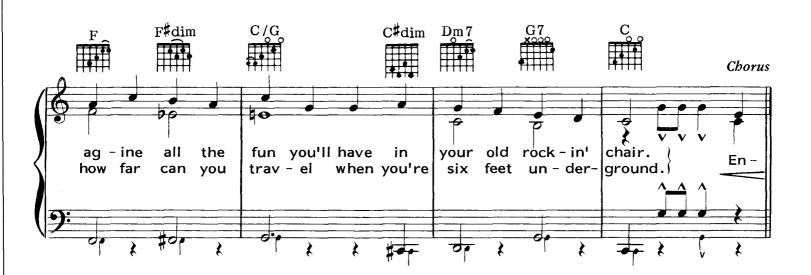


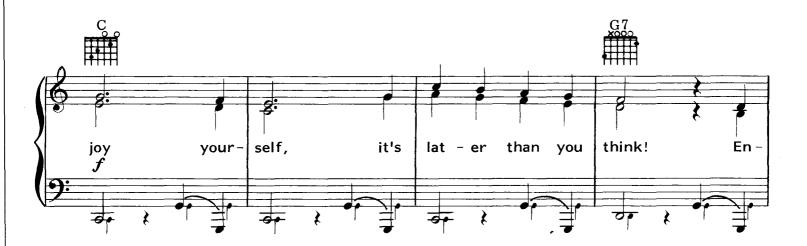




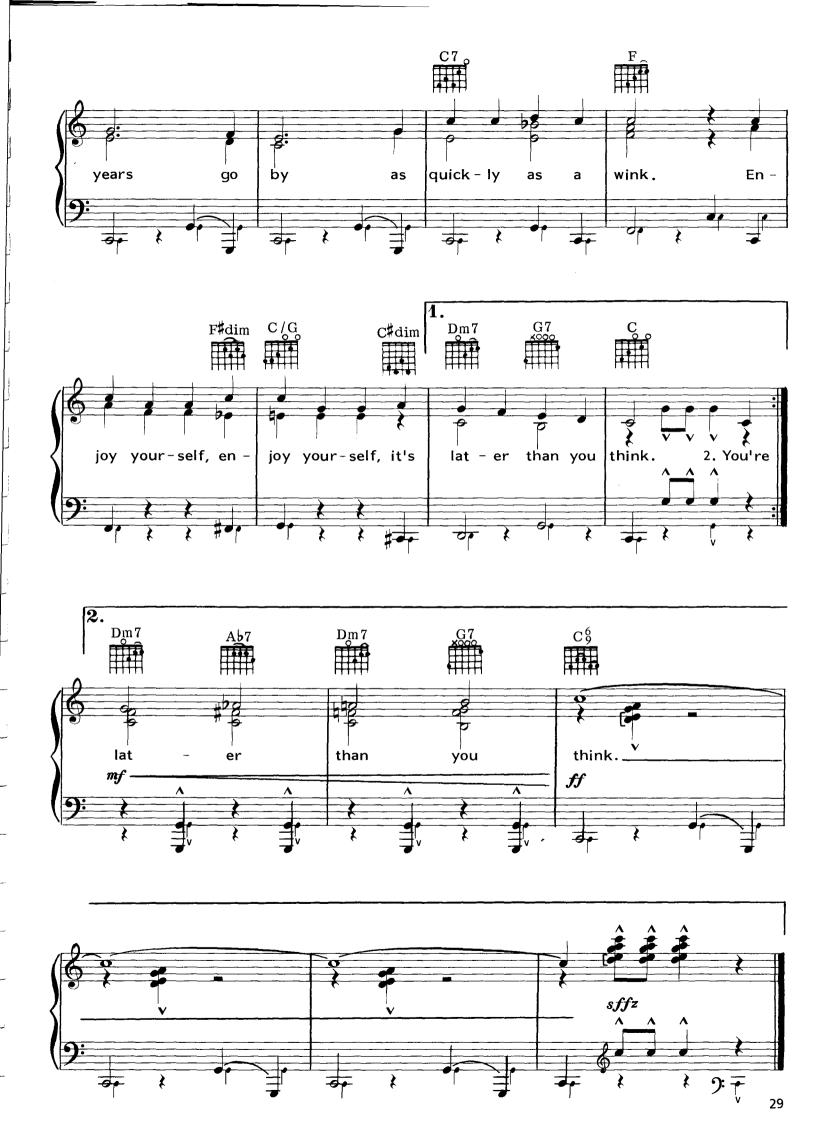








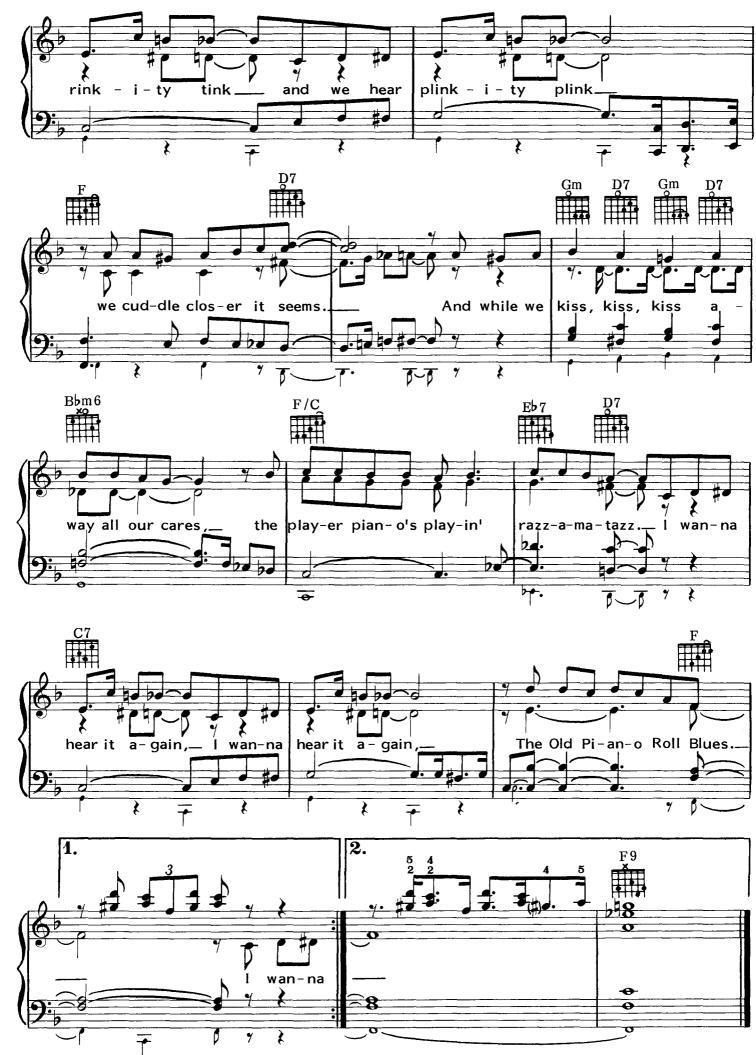


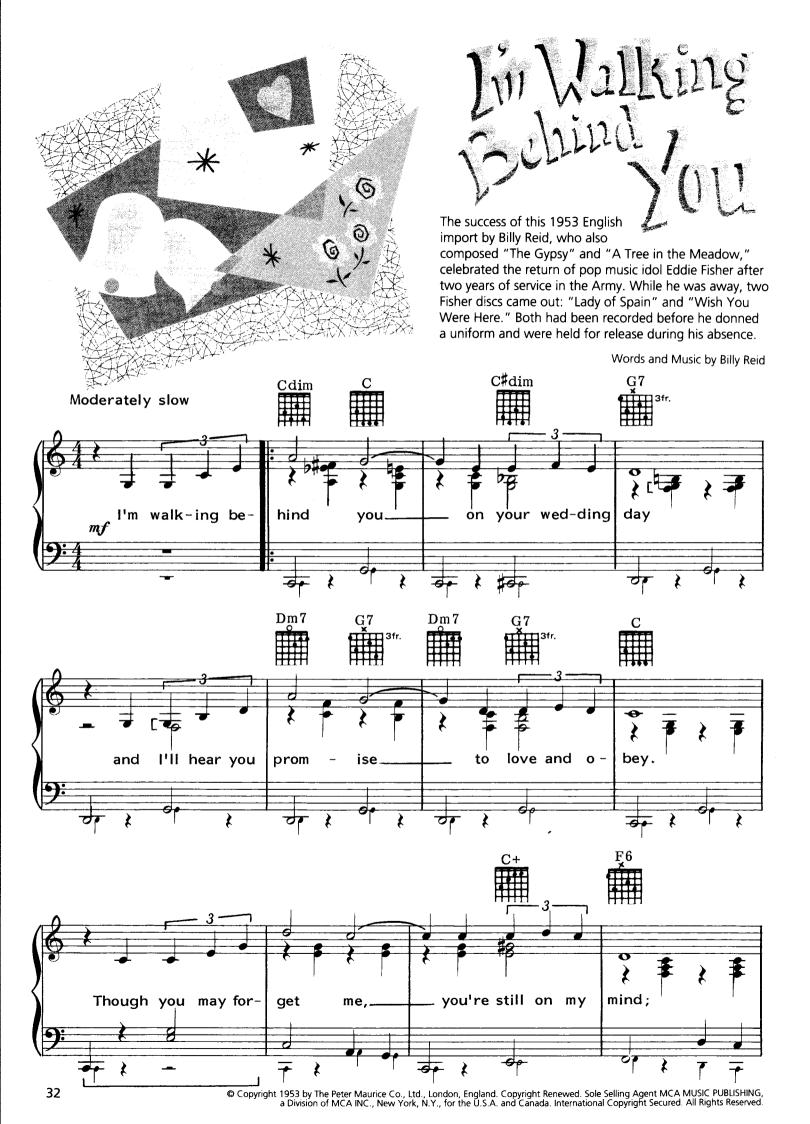


THE OLD PIANO ROLL BLUES

This old-timey honky-tonk tune isn't really so old-timey at all. New Jerseyite Cy ("Sweet Violets") Coben wrote it in 1949, and it hit the charts the next year, thanks to recordings by Hoagy Carmichael and Cass Daley and boogie-woogie pianist Lawrence Cook. One interesting side effect: the tune spurred a fad for player pianos and a glut of such nostalgic ditties as "Music! Music! Music!" and "Dearie."





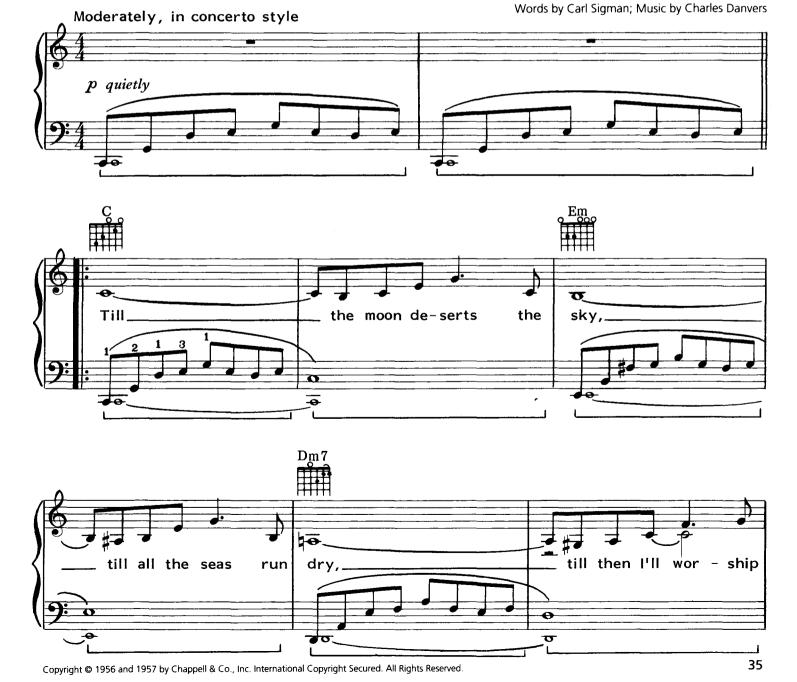


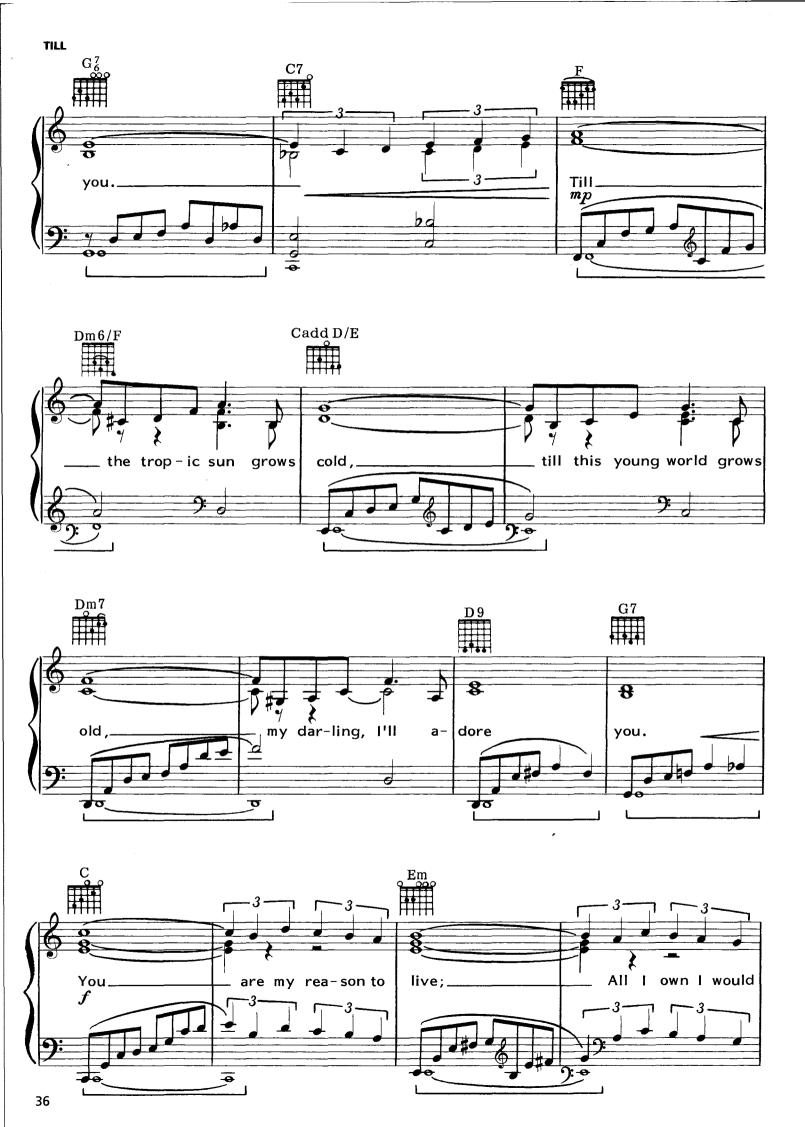


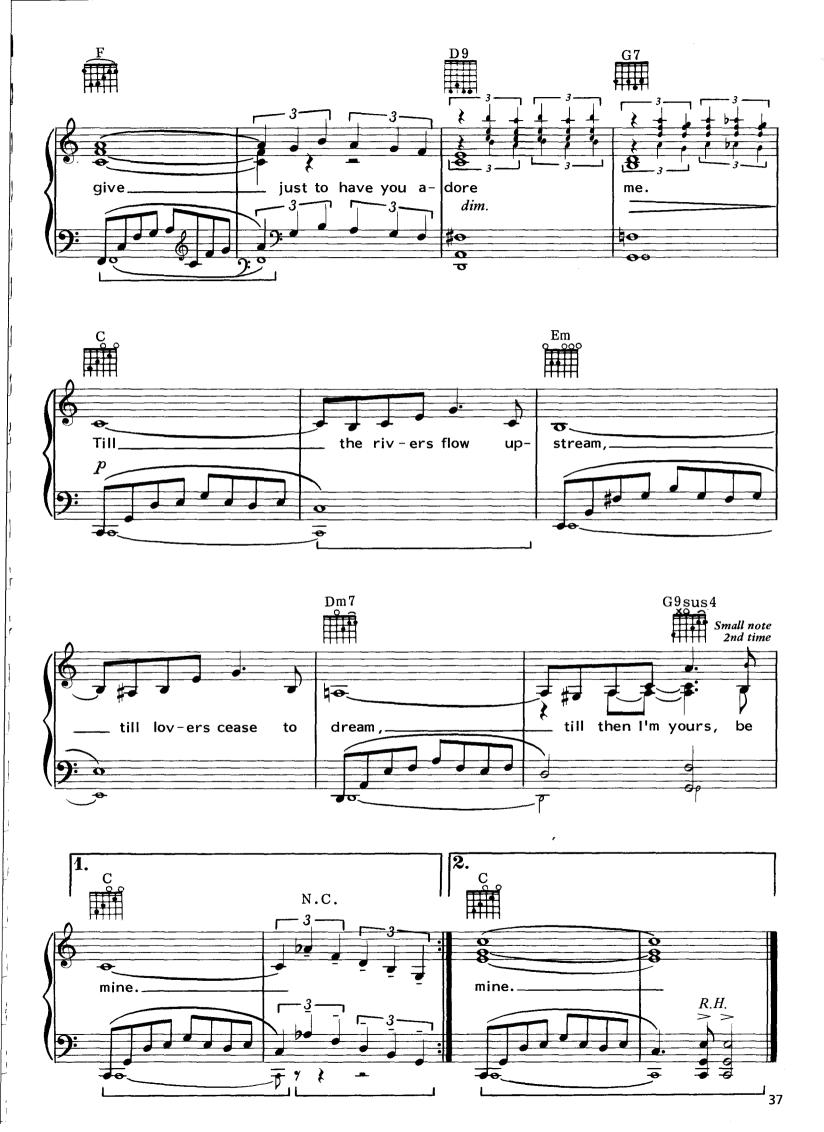




French popular songs, sometimes passionate to a point verging on melodrama, have often done well on this side of the Atlantic. Witness the success of "La Vie en Rose," "Beyond the Sea," "It Must Be Him" and dozens of others. This 1957 French import produced popular recordings for both Tony Bennett and pianist Roger Williams.







TOO YOUNG

Sylvia Dee and Sid Lippman's ode to puppy love provided Nat "King" Cole with a No. 1 hit in 1951. The song will always have a sentimental pull for those who were "too young" in the '50s. But hearing it today, the same people—now "fifty-something"—might wonder why they were in such a big hurry to grow up.

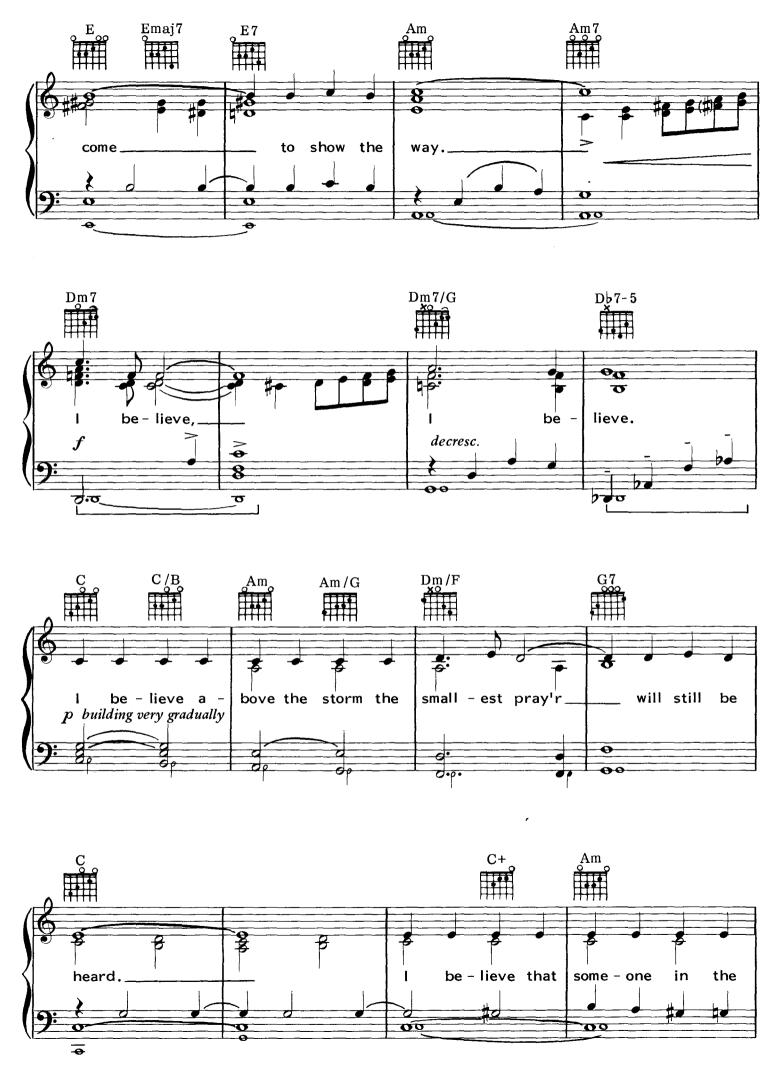






World War II wasn't long over when we found ourselves in another conflict, this time an undeclared "police action" in far-off Korea. It was a time to test faith, and when singer Jane Froman introduced what composer Ervin Drake termed "a song to give the average person hope," "I Believe" was an overnight sensation. Frankie Laine's record, an emotional declaration of faith, sold millions and caused the song to appear on *Your Hit Parade* for 23 weeks.





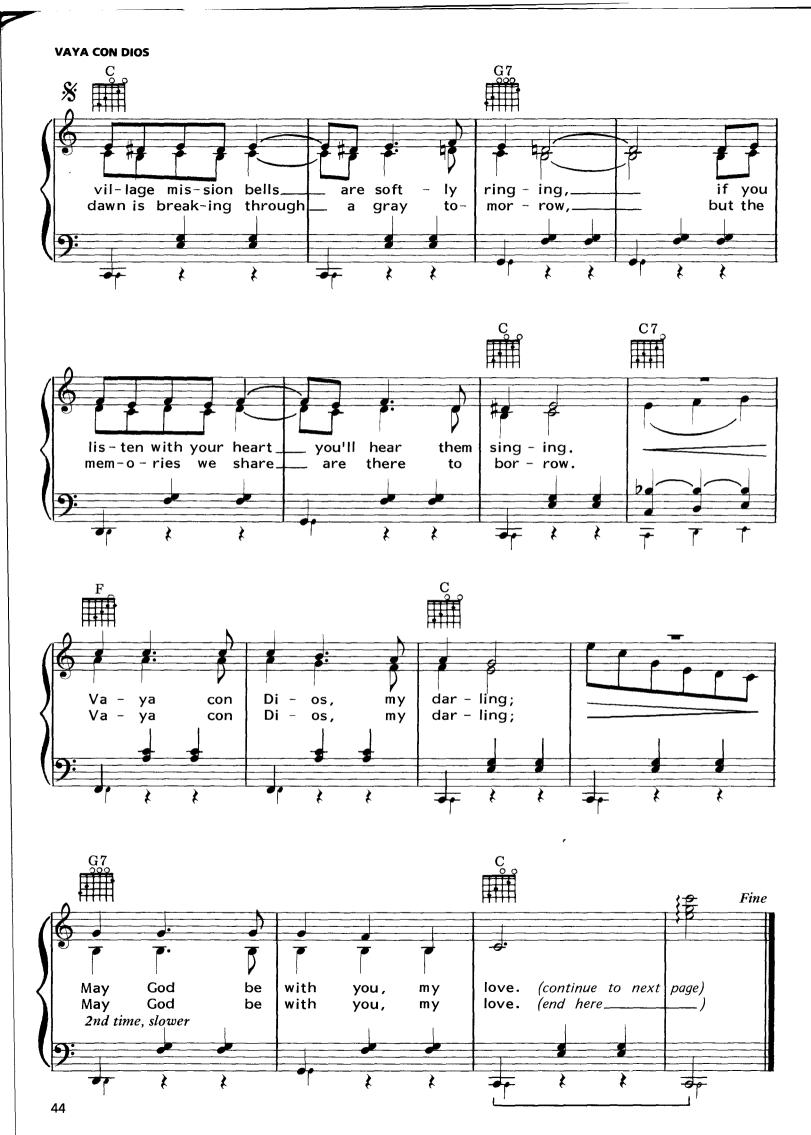


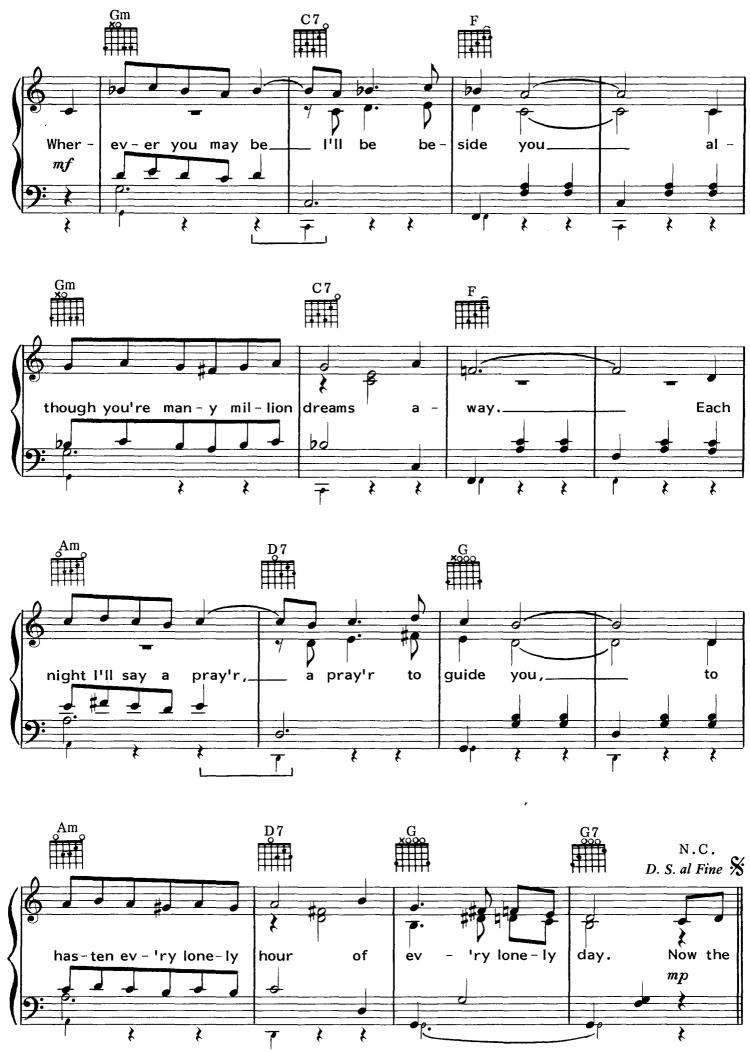


CORDOS (May God Be with You)

This Spanish-flavored perennial (the title translates as "Go with God") was written in Hollywood in 1953. It was a long-running No. 1 hit for Les Paul and Mary Ford, whose multitracked guitar-voice duets pioneered the new techniques that soon transformed the recording industry.







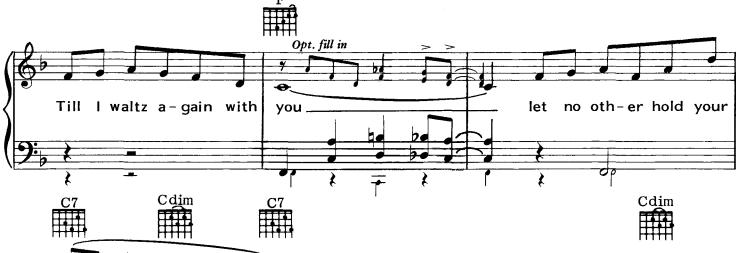


Till T Waltz Again with You

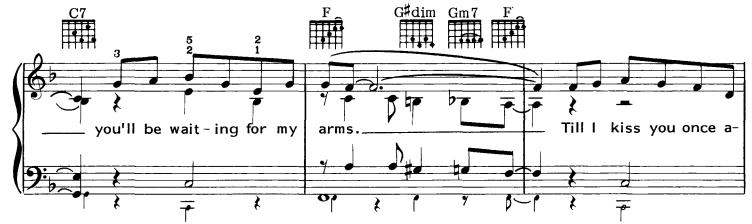
How many of the fans who bought Teresa Brewer's No. 1 record in 1952 realized that this ode to romance in three-quarter time was not a waltz at all? All the same, the song—her second million-seller after "Music! Music! Music!"—helped put the 21-year-old Miss Brewer's career in high-flying orbit.

Words and Music by Sidney Prosen



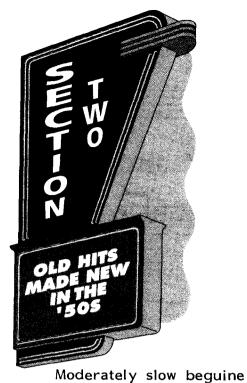












What ** a Difficance a Day Made

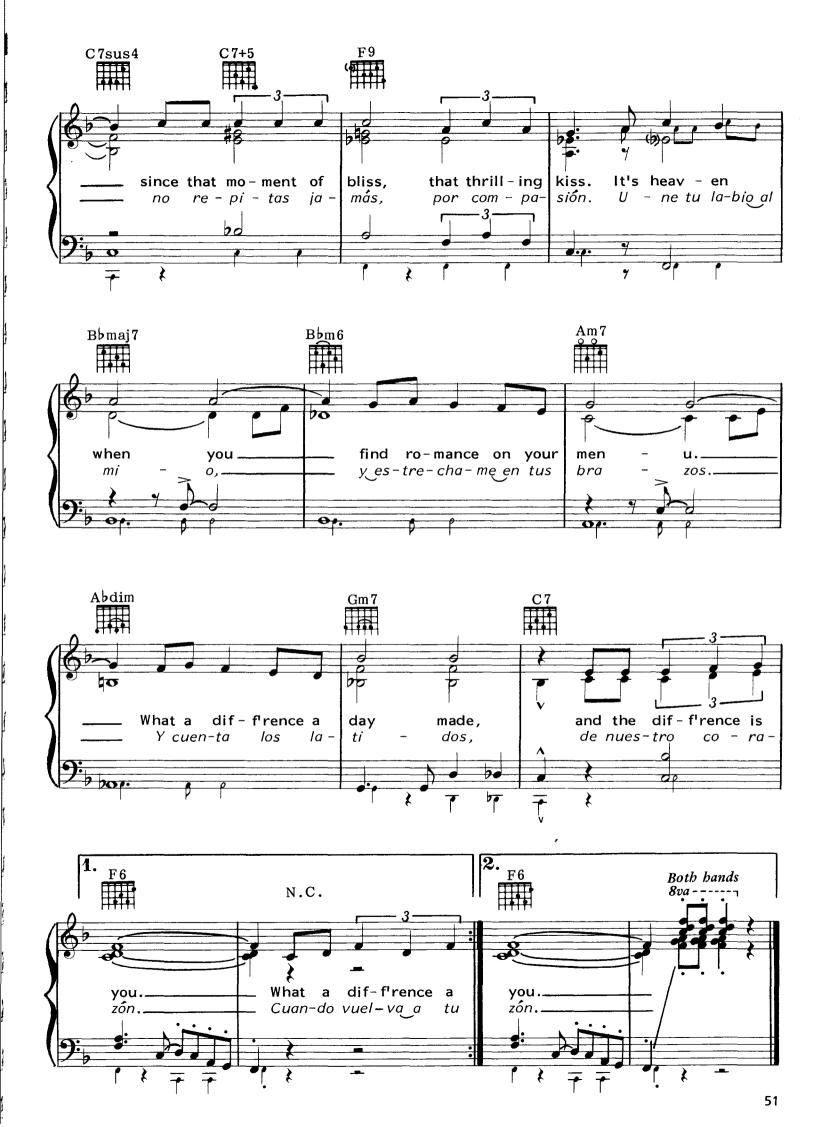
(Cuando Vuelva a Tu Lado)

The original title of this Mexican import translates as "When I Return to Your Side." Stanley Adams ("There Are Such Things") contributed an English lyric and a new title in 1934, and "What a Diff'rence a Day Made" has been a favorite of singers and instrumentalists ever since. Dinah Washington, until then known chiefly in the rhythm-and-blues field, won a Grammy with her 1959 recording of it, belatedly becoming a "mainstream" pop and soul star.

English Words by Stanley Adams; Music and Spanish Words by Maria Grever







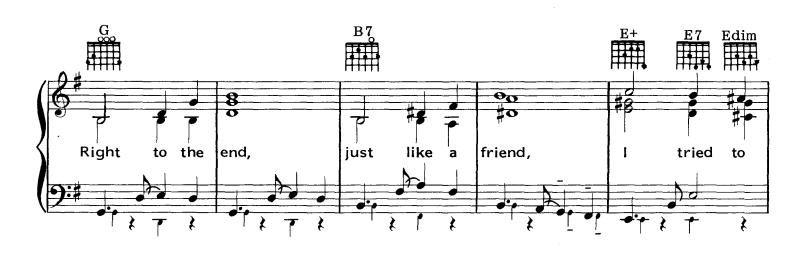


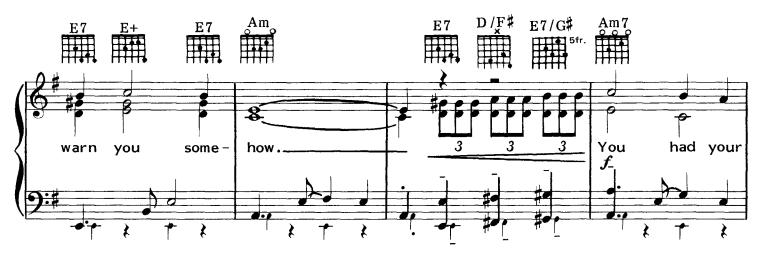
Who's Sorry Now?

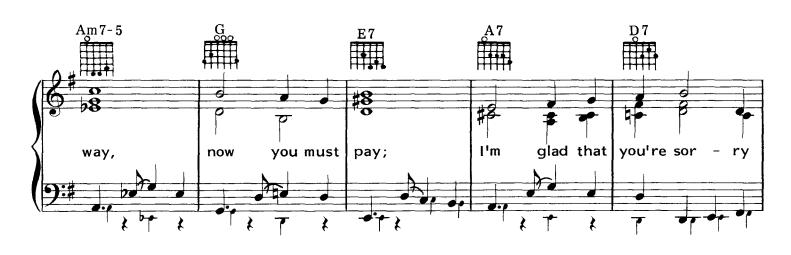
This oldie was a tearjerker for vaudevillians Van and Schenck until jazz bands hiked up the tempo in the late '20s. It remained a Dixieland specialty until 1957, when Connie Francis put it to a slow rock beat and converted it back into a weepie. Her record stayed on the charts for 22 weeks and made her a star.

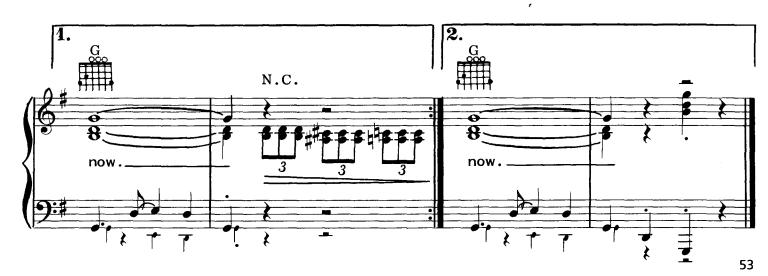
Words by Bert Kalmar and Harry Ruby; Music by Ted Snyder











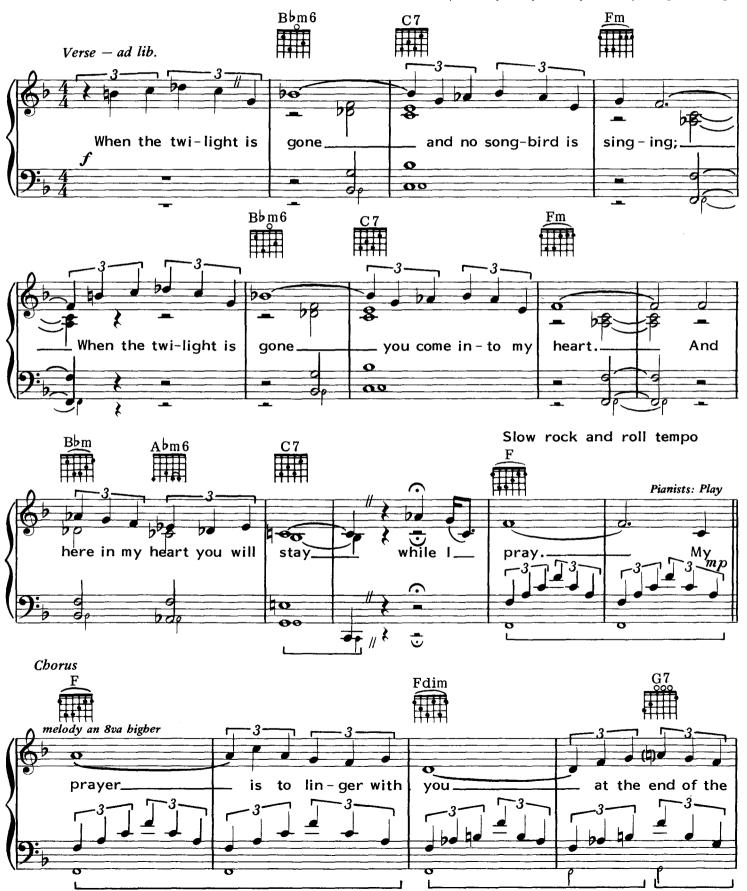


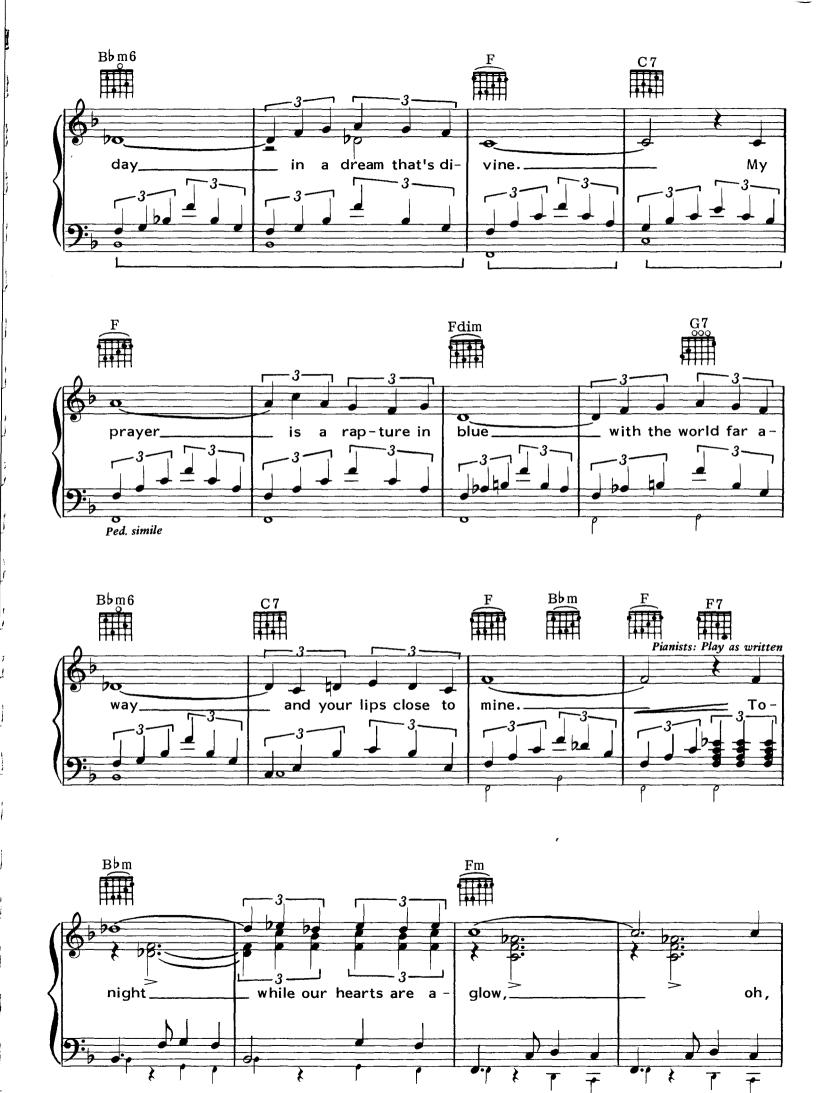




"Avant de Mourir" ("Before Dying") is the rather morbid original title of this evergreen, written as a violin solo in 1926 by French fiddler Georges Boulanger. As "My Prayer," with a lyric by Jimmy ("Harbor Lights," "Red Sails in the Sunset") Kennedy, it was a hit for Glenn Miller in 1939 and, of course, for The Platters, in 1956.

Words and musical adaptation by Jimmy Kennedy; Music by Georges Boulanger

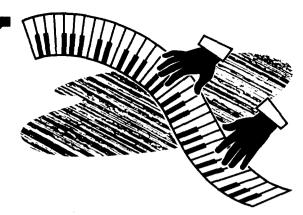






BLUEBERRY

Lots of performers have done well with this hardy perennial, written for a Gene Autry film in 1940. It was big for Glenn Miller and His Orchestra, and was also recorded by Louis Armstrong. But for fans of the '50s those opening words, "I found my thrill . . . ," could only be intoned by the inimitable Antoine "Fats" Domino.









LOVE LETTERS IN THE SAND

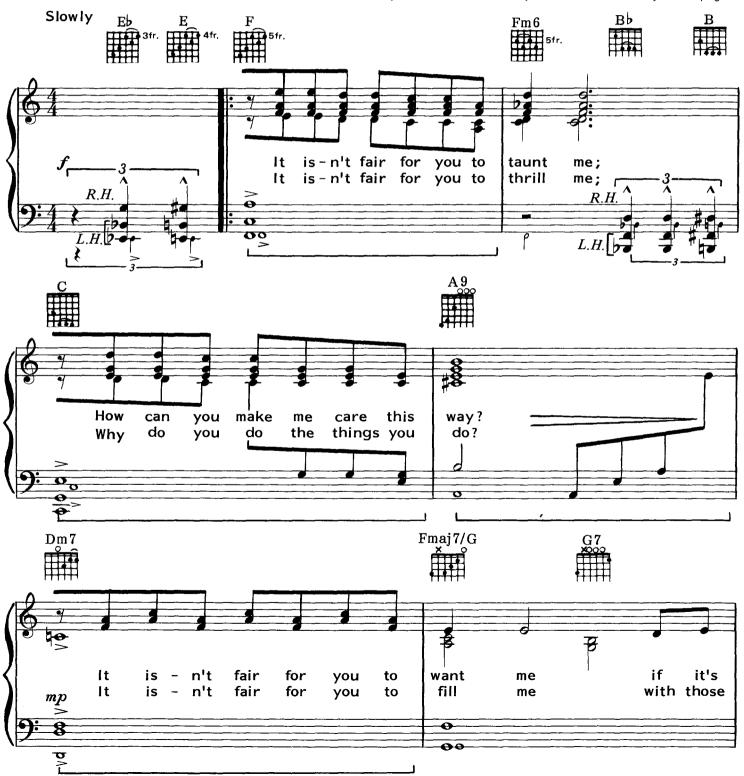
Newspaperman and sometime pop poet Nick Kenny published these verses in his New York *Daily Mirror* column one day in 1931. (Brother Charles helped out on the poem.) Songwriter J. Fred ("You Go to My Head") Coots liked it and wrote a melody for it. Russ Columbo and bandleader George Hall made "Love Letters in the Sand" a standard in the '30s, and Pat Boone had a major hit with it in 1957.

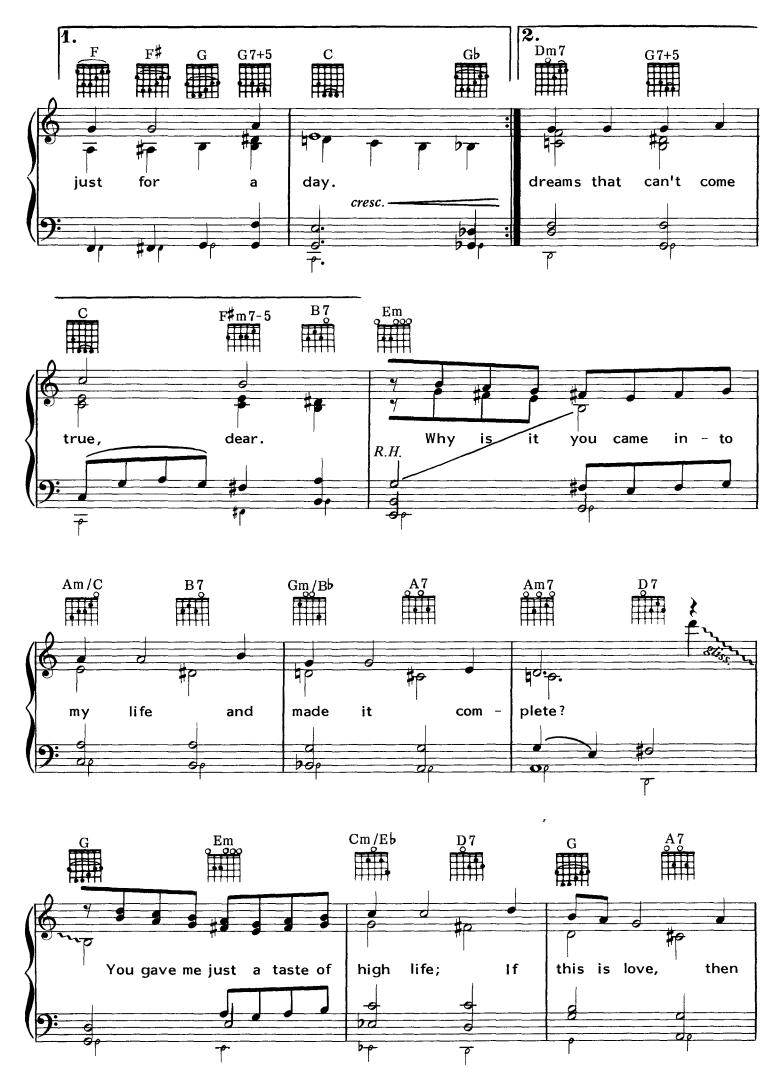


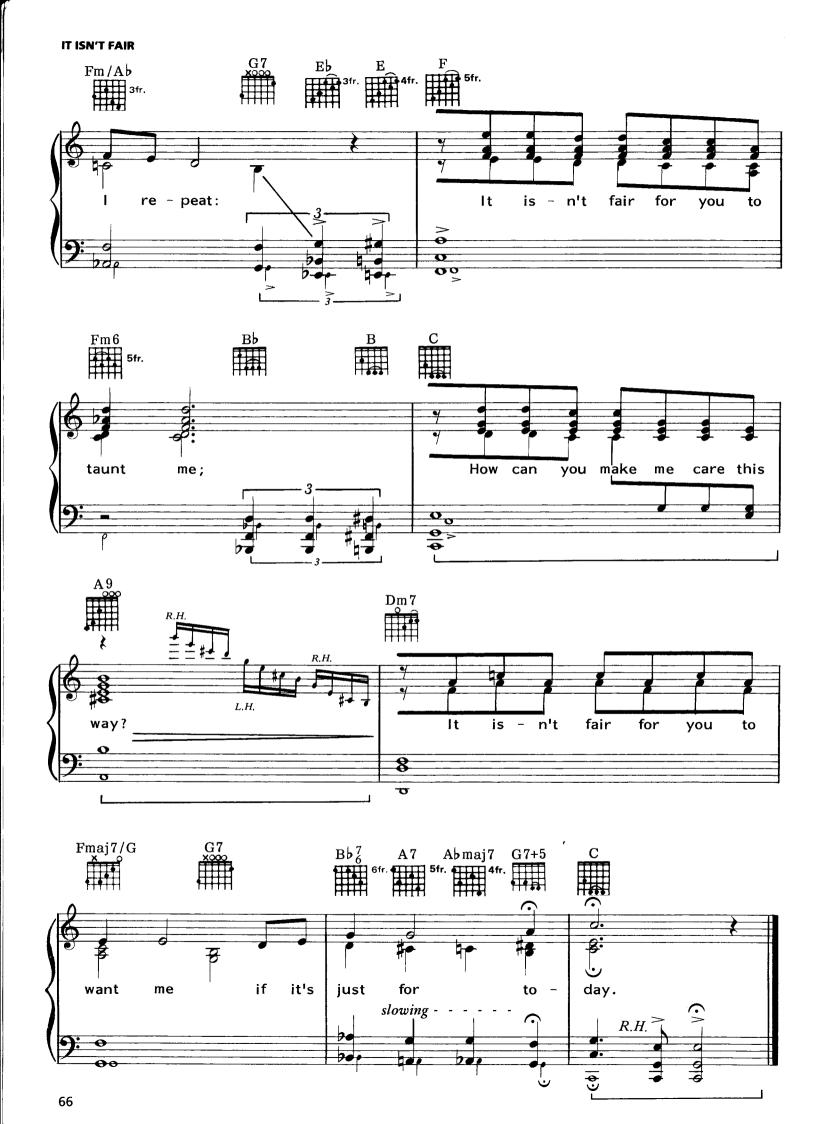




Words by Richard Himber; Music by Frank Warshauer and Sylvester Sprigato



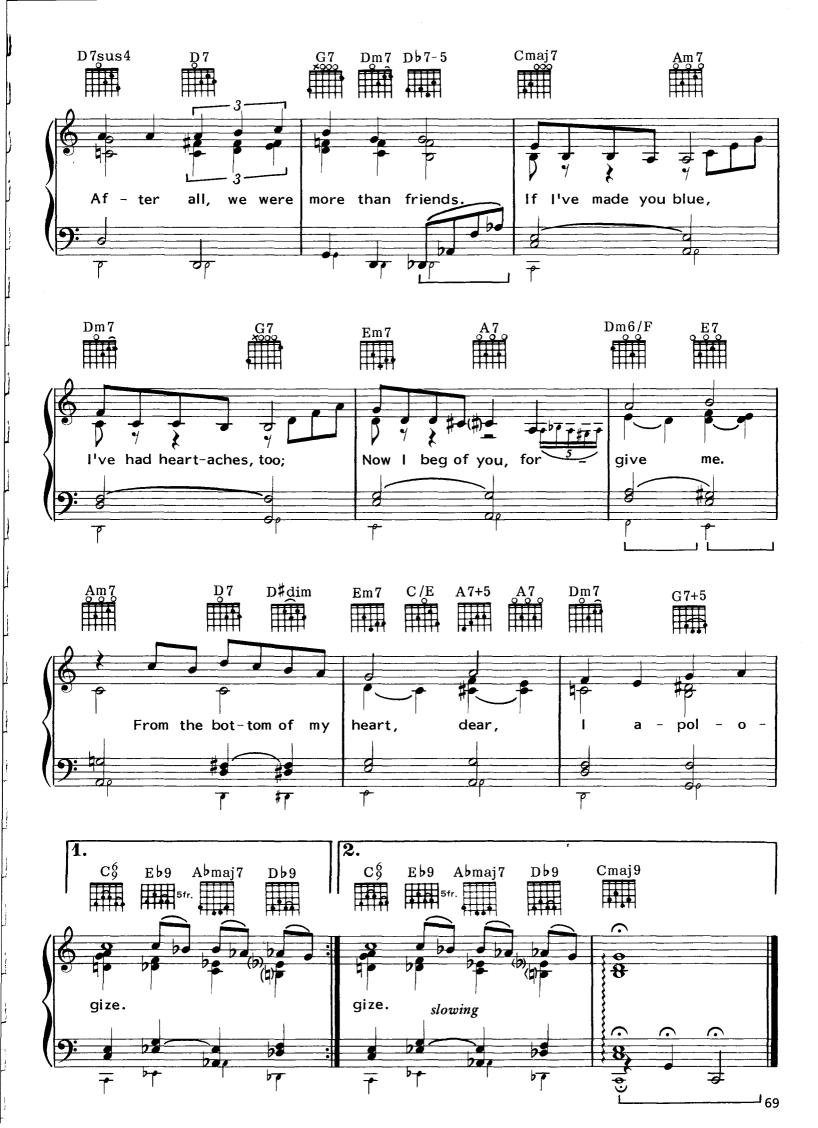


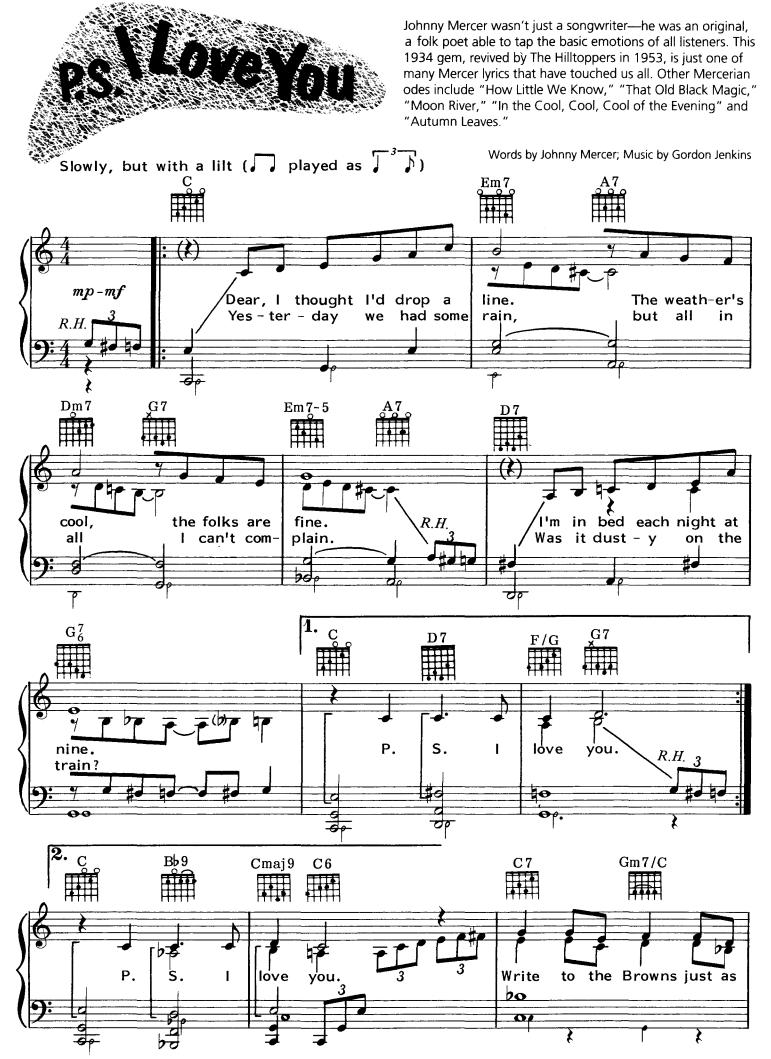


Billy Eckstine—"Mr. B." to his fans—revived this 1931 confection in 1951. Russian-born co-composer Al Hoffman's three decades of hits include "Heartaches," "Mairzy Doats," "Takes Two to Tango," "Papa Loves Mambo" and "If I Knew You Were Comin' (I'd've Baked a Cake)."











FaScillation .



This old favorite began life in Europe in 1904 as a valse tzigane, a waltz in gypsy style. It won new fans in 1957 as the sound-track theme for the Audrey Hepburn-Gary Cooper movie Love in the Afternoon and as a chart-topping record by chanteuse Jane Morgan, fresh home from a singing career in France.

Music by F.D. Marchetti; English Words by Dick Manning

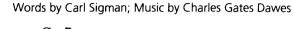






It's All in the Game

Charles Gates Dawes was best known as Calvin Coolidge's vice-president in the '20s and cowinner of the 1925 Nobel Peace Prize. Earlier, in 1912, while working as a banker in Chicago, he wrote the melody that, with a lyric by Carl Sigman, became this favorite, a hit twice in the '50s for singer Tommy Edwards (in 1951 and again in 1958).











Graceful waltz

AND BEADS

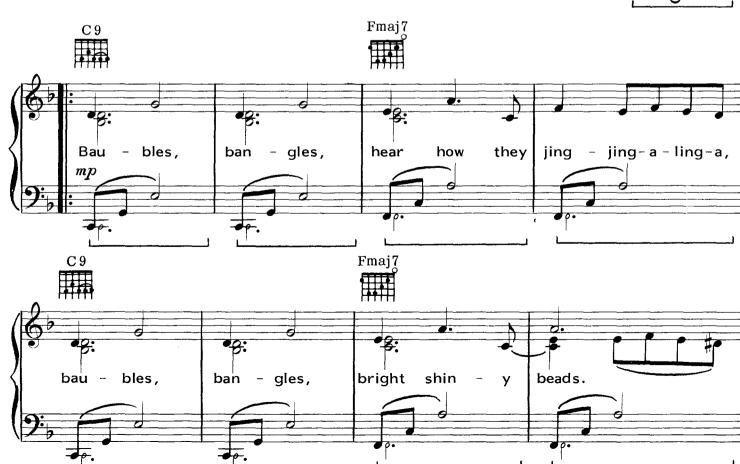
Like the rest of the music from Robert Wright and George Forrest's 1953
Broadway hit *Kismet*, "Baubles, Bangles and Beads" is drawn from the works of Alexander Borodin (1833-87). (The lovely melody is an only slightly altered version of the scherzo from the Russian composer's String Quartet No. 2 in D.)
The song became a hit for veteran jazz trumpeter Jonah Jones, who recorded it over a shuffle rhythm in 1957 and came up with a successor to his earlier best-seller from Broadway, "On the Street Where You Live."



from Kismet

Words and Music by Robert Wright and George Forrest; based on a theme by Alexander Borodin





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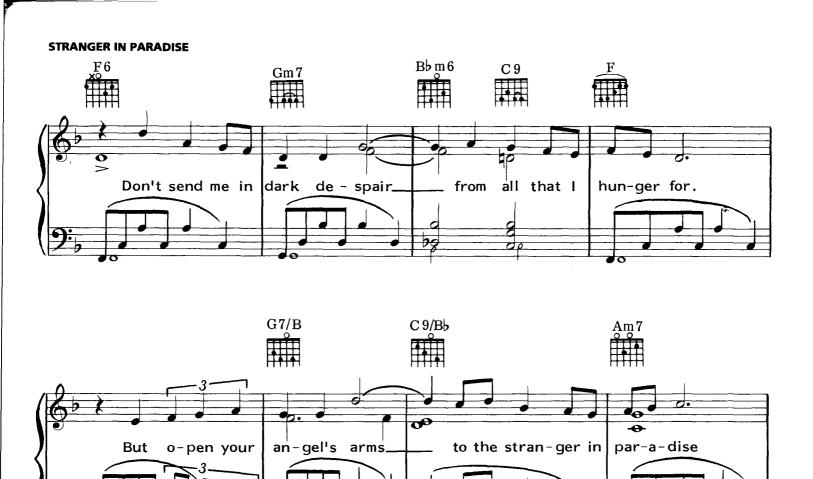


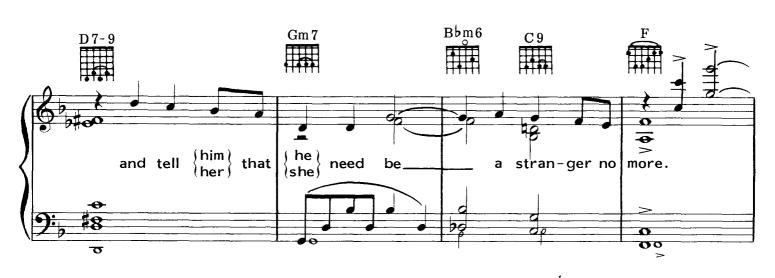


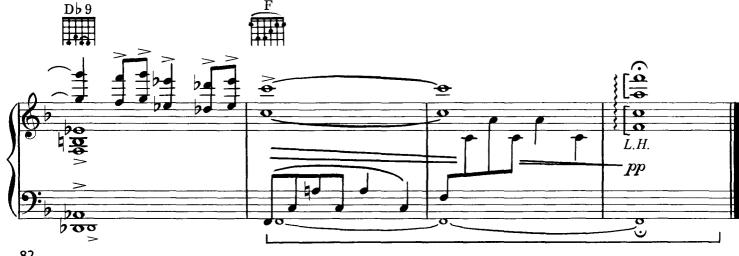
The musical Arabian Night that is *Kismet* takes place in long-ago Baghdad over the course of a day. This beauty from the show is one of the "Polovetsian Dances" found in Alexander Borodin's opera *Prince Igor*. It provided a best-selling recording for the young Tony Bennett in 1953.

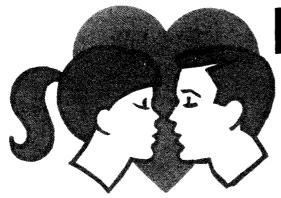






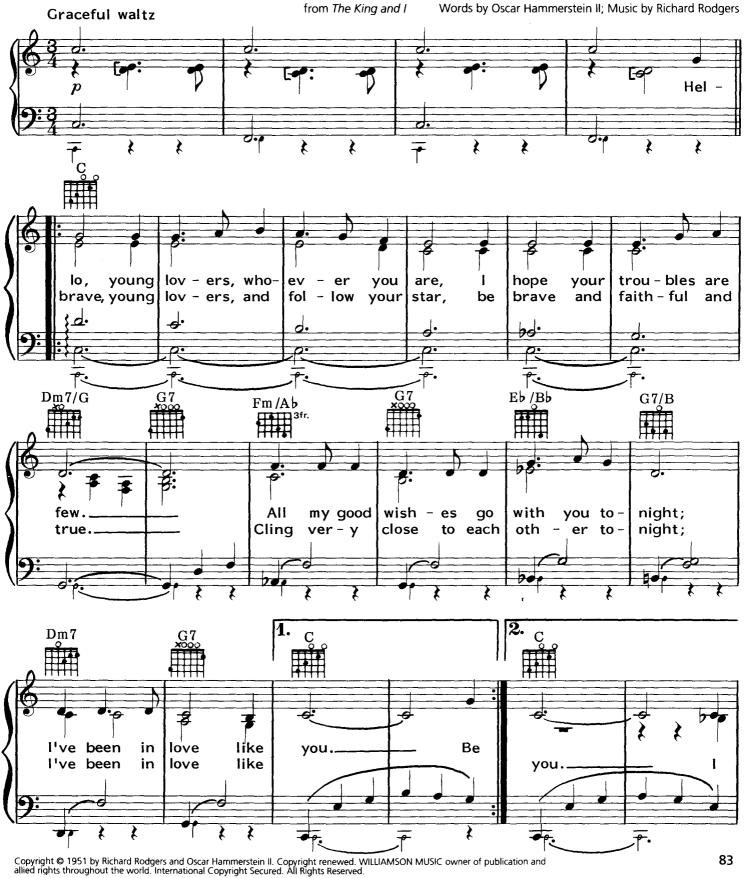




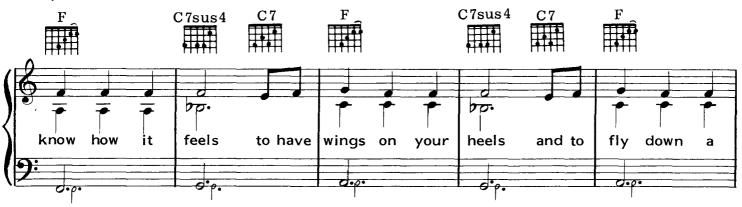


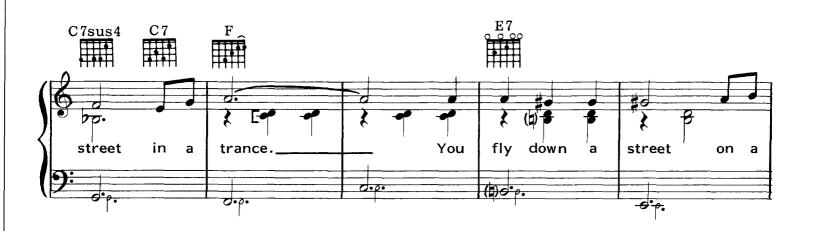
Hello, Young Lovers

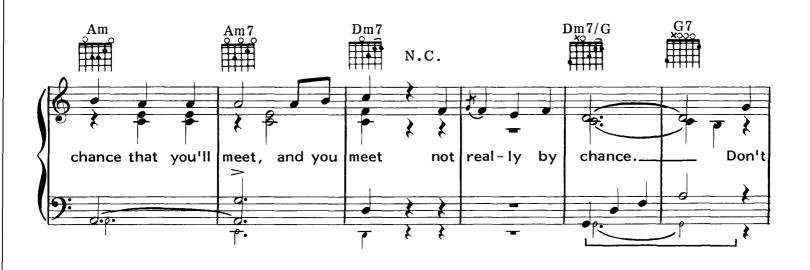
The 19th-century novel Anna and the King of Siam, based on Anna Leonowens' diaries, The English Governess at the Siamese Court, was in turn the basis for Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1951 Broadway hit The King and I. In this song, the English schoolmistress tries to tell the ladies of the King's court of the happiness she shared with her late husband.





















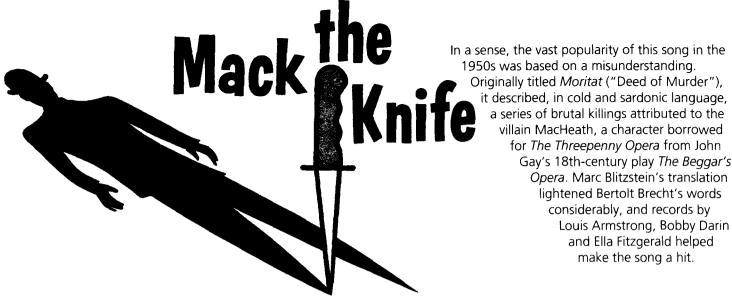
"What's wrong with sweetness and light? They've been around quite awhile." The question was asked by Richard Rodgers and the philosophy it reflects applies perfectly to this title song from his final collaboration with Oscar Hammerstein II. Since its 1959 debut, *The Sound of Music* has been the most durable—and most popular—of their shows. In Hammerstein's words, "Sentiment has never been unpopular."

The Sound of Music







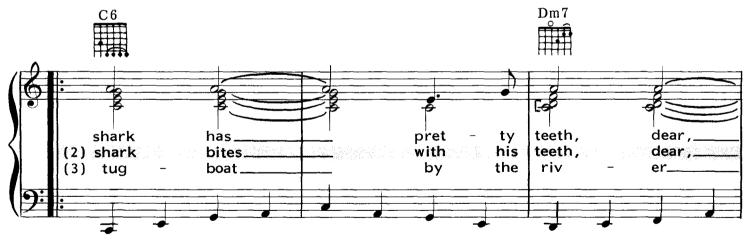


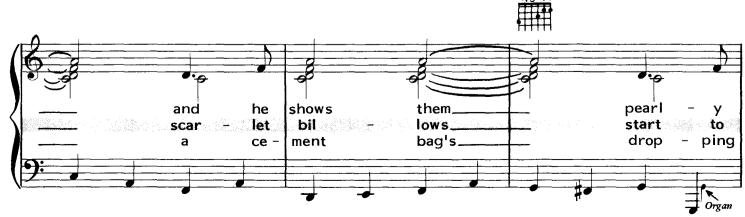
from The Threepenny Opera

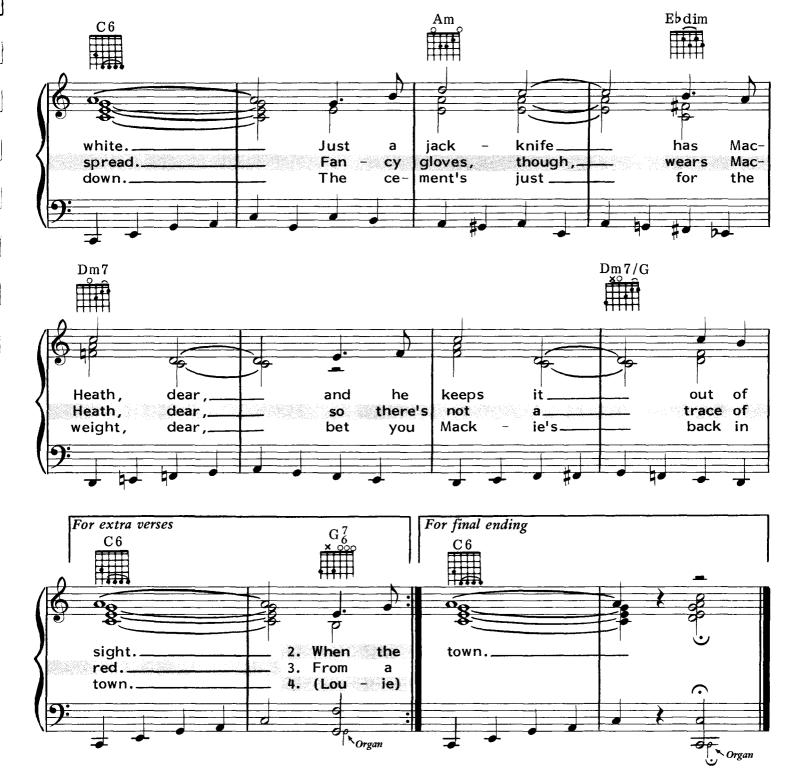
German Words by Bertolt Brecht; English Words by Marc Blitzstein; Music by Kurt Weill

Dm7/G



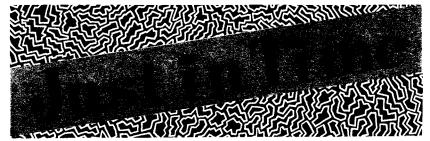






ADDITIONAL WORDS

- 4. (Louie) Miller disappeared, dear, After drawing out his cash. And MacHeath spends like a sailor. Did our boy do something rash?
- 5. On the sidewalk Sunday morning Lies a body oozing life. Someone's sneaking round the corner. Is the someone Mack the Knife?
- 6. Sukey Tawdry, Jenny Diver, Polly Peachum, Lucy Brown. Oh, the line forms on the right, dear, Now that Mackie's back in town.



Judy Holliday kept insisting she couldn't sing—but Jule Styne and her old friends Betty Comden and Adolph Green wrote the 1956 musical *Bells Are Ringing* as a vehicle for her anyway. The show was a hit, "Just in Time" a highlight—and a favorite with society dance bands ever after.

from Bells Are Ringing

Words by Betty Comden and Adolph Green; Music by Jule Styne

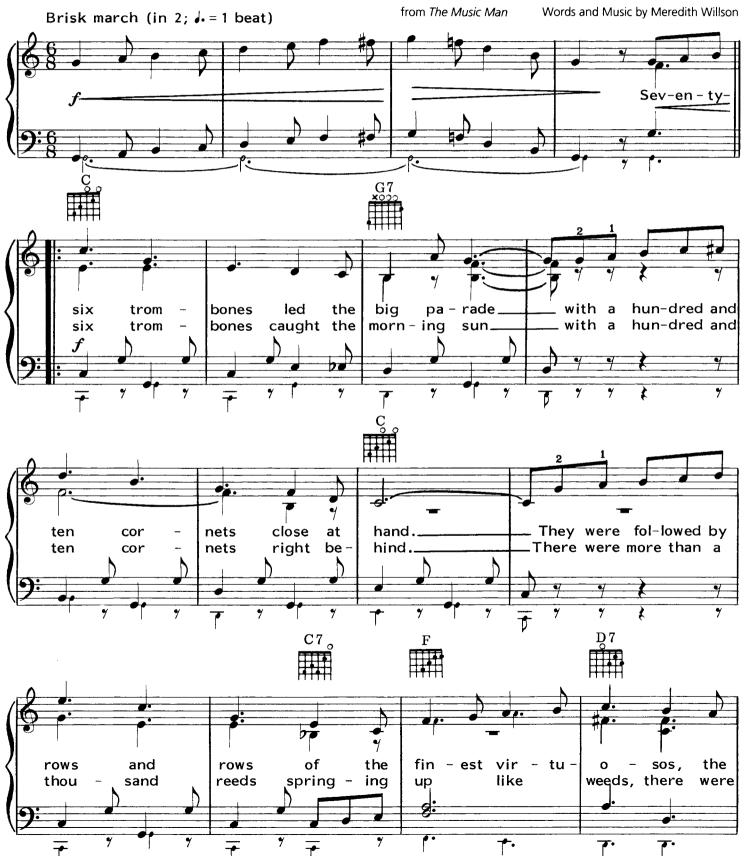




SEVENTY-SIX TROMBONES

Meredith Willson was his own one-man band—composer, librettist and lyricist—for *The Music Man*, the Broadway smash of 1957, and this strutting march was the show-stopper. In conceiving the musical, Willson drew on his own boyhood in Mason City, lowa. "I didn't have to make anything up," he said. "All I had to do was remember."











I've Never Been in Love Before

The world of Damon Runyon—dames and gamblers, grifters and punks—begged to be made into a musical. Frank Loesser did just that in 1950 with the incomparable *Guys and Dolls*. This delightful song frames the romance between Salvation Army worker Miss Sarah Brown (Isabel Bigley on Broadway; Jean Simmons in the film) and Broadway sport Sky Masterson (Robert Alda; Marlon Brando).







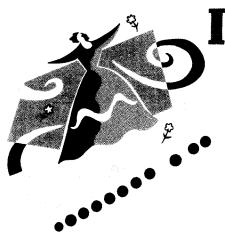
Mr. Wonderful was a 1956 Broadway show that starred the ebullient Sammy Davis, Jr., as a songand-dance man who plies his trade in Union City, New Jersey. He's finally convinced to cross the river to New York City, where he becomes a nightclub star. Olga James, playing Sammy's girlfriend, sang this lovely title theme to him. Other singers picked the song up, and Teddi King, Sarah Vaughan and Peggy Lee all had hits with it. Another tune from the show that you'll remember: "Too Close for Comfort."







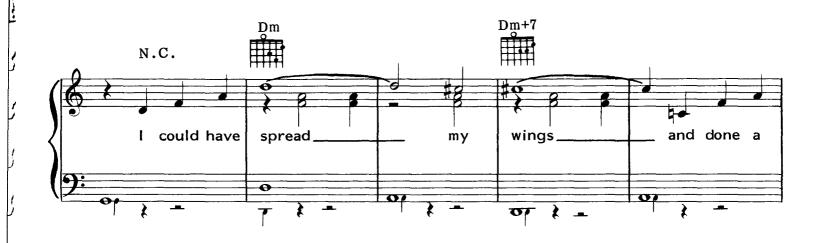


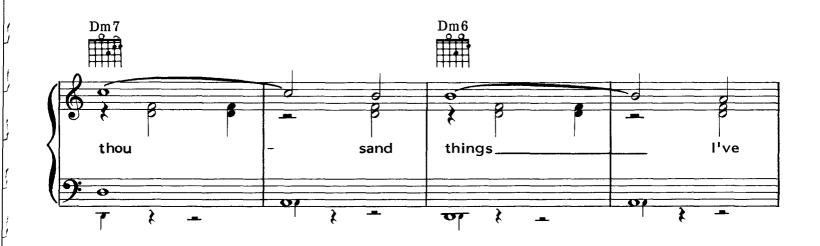


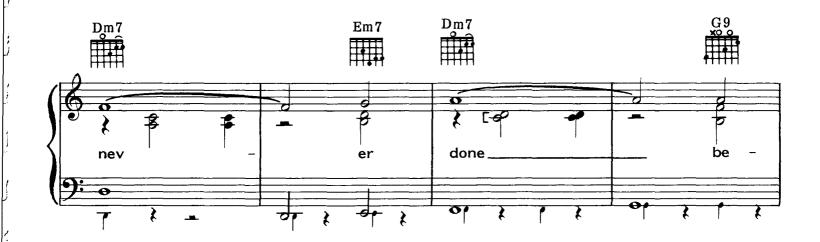
Could Have Danced All Night

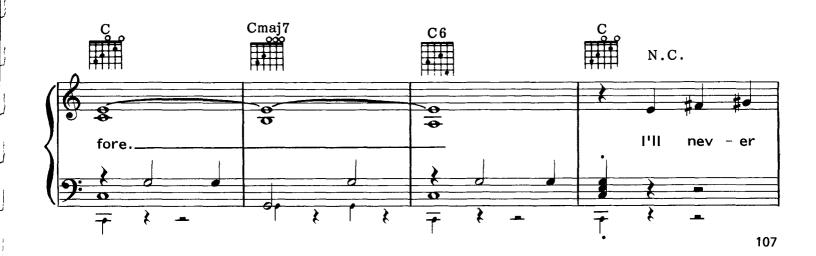
Who, having seen My Fair Lady, can forget cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle, blossoming as a lady, expressing her delight in this unforgettable song? Julie Andrews was Eliza on Broadway; Audrey Hepburn (Marni Nixon supplied her singing voice), in the film version. An interesting sidelight: Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein were the first to try to turn George Bernard Shaw's play Pygmalion into a musical. They gave the project up, leaving it to Alan Jay Lerner and Fritz Loewe.



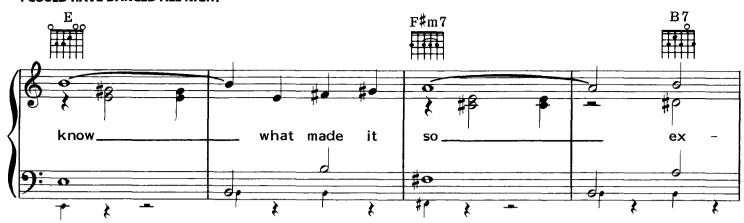


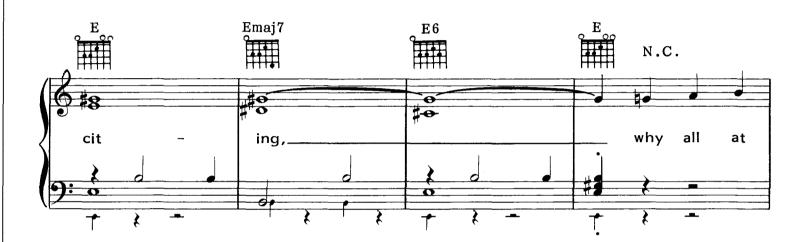


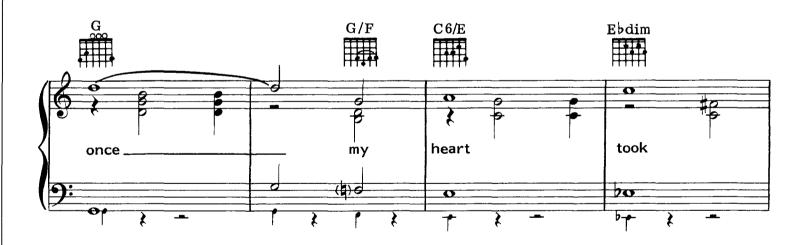


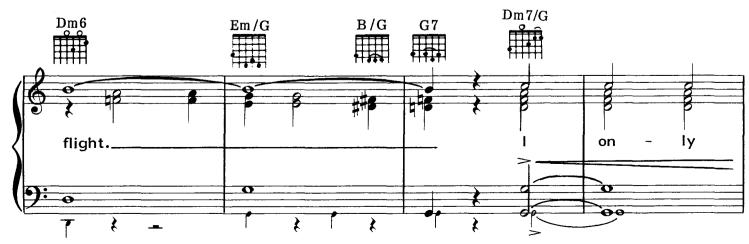


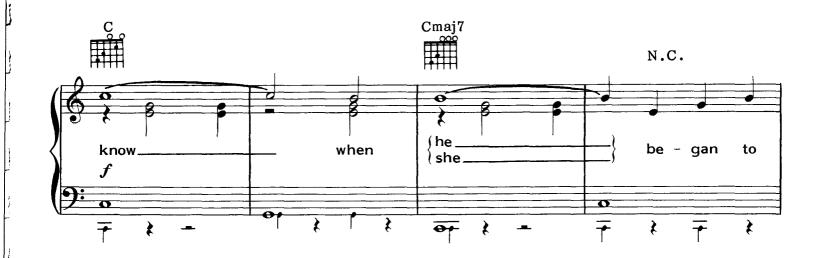
I COULD HAVE DANCED ALL NIGHT

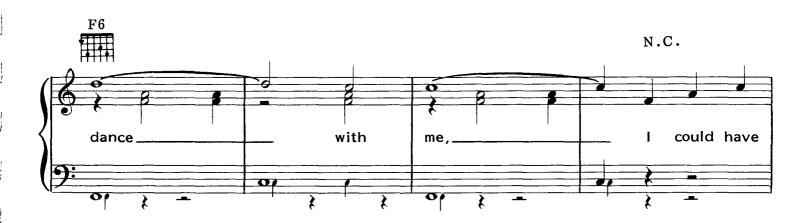


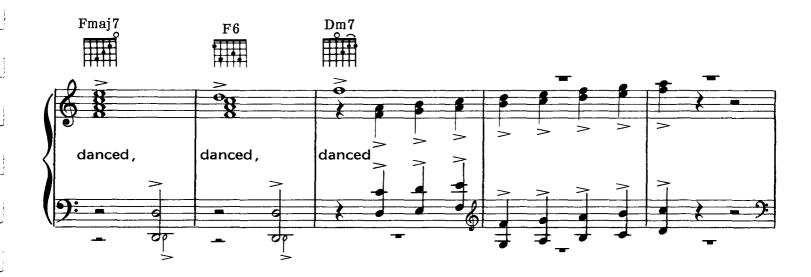


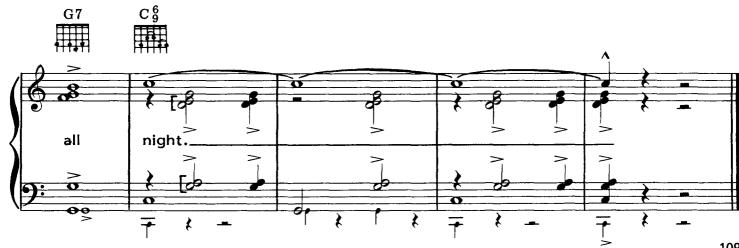










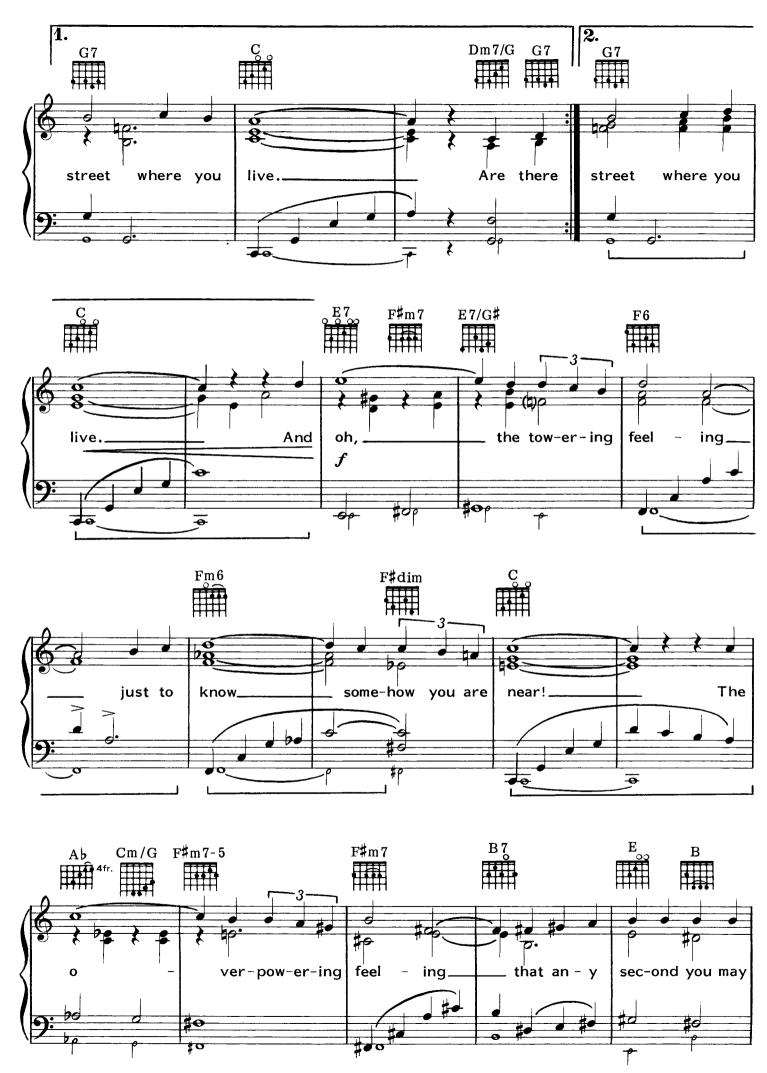




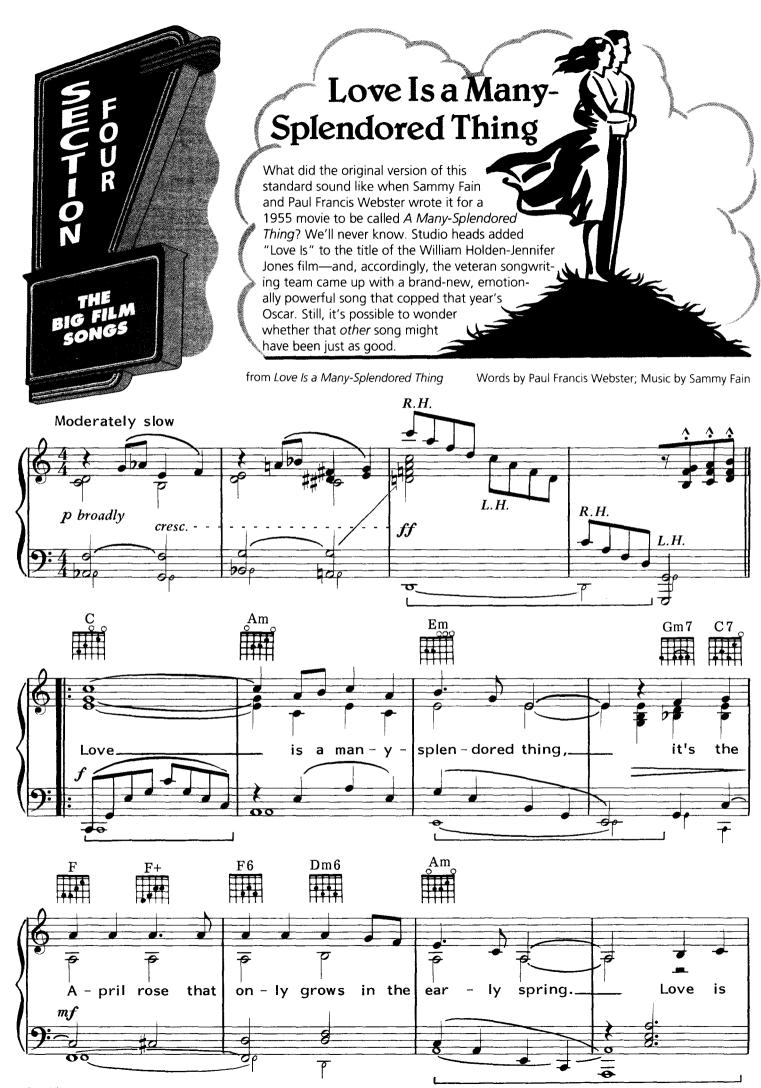
On the Street Where You Live

My Fair Lady's biggest show-stopper and only out-and-out love song began life as a non-starter. When out-of-town audiences greeted it in silence, composer Fritz Loewe demanded it be dropped. Lyricist Alan Jay Lerner disagreed. After the long middle section was replaced with an explanatory verse, "On the Street Where You Live" brought the house down every night. Balladeer Vic Damone's recording was a million-seller, followed close behind by Jonah Jones's jumping version.

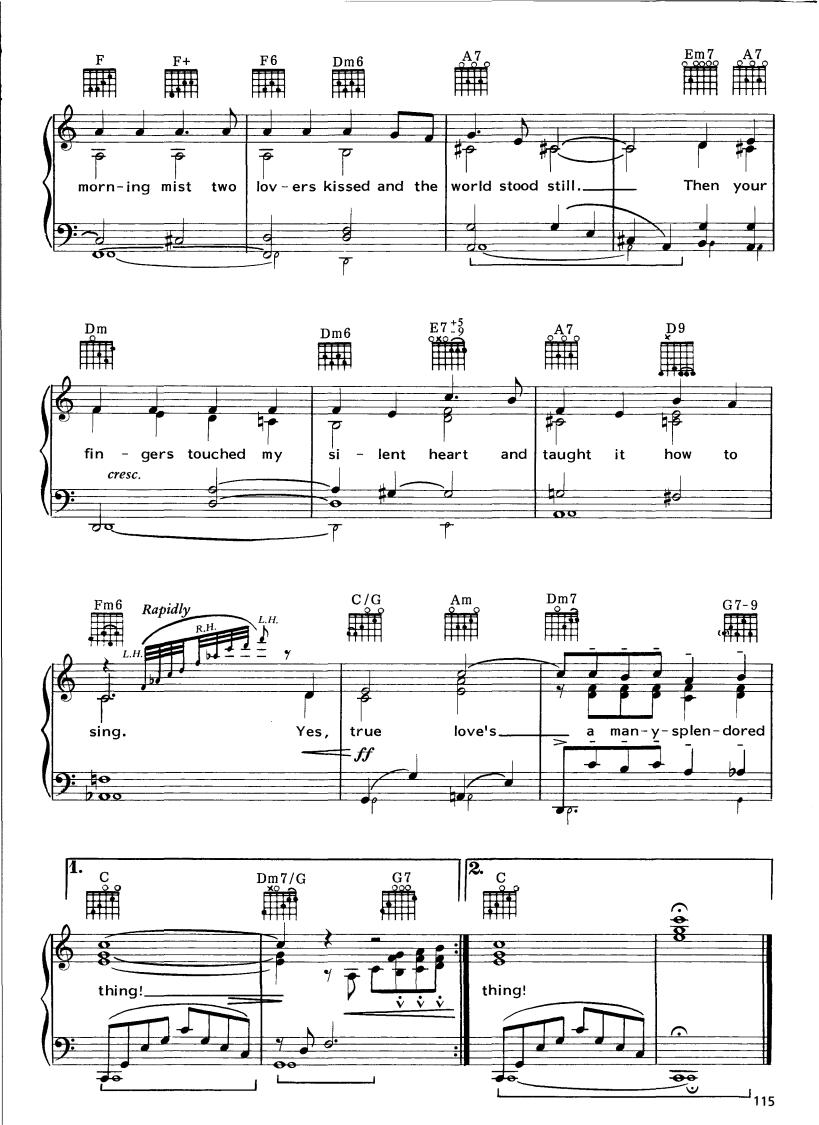














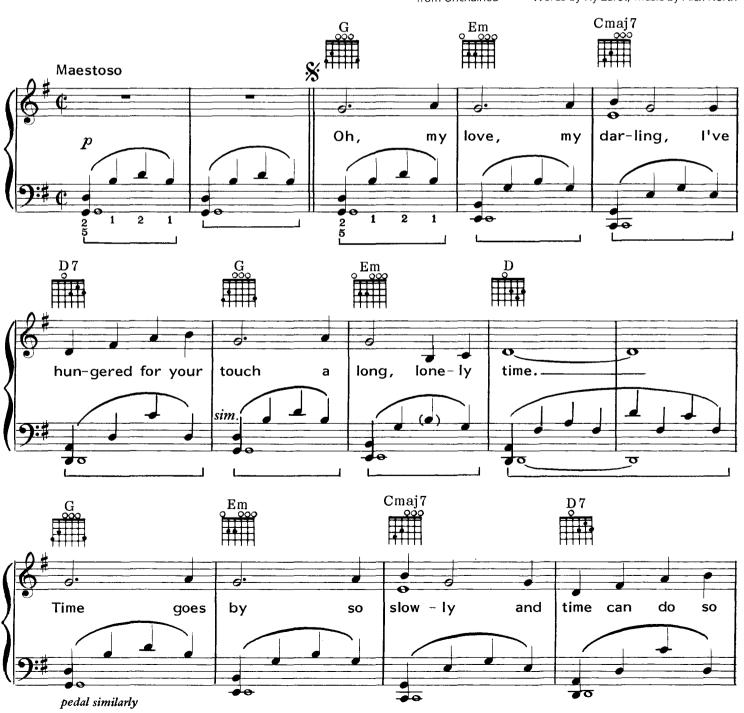


UNCHAINED MELODY

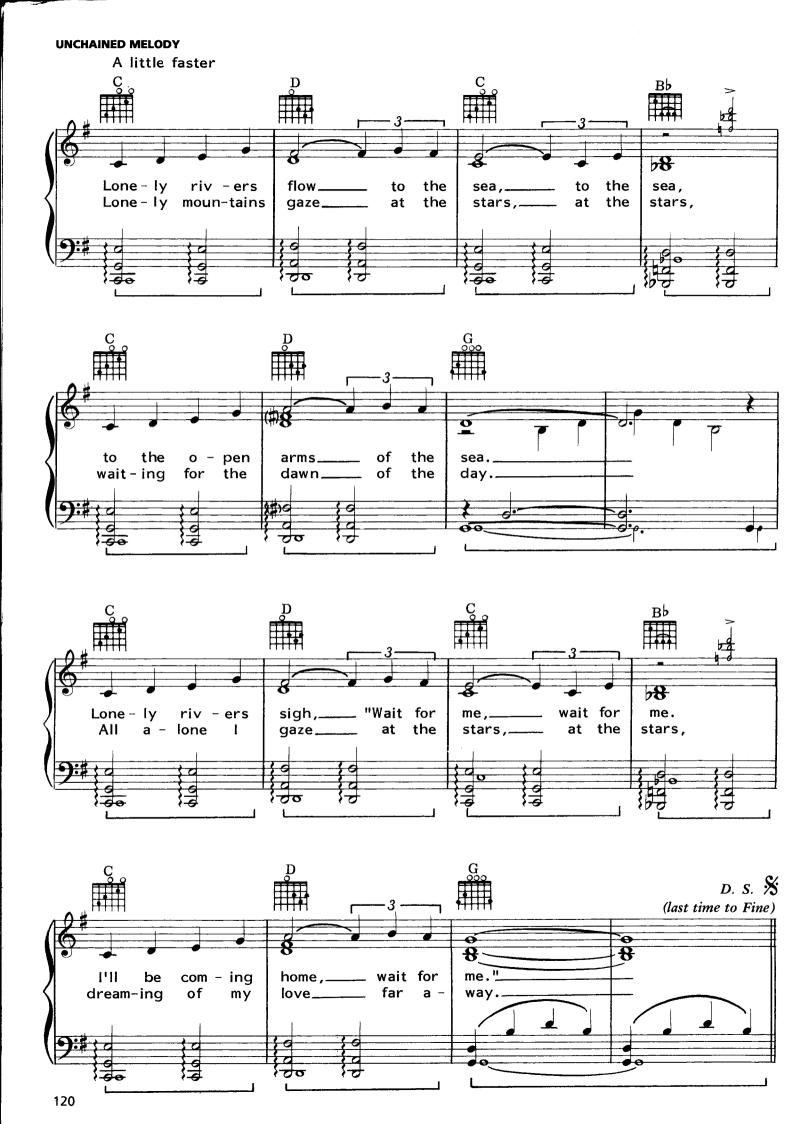
As is so often the case, this theme from the 1955 movie *Unchained* far outlasted the film in which it appeared. It's the work of Alex North, best known as sound-track composer for *A Streetcar Named Desire, Death of a Salesman, The Member of the Wedding* and *The Misfits*. Les Baxter's lushly scored instrumental version made the charts, as did vocal recordings (with Hy Zaret's lyrics) by both Roy Hamilton and Al Hibbler. "Unchained Melody" scored again in 1990 when The Righteous Brothers sang it on the sound track of the movie *Ghost*.

from Unchained

Words by Hy Zaret; Music by Alex North





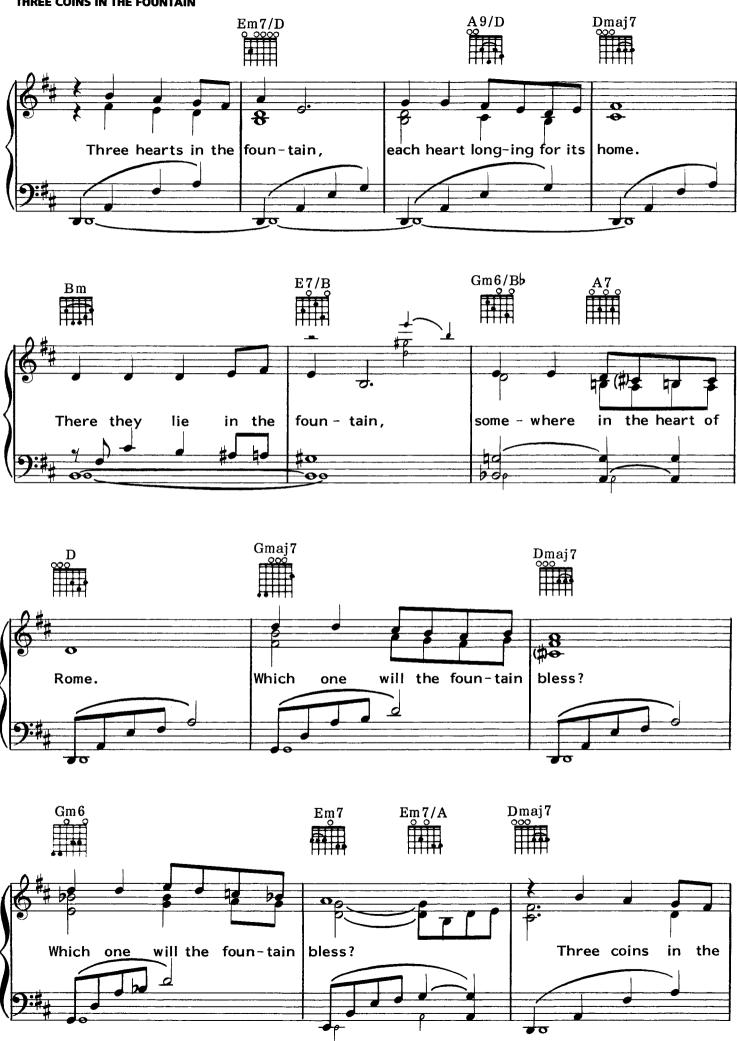


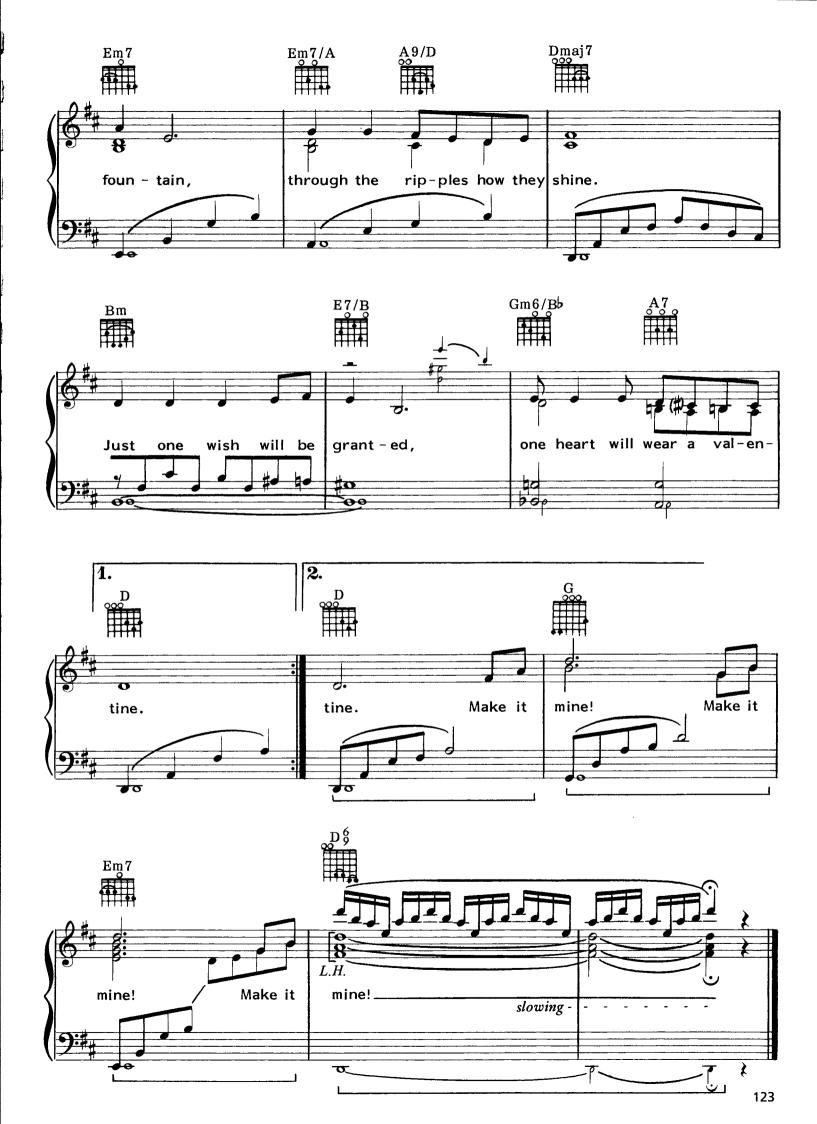
Coins in the Fountain

Immortalized by Italian classical composer Ottorino Respighi as one of his four Fountains of Rome, the ornate Fountain of Trevi carries a legend: whoever throws a coin into its waters will someday return to the Eternal City. The myth inspired both the 1954 romantic film and its Academy Award-winning title song, sung on the sound track by Frank Sinatra.



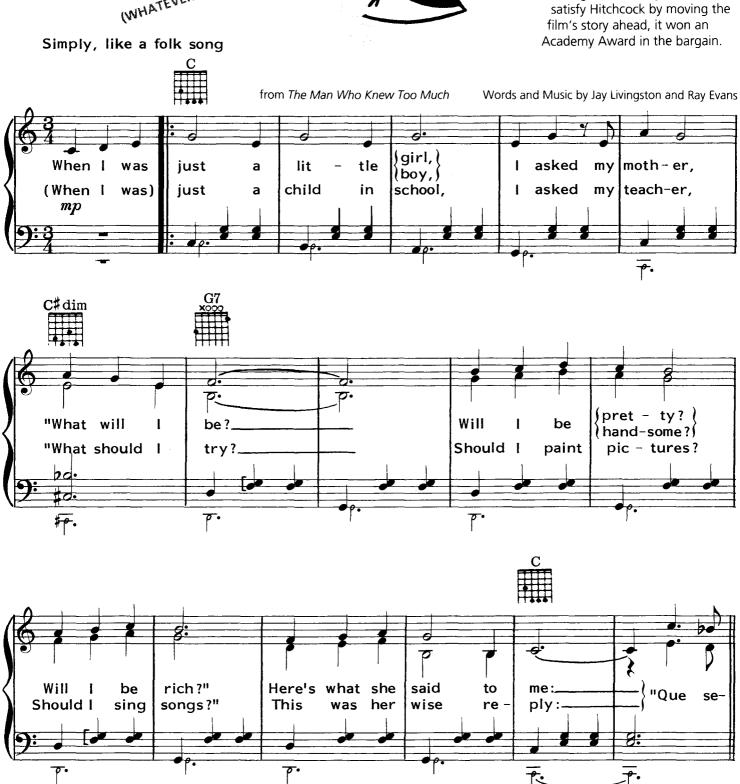
THREE COINS IN THE FOUNTAIN







When Alfred Hitchcock remade his 1934 suspense thriller *The Man Who Knew Too Much* in 1956, he added a few updated touches—including this song, which served as a plot device to enable a mother, played by Doris Day, to communicate with her kidnapped little boy. The lilting melody of "Que Será, Será" is so traditional sounding that it has often been mistaken for a folk song. Not only did Jay Livingston and Ray Evans's tune satisfy Hitchcock by moving the film's story ahead, it won an Academy Award in the bargain.





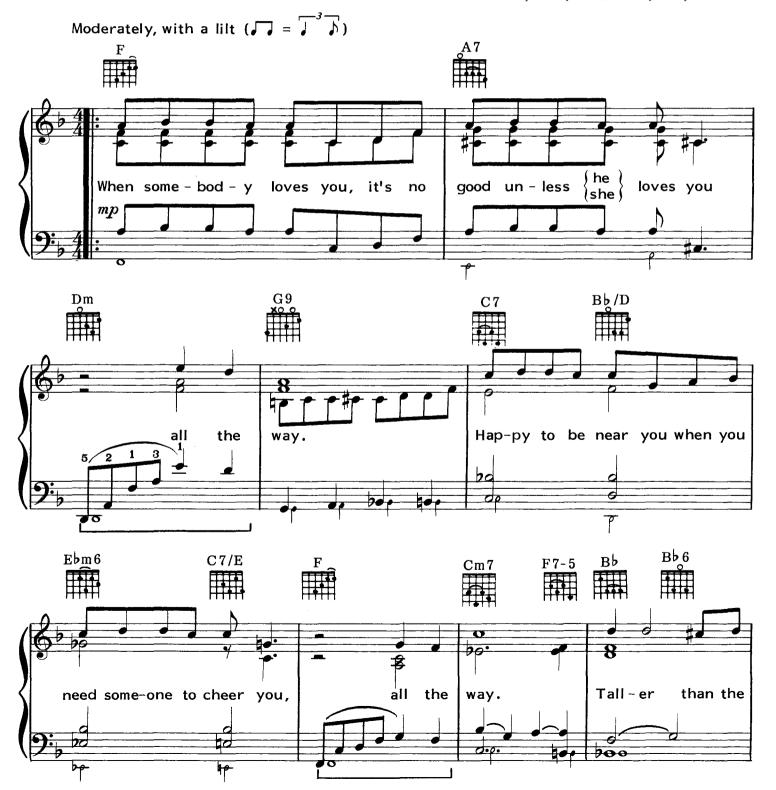


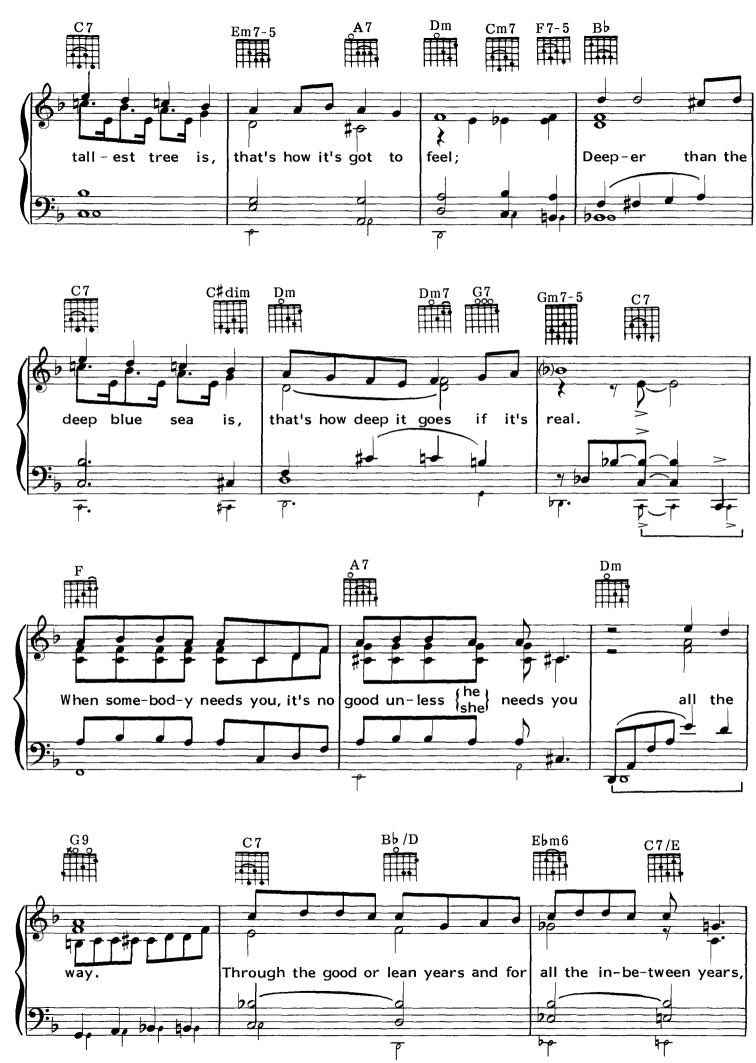
ALLOHE WAY

Anyone who saw the 1957 film *The Joker Is Wild* knows the musical and dramatic importance of the big leap that the melody of this song takes to reach the line "All the way." It's the point at which Frank Sinatra, playing entertainer Joe E. Lewis, loses his voice and breaks down, unable to go on. But even without that connection "All the Way" is a deeply emotional song. It walked off with an Academy Award and has stood handsomely on its own merits ever since.

from The Joker Is Wild

Words by Sammy Cahn; Music by Jimmy Van Heusen





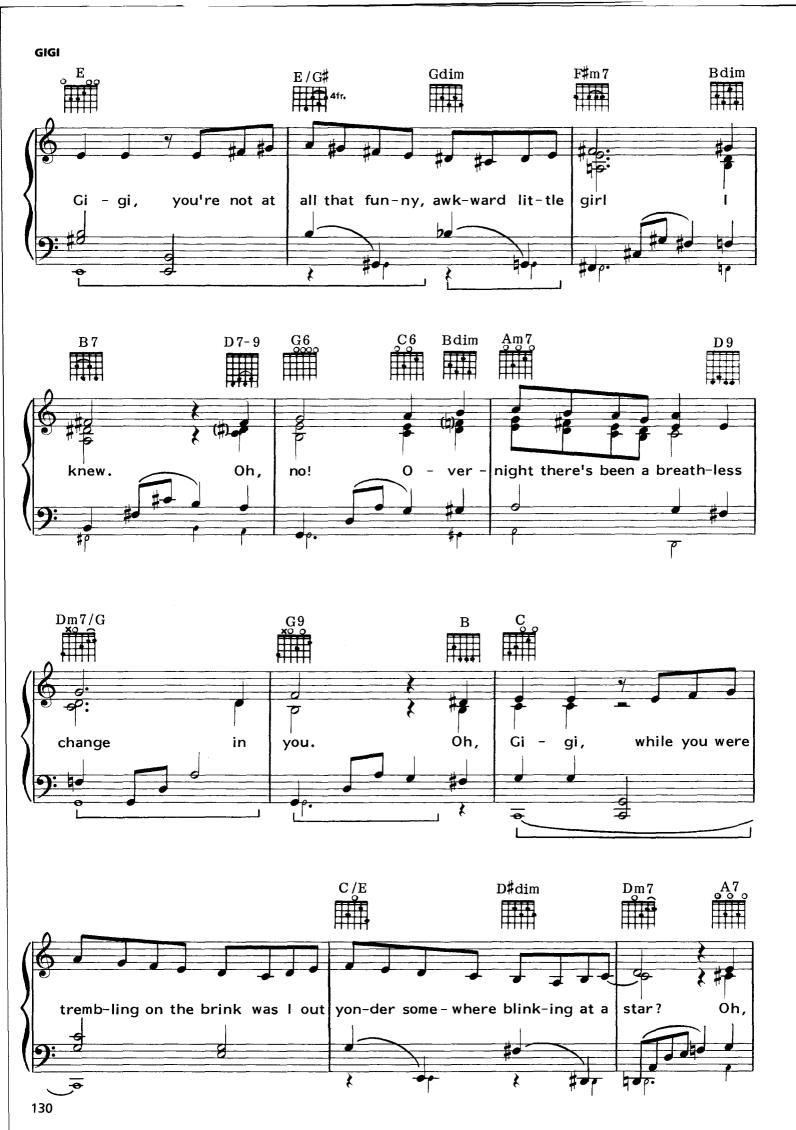


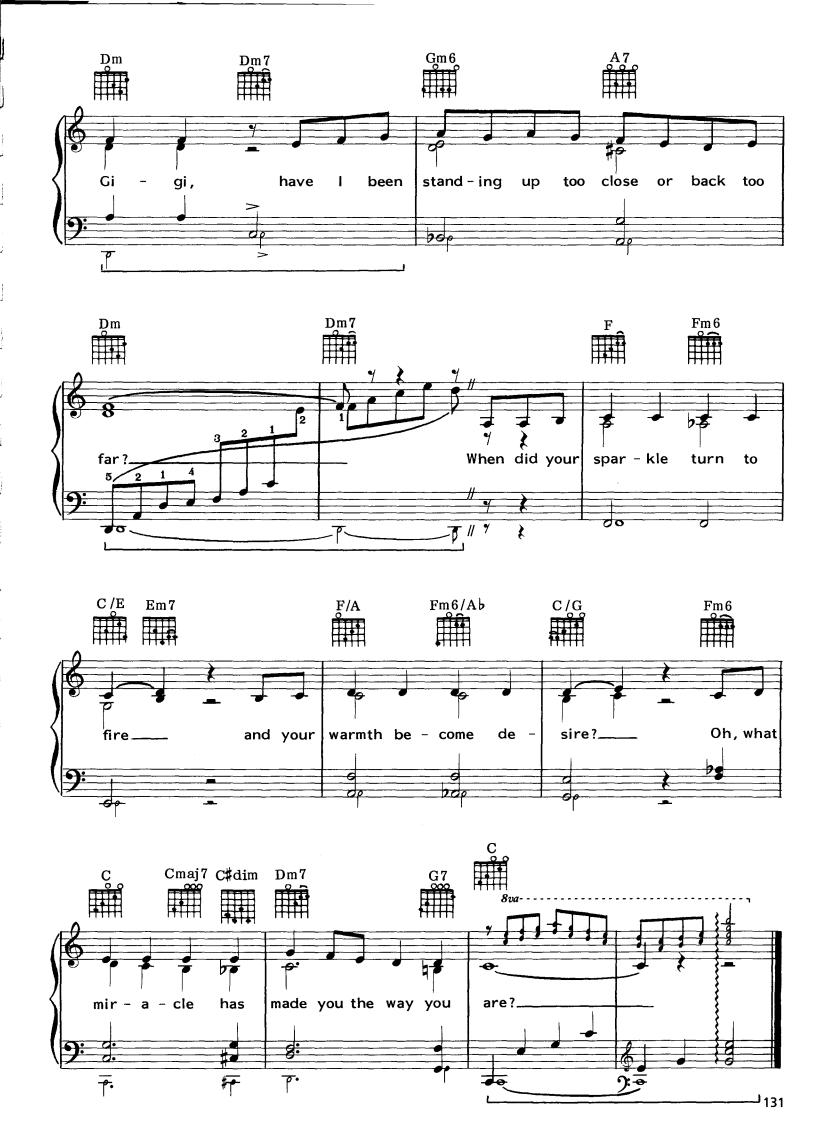
Gigi

Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe were riding high on the success of My Fair Lady when they produced the score for another tale of a young girl's coming of age, the 1958 film Gigi. Drawn from a novel by the French writer Colette, the movie starred Leslie Caron, all gamine charm as the waif who grows into a beautiful woman under the unseeing gaze of Louis Jourdan and grand old man Maurice Chevalier. Gigi won a record-breaking nine Oscars, including one for its beguiling title song.

Moderately slow and somewhat freely







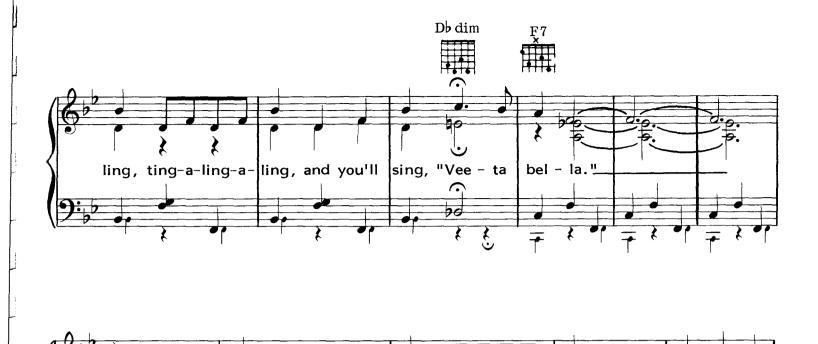


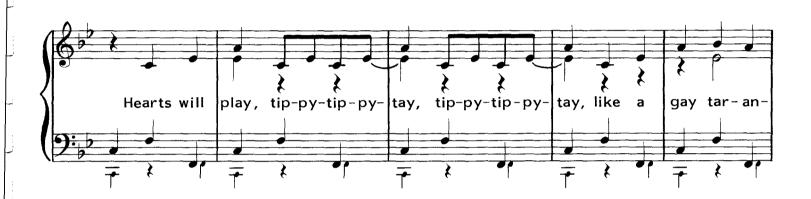
This wistful little song was the centerpiece of *Lili*, the 1953 film that made dancer-turned-actress Leslie Caron a household name for American moviegoers. (Mel Ferrer played the crippled puppeteer who secretly loves the orphaned Lili.) It's said that Helen Deutsch, who wrote the screenplay, was so charmed by Bronislau Kaper's melody that she insisted on writing lyrics to it herself.



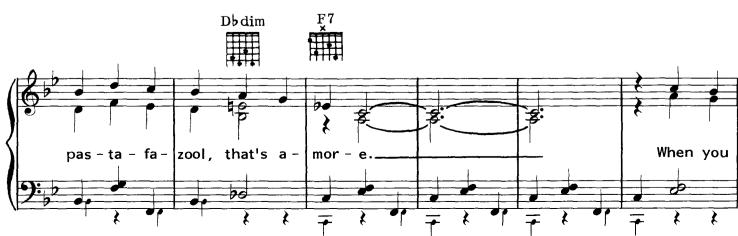












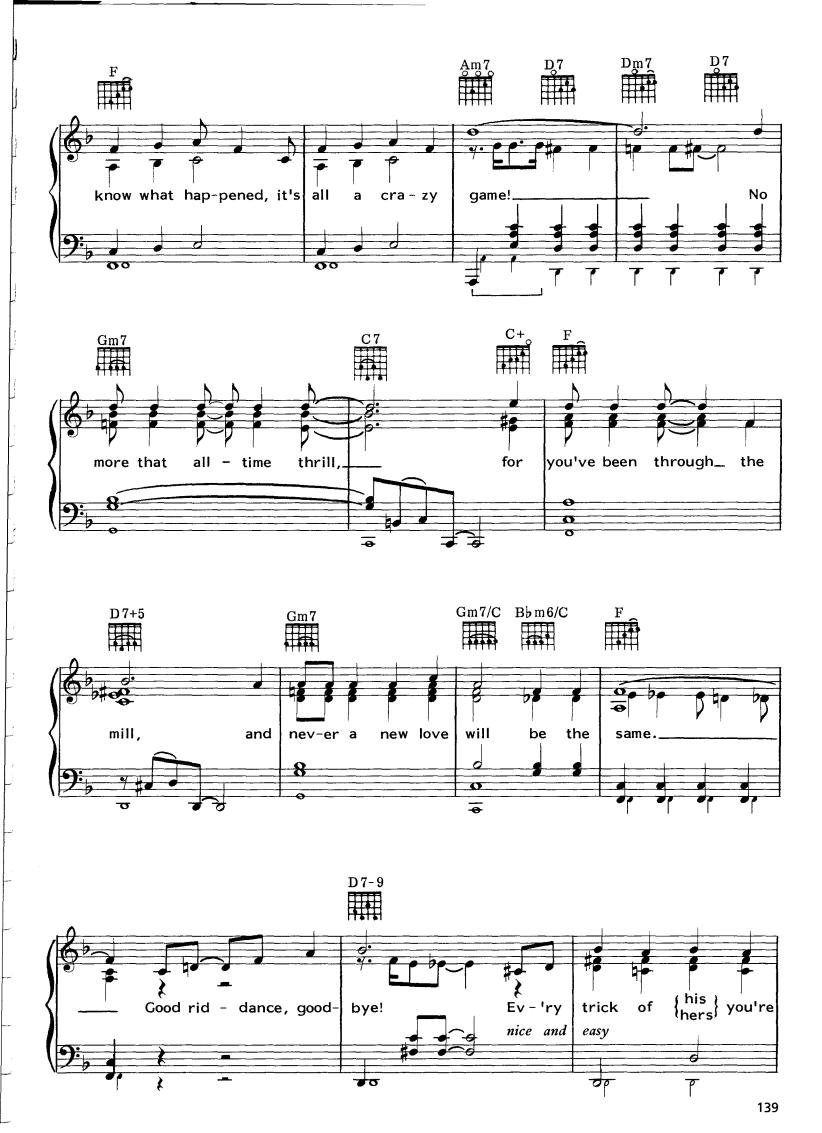


Harold Arlen supplied the two songs most closely associated with Judy Garland. She sang his and E.Y. Harburg's "Over the Rainbow" in *The Wizard of Oz* in 1939. Fifteen years later, Arlen and Ira Gershwin wrote this most supreme of torch songs for Judy to sing in the 1954 film *A Star Is Born*. It was her exclusive property ever after.

The Man That Got Away



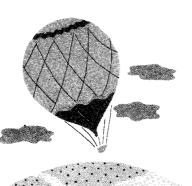




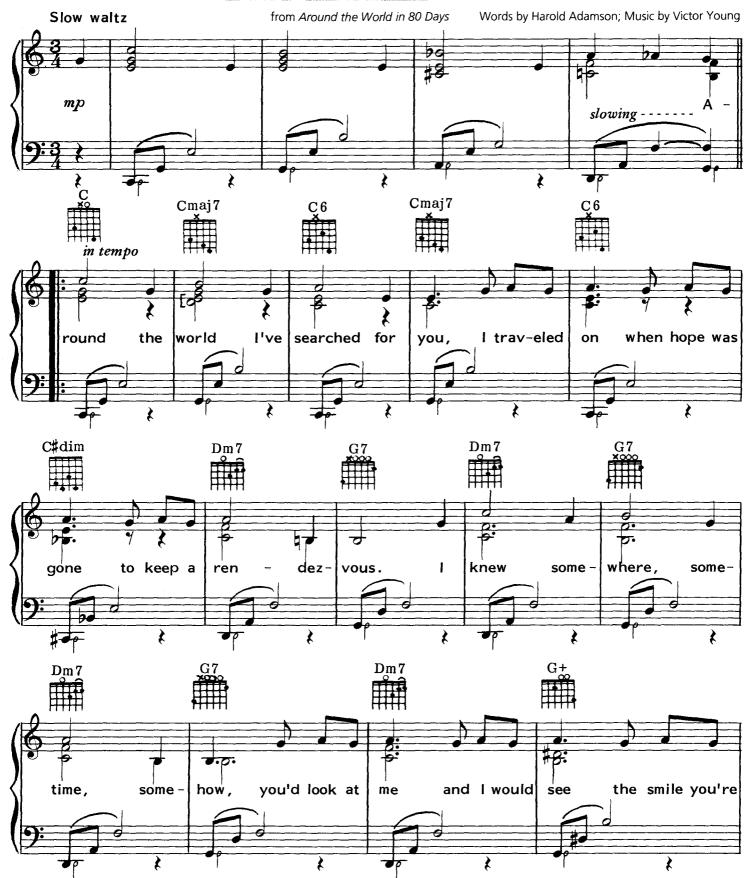




Around the World



With the release of *Around the World in 80 Days* in 1956, master showman Mike Todd realized an abiding dream. He had tried to bring Jules Verne's great novel to the musical stage a decade before, and had flopped badly. Now he had turned it into a blockbuster movie, with 50 stars, 7,959 animals, 74,685 costumes—and one enduring title theme. Composer Victor Young won an Academy Award for the sound-track score, though the song itself wasn't even nominated. It has, however, been a standard ever since.





The Loveliest Night of the Year

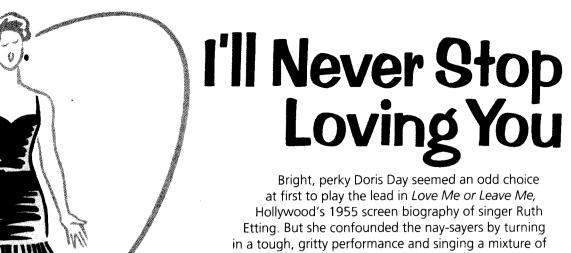
This was one of tenor Mario Lanza's major hits, first in his 1951 movie, *The Great Caruso* (though he didn't sing it in the film; Ann Blyth, playing Mrs. Caruso, did), and again seven years later in *The Seven Hills of Rome* (when he did). Those with long memories might recognize the melody as "Over the Waves," a waltz imported from Mexico, where it was written in 1888 by Juventino Rosas.





THE LOVELIEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR Em7

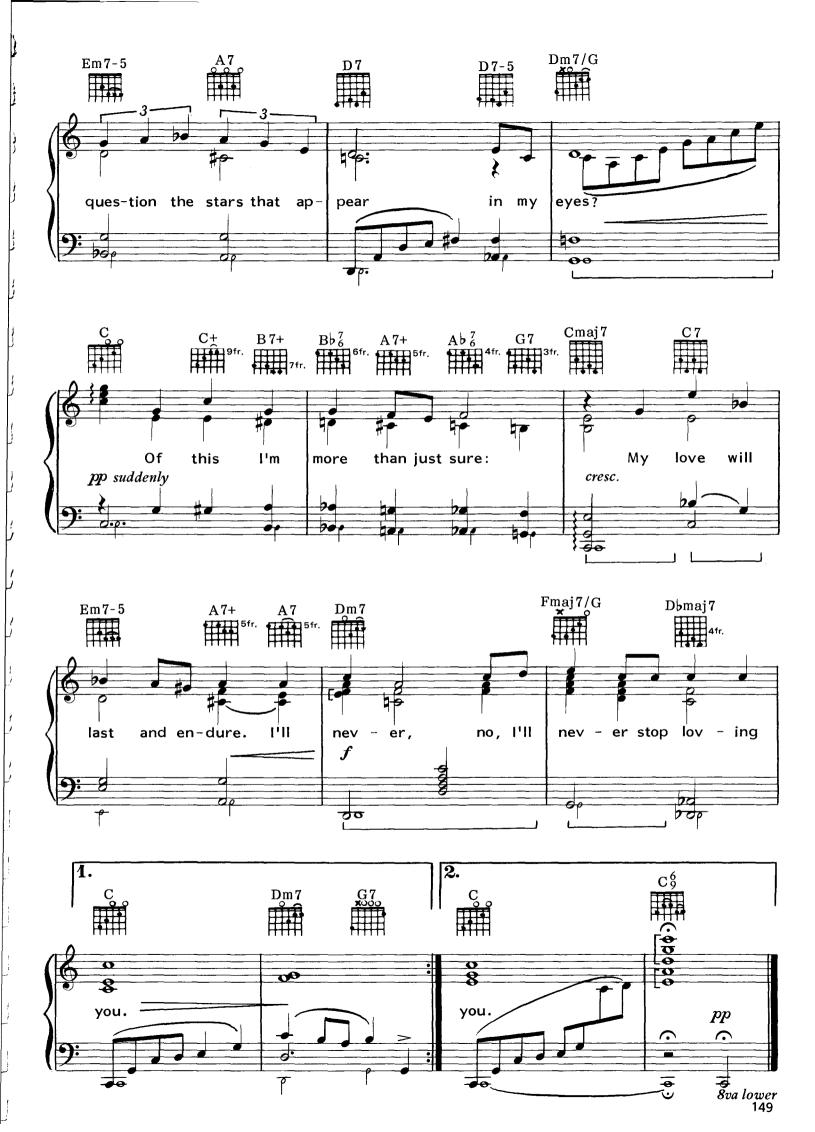




standards and newly written songs such as this one with authority and conviction. Nicholas Brodszky, who wrote the melody of "I'll Never Stop Loving You," is perhaps best known for "Be My Love." Lyricist Sammy Cahn, of course, is a four-time Academy Award-winner ("Three Coins in the Fountain," with Jule Styne, and "All the Way," "Call Me Irresponsible" and "High Hopes," all written with Jimmy Van Heusen).







Inthe Cool, Cool, Cool

This Hoagy Carmichael-Johnny Mercer delight had been slated for a Betty Hutton movie, then dropped, when Bing Crosby got wind of it. At Bing's insistence it was slotted into his 1951 film Here Comes the Groom, among tunes by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans—and walked off with that year's Oscar as Best Film Song.

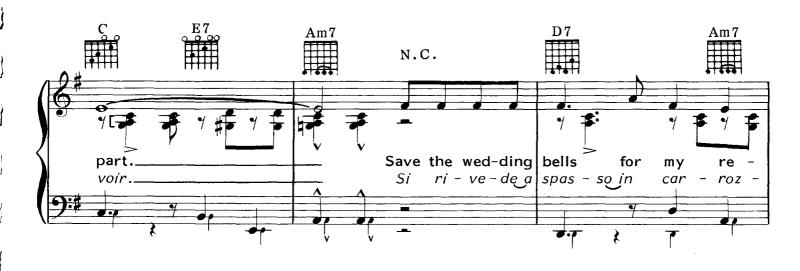


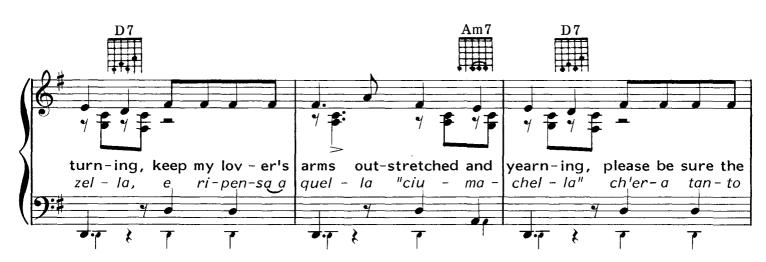


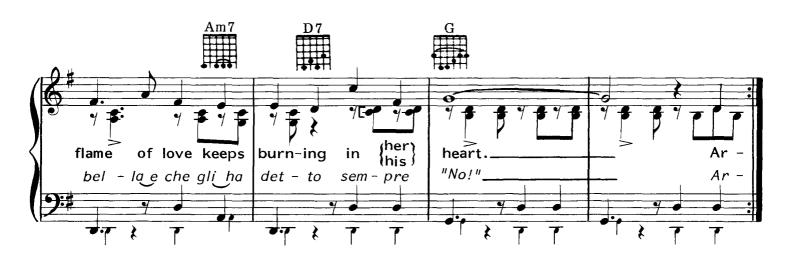


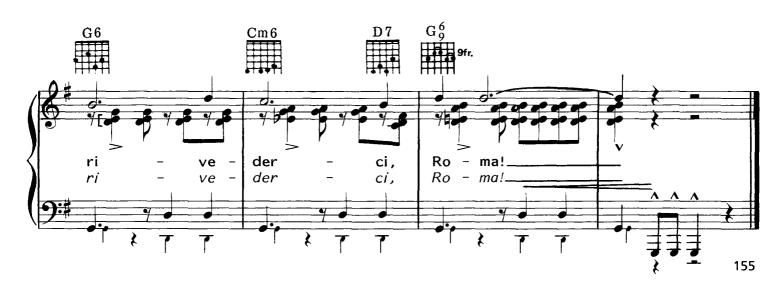


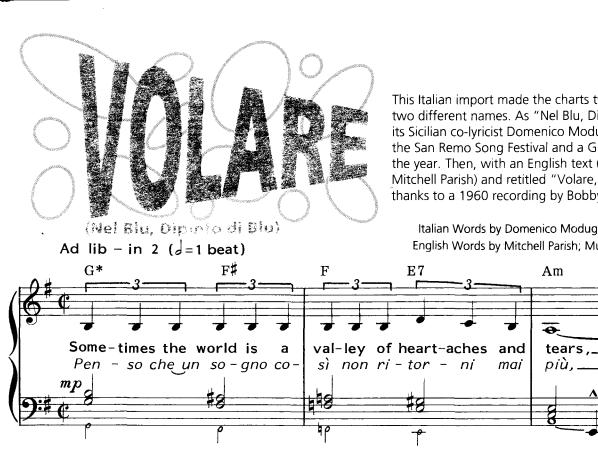












 B_{6}^{7}

This Italian import made the charts twice in two years, under two different names. As "Nel Blu, Dipinto di Blu," sung by its Sicilian co-lyricist Domenico Modugno, it won first prize at the San Remo Song Festival and a Grammy as 1958 song of the year. Then, with an English text (by "Star Dust" lyricist Mitchell Parish) and retitled "Volare," it hit the top again, thanks to a 1960 recording by Bobby Rydell.

Italian Words by Domenico Modugno and Francesco Migliacci; English Words by Mitchell Parish; Music by Domenico Modugno



A7

leave all the shad-ows be-

la - re nel cie-lo jn-fi-

 C_6^7

* Guitar tacet till chorus.

 $\mathbf{B_6^7}$

e <u>i</u>n-co-min-cia-vo a vo-

a way we can

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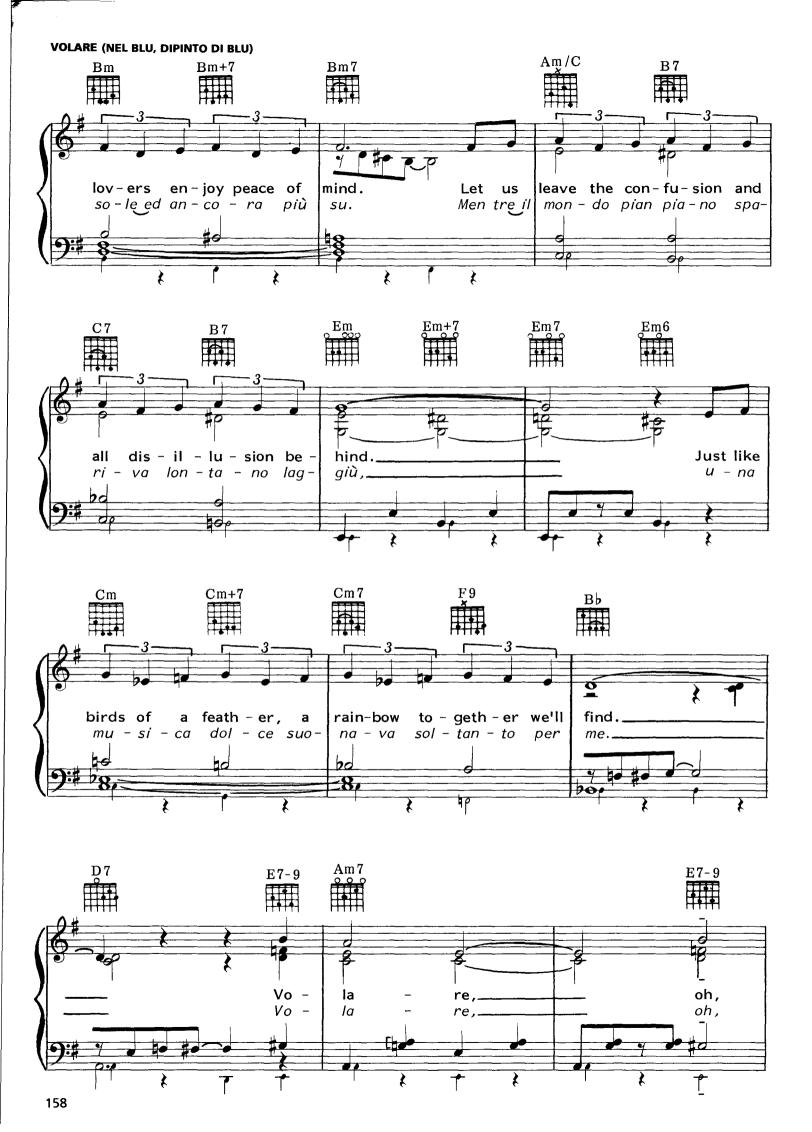
Eb 9+11

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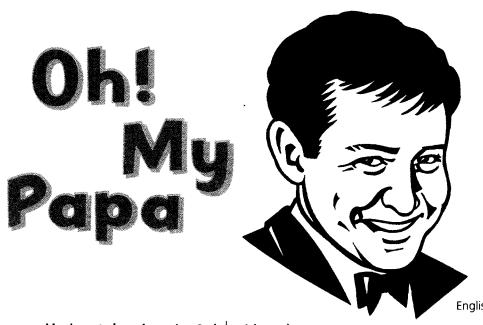
to.

D9



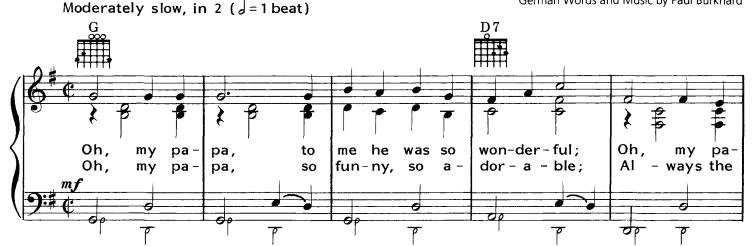


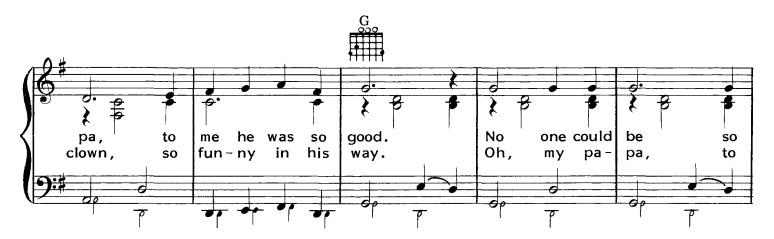


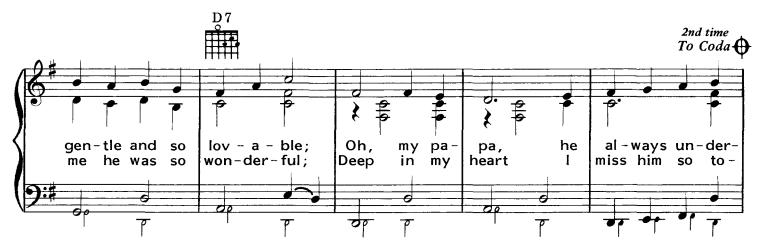


This typically German Schlager, or sentimental pop song, first surfaced as "O Mein Papa" in a late '40s Swiss musical film called Fireworks. English trumpeter Eddie Calvert heard it while on a European tour and recorded it as an instrumental. It did well enough to alert record executives on this side of the Atlantic. Eddie Fisher recorded an English-language version in 1953, adding another million-seller to a list that included "Any Time," "Wish You Were Here" and "I Need You Now."

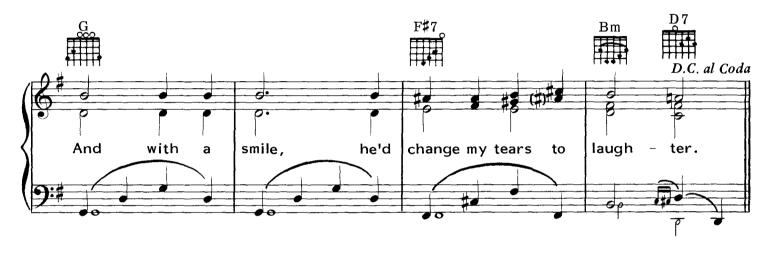
English Words by John Turner and Geoffrey Parsons; German Words and Music by Paul Burkhard

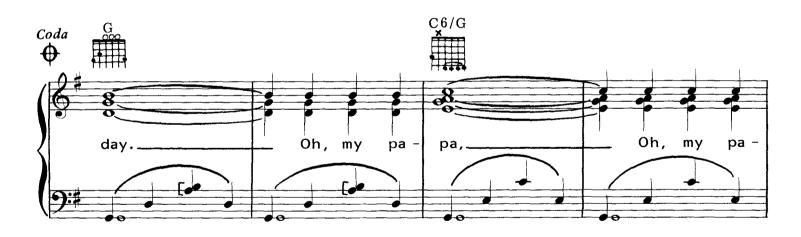


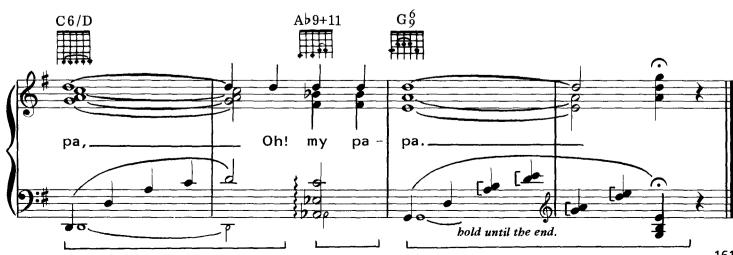














IFYOU LOYEME

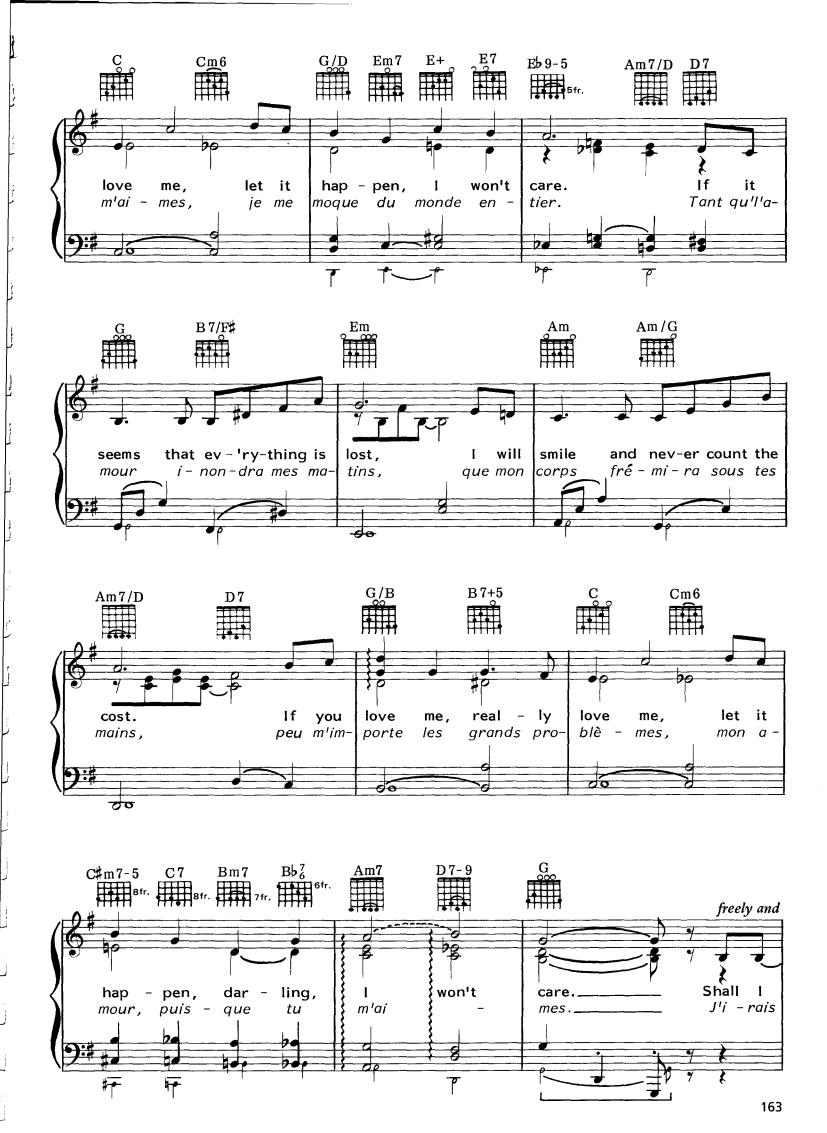
(Really Love Me)

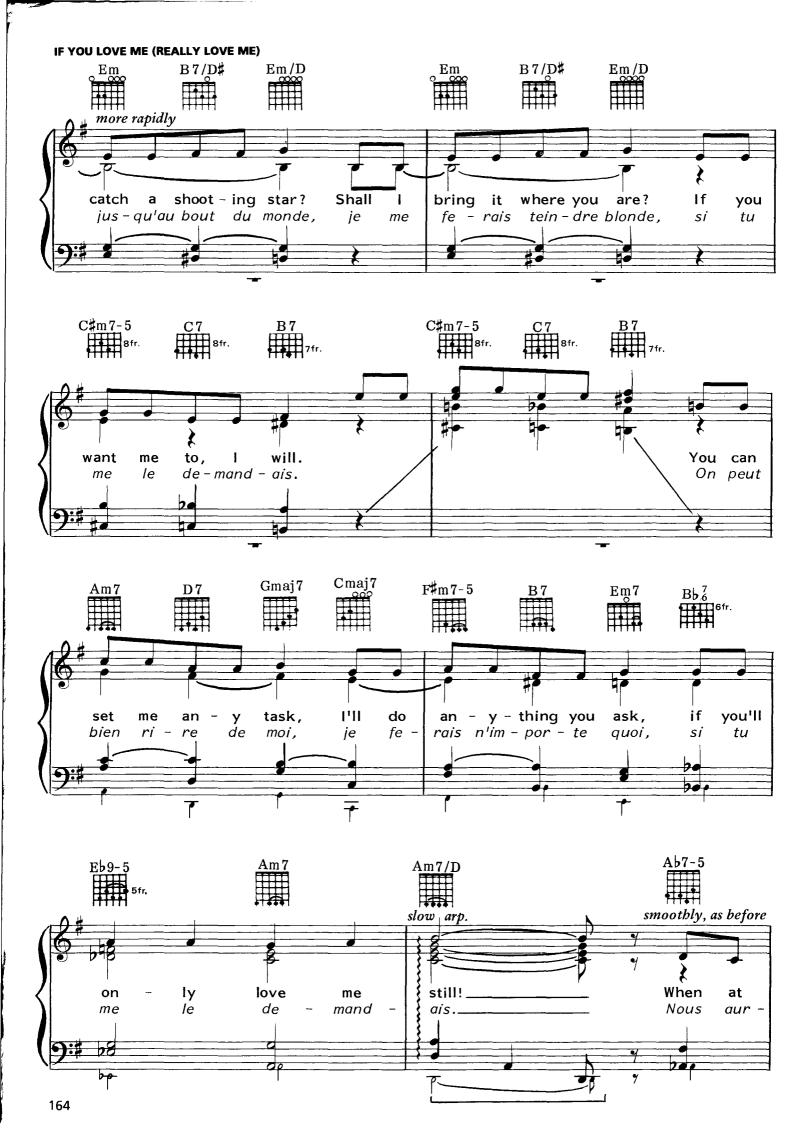
(Hymne á l'amour)

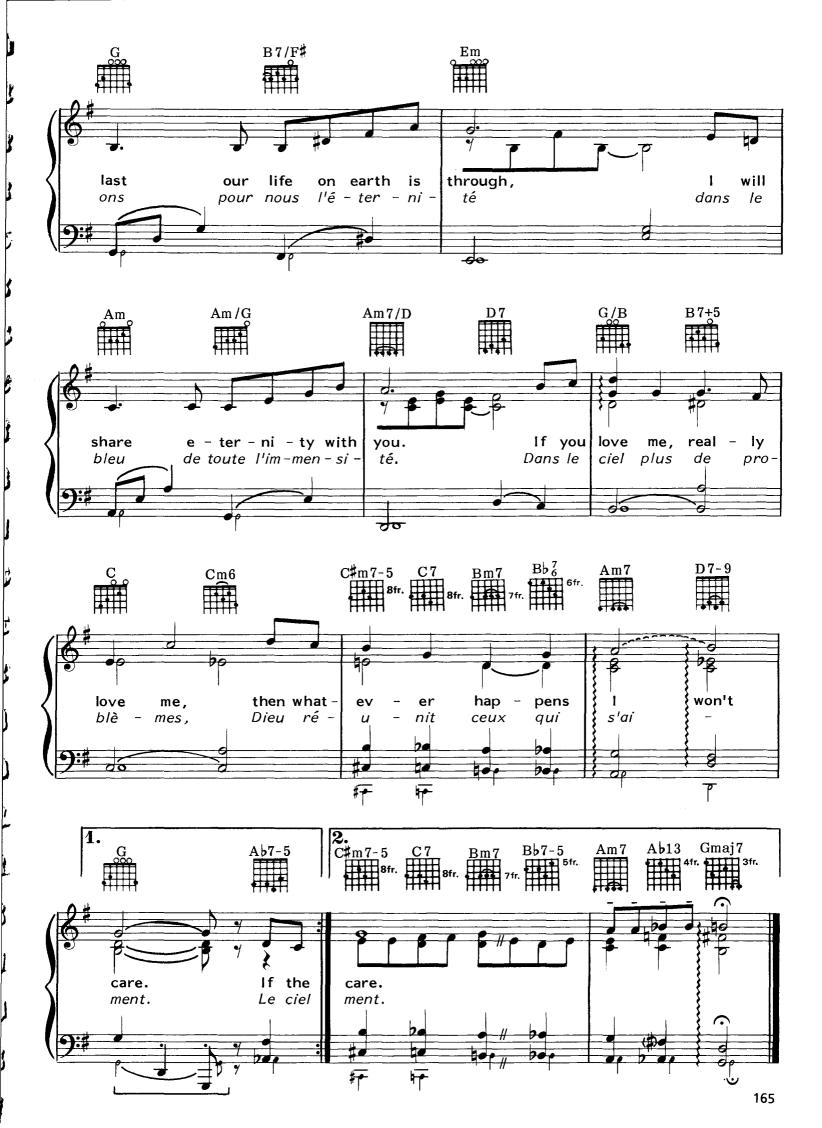
"Hymne á l'amour" ("Hymn to Love") was the French title of this compelling song. It was composed for Edith Piaf, who wrote the French text; and, as only she could do, the incomparable Little Sparrow left her imprint on it forever. Piaf died in 1963, but the quality of her voice—its urgency, vulnerability and pain—makes her a living presence even now to all who hear her recordings, a presence still evoked strongly here in both melody and words.

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











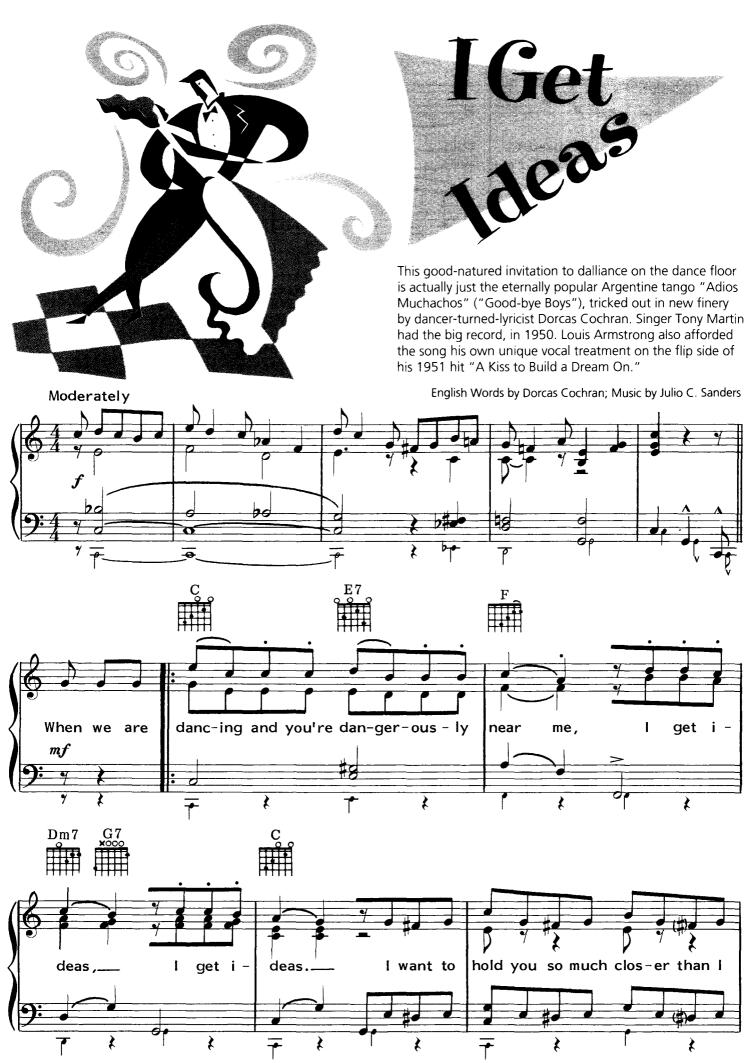
England or France, but several have been memorable. These songs range from "When Day Is Done" in the 1920s and "Falling in Love Again," as popularized by Marlene Dietrich, to this 1954 favorite, written in Germany as "Mutterlein" ("Mother Love"), and sung so unforgettably by Nat King Cole.





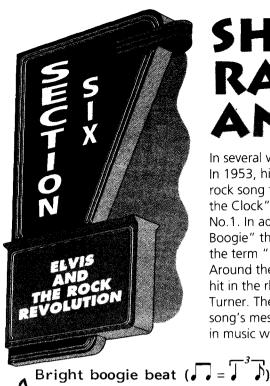










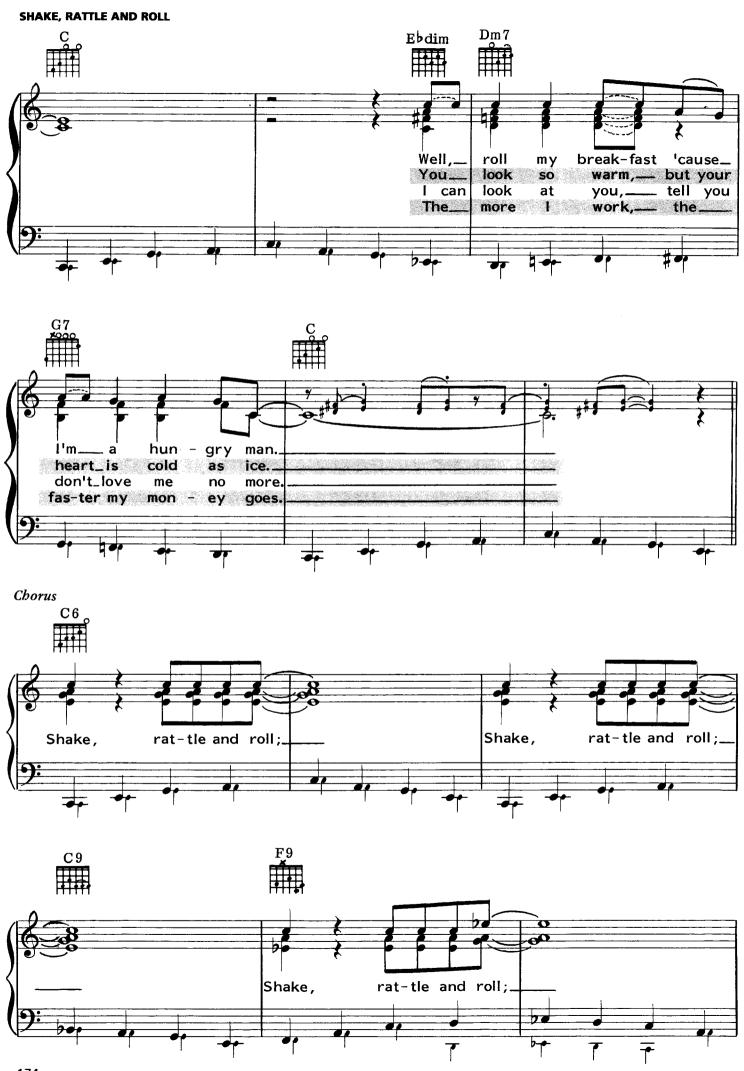


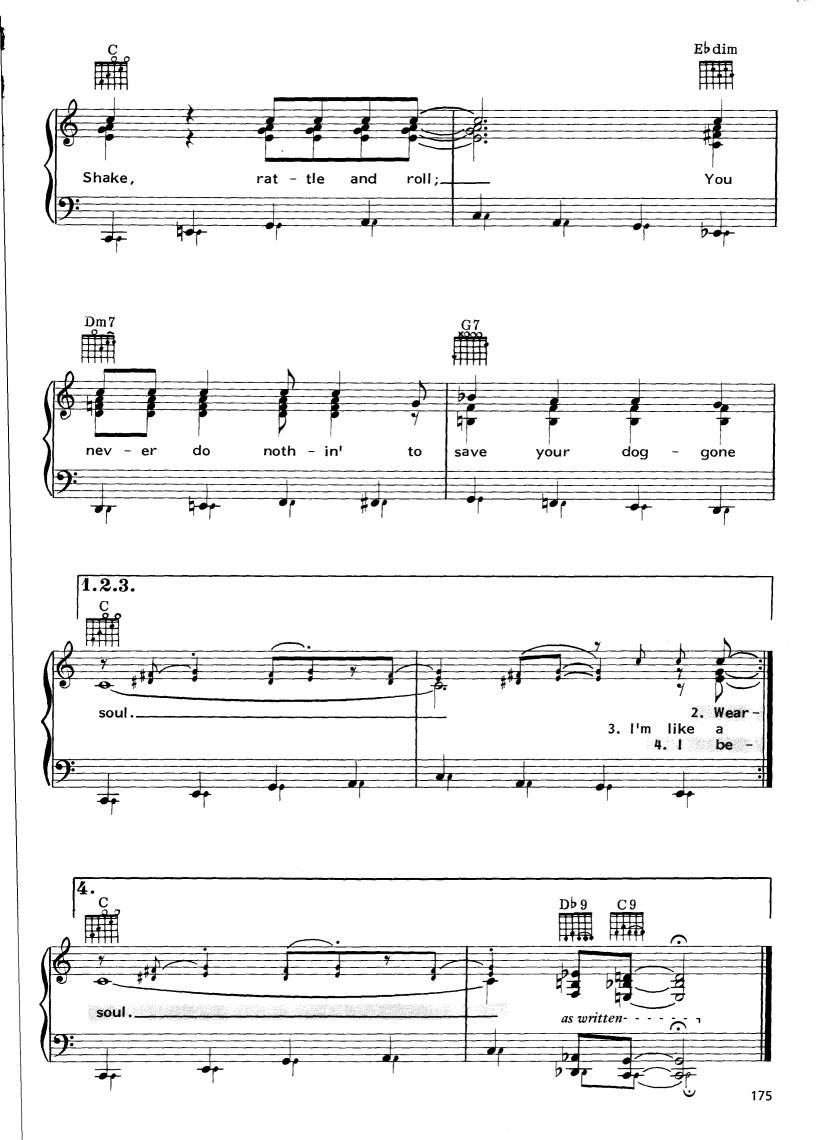
SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL

In several ways, Bill Haley could be called the father of rock and roll. In 1953, his "Crazy Man Crazy," with The Comets, became the first rock song to hit the pop charts, and two years later "Rock Around the Clock" became the first rock record to make it all the way to No.1. In addition, it was the lyrics of his song "Rock-a-Beatin' Boogie" that supposedly inspired disc jockey Alan Freed to coin the term "rock and roll." "Shake, Rattle and Roll" joined "Rock Around the Clock" in the Top 10 in 1955. It had been a giant hit in the rhythm-and-blues market for blues shouter Big Joe Turner. The lyrics were cleaned up a little for Bill, but the song's message came through loud and clear: A revolution in music was at hand.



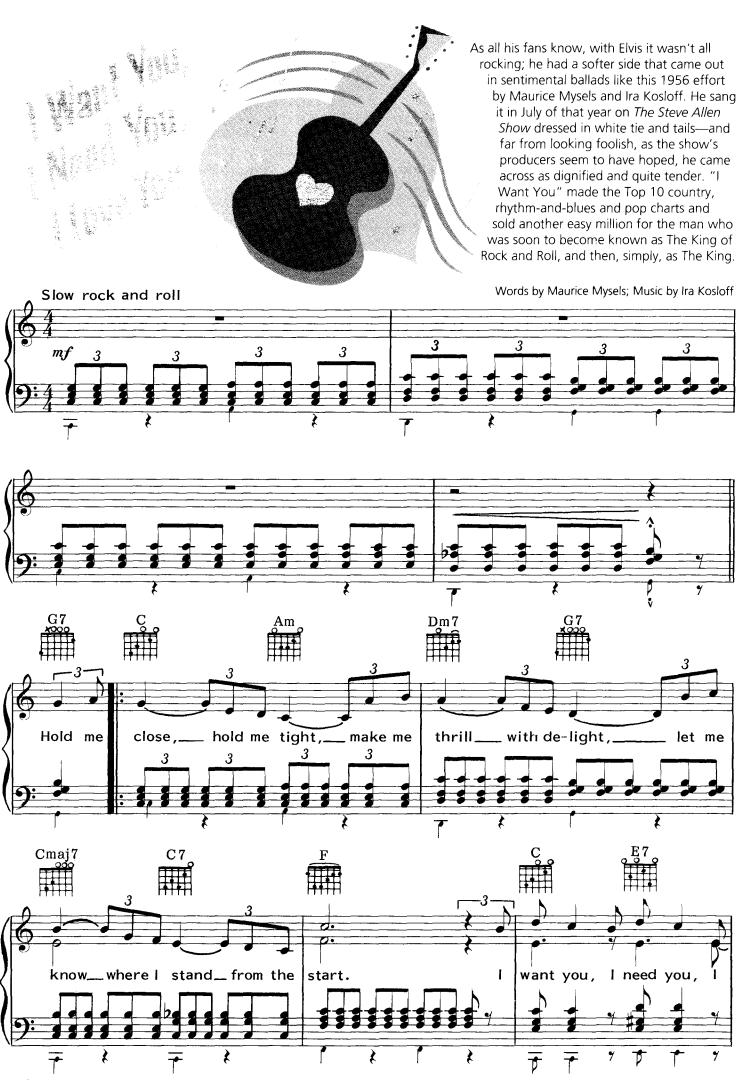
Words and Music by Charles Calhoun











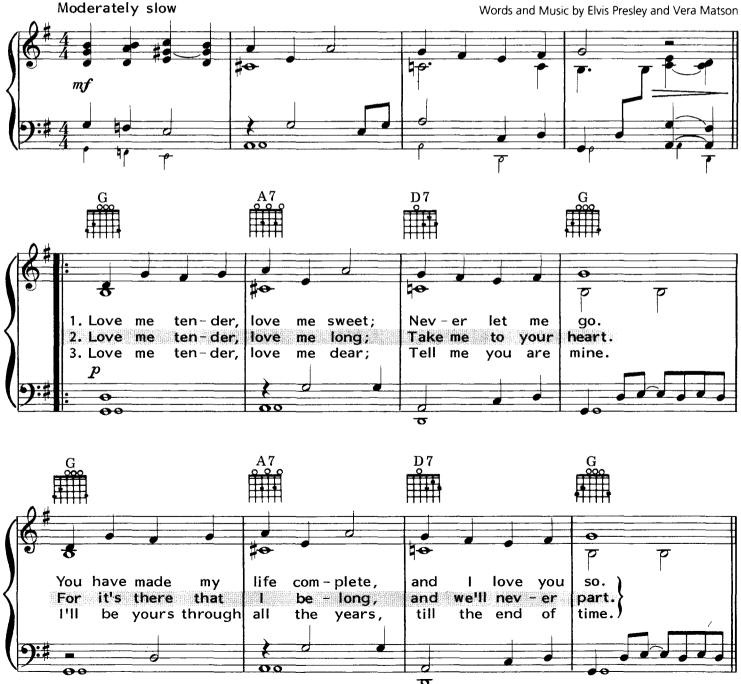


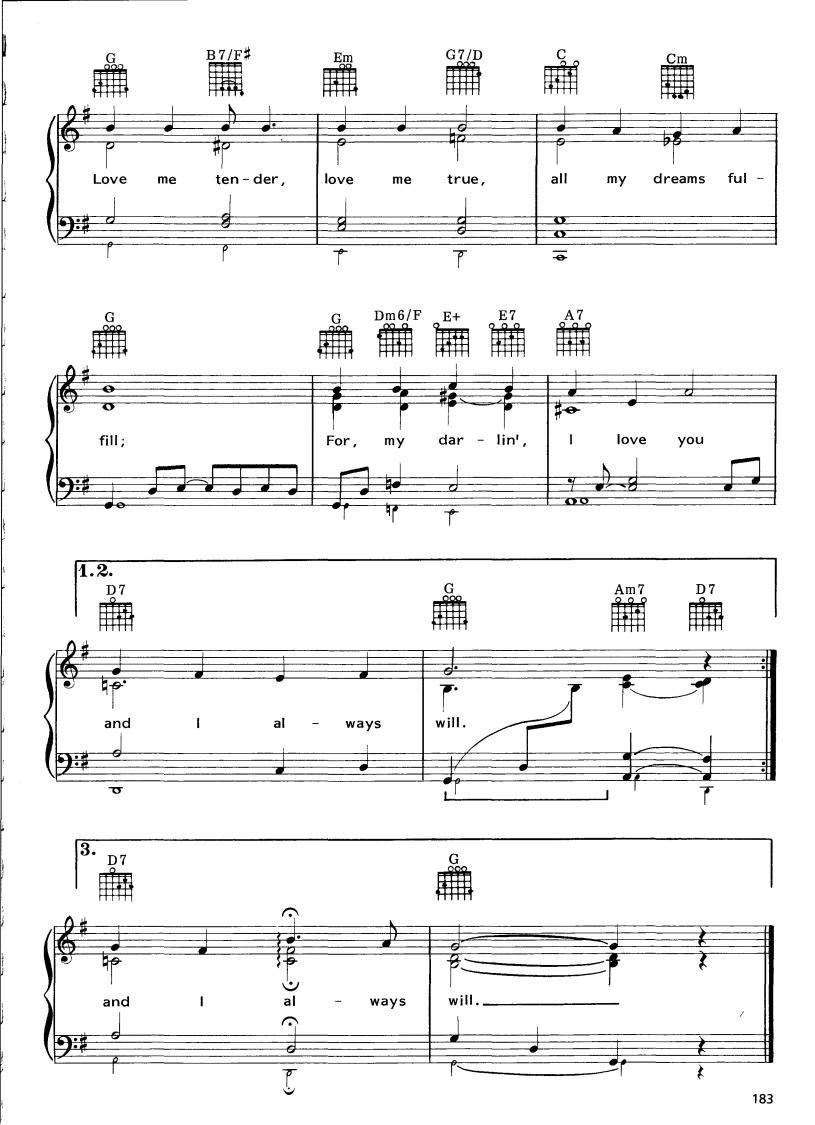


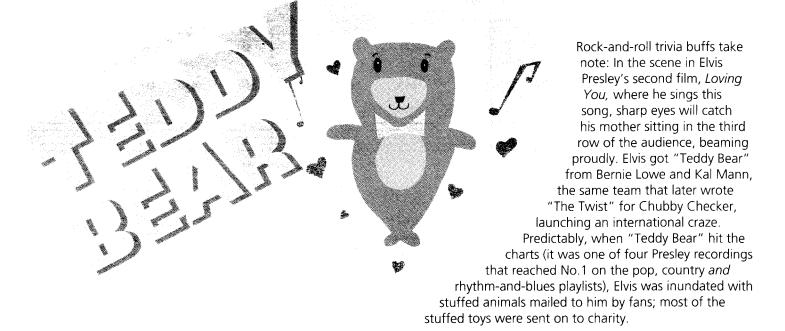




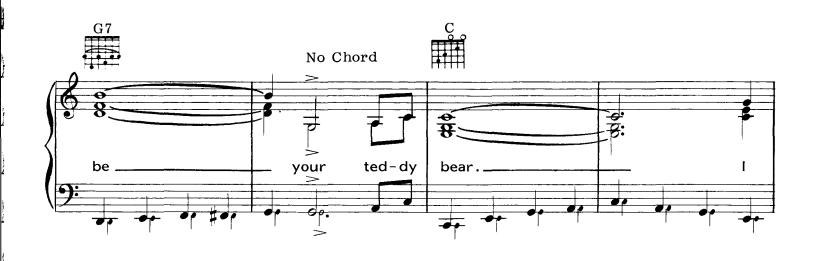
In addition to being the title song of Elvis Presley's first motion picture, "Love Me Tender" was the first great "straight" love song of his career. His recording reached the Top 5 on all three charts—pop, country, and rhythm and blues—when it was released in September 1956. The soft and touching tune, credited to Elvis and Vera Matson, is based on the 1861 ballad "Aura Lea," in keeping with the movie's Civil War theme.

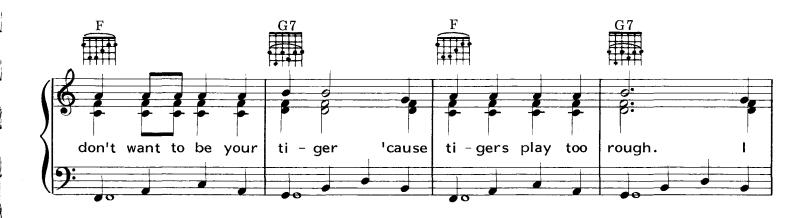


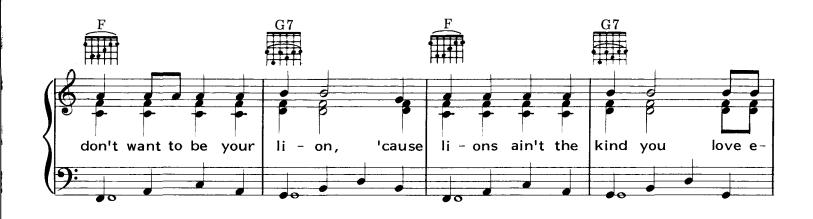


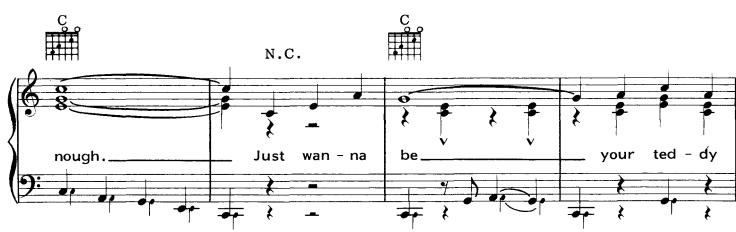


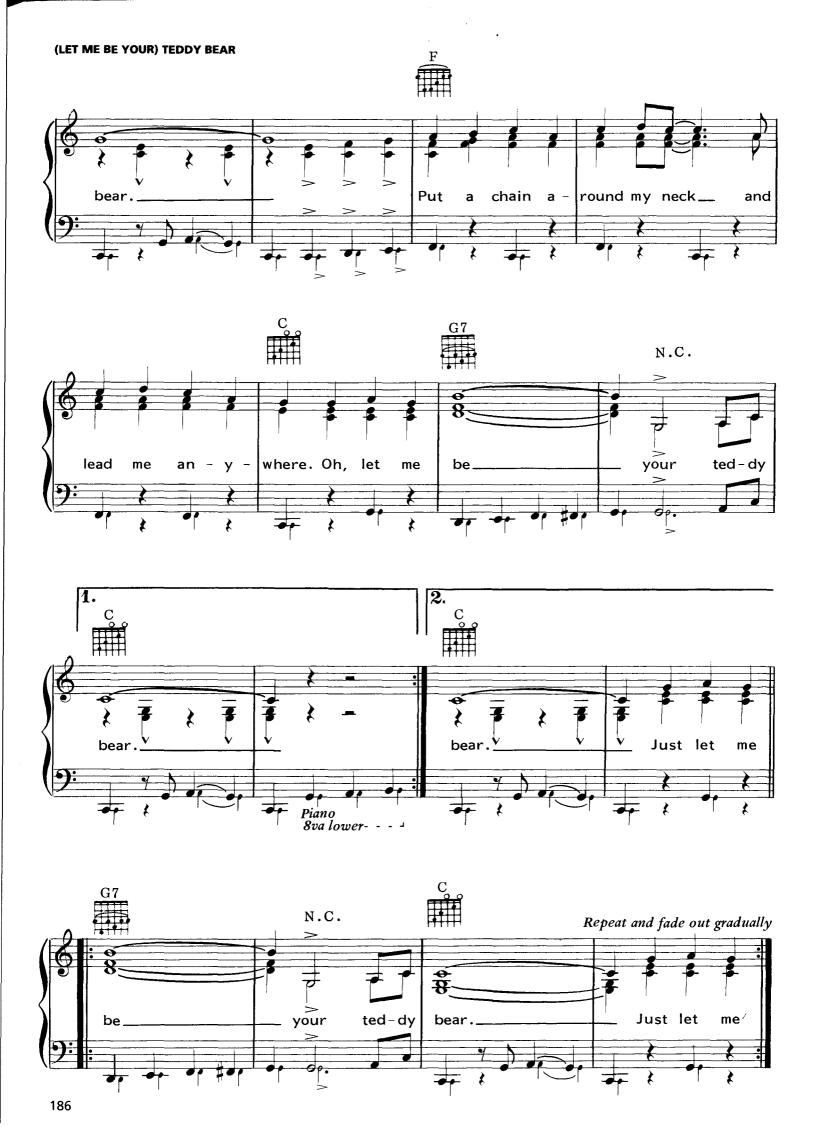










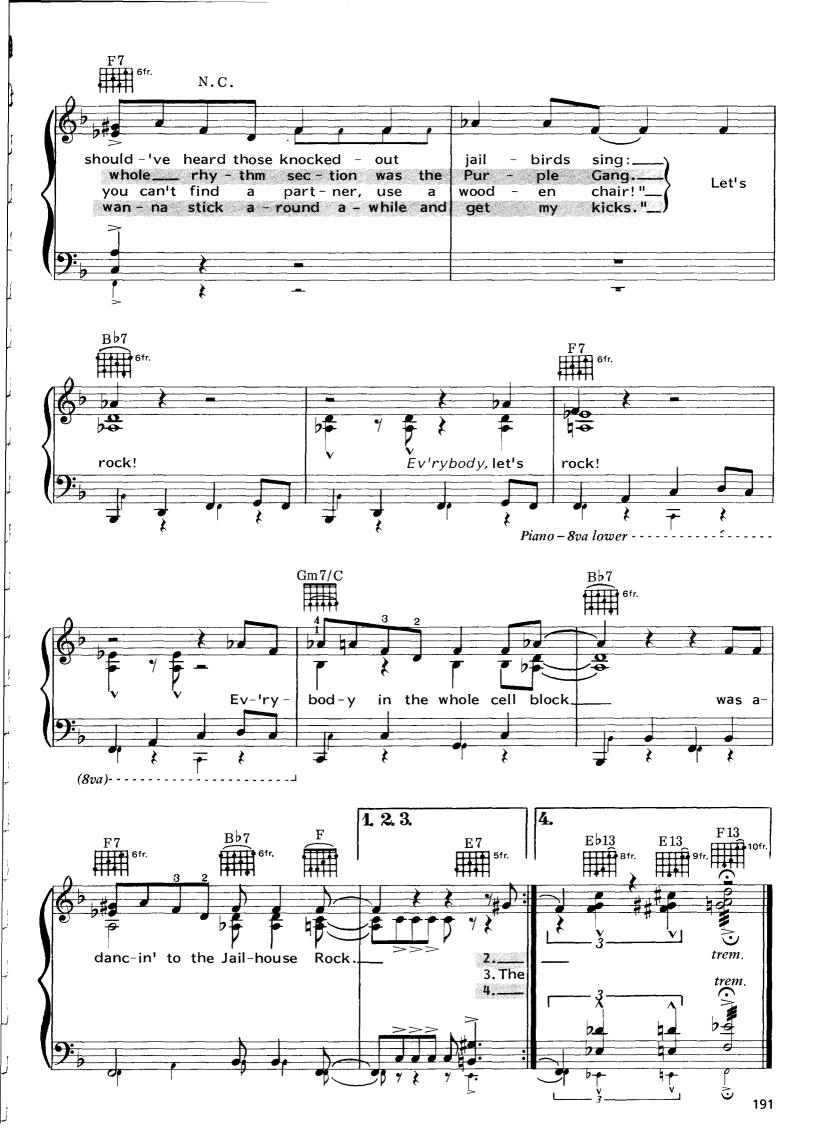














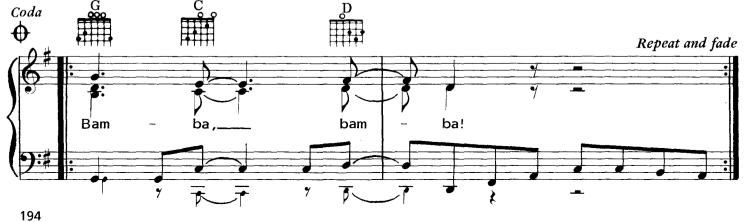
Before his death in the 1959 plane crash that also killed Buddy Holly and The Big Bopper, J.P. Richardson, 19-year-old Ritchie Valens had secured his place as the first Chicano rock star. He had turned this old Mexican folk song into a hit though the flip side, "Donna," named after his girlfriend, actually ranked higher on the charts. Valens's fame—and that of "La Bamba"—became even greater after the release of the 1987 film biography of the singer, called La Bamba.

Adaptation and Arrangement by Ritchie Valens



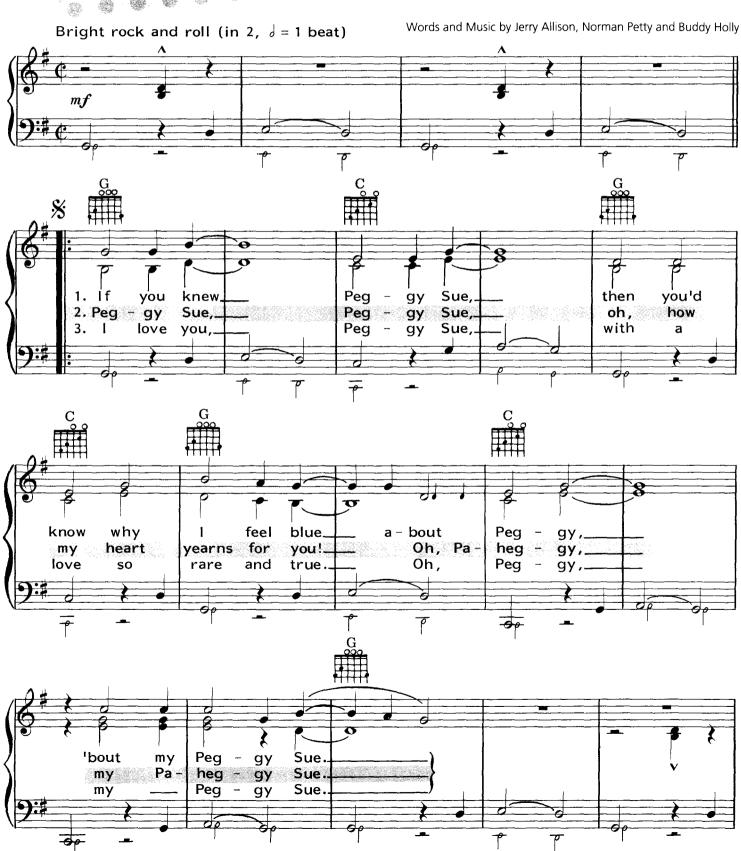




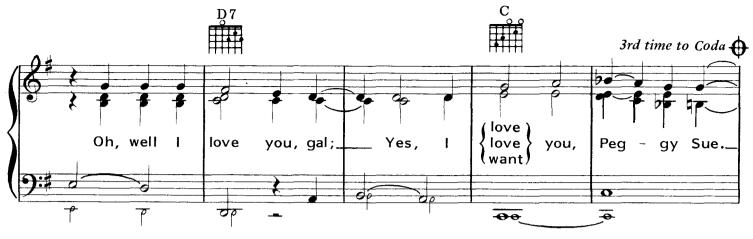


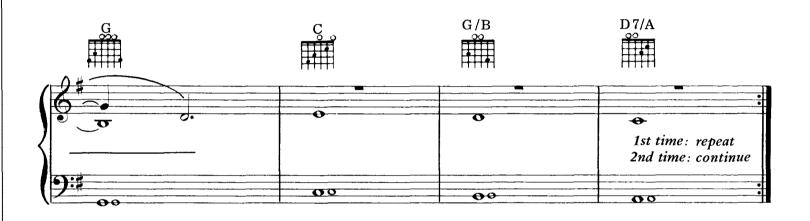
Texa coular s

Texas-born Buddy Holly was the first to fuse the sound and flavor of country music with a heavy backbeat borrowed from black rhythm and blues. The result was a dynamic new sound, typified by such songs as "Peggy Sue," as well as "That'll Be the Day," "It Doesn't Matter Anymore" and "Maybe Baby." When Buddy died in a plane crash on February 3, 1959, many people felt that rock and roll died with him. (Among them was Don McLean, who years later wrote "American Pie" about the death of Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper.) But rock and roll is still alive and well, and Holly is still a strong musical influence—as evidenced by the 1990 musical of his life, Buddy.

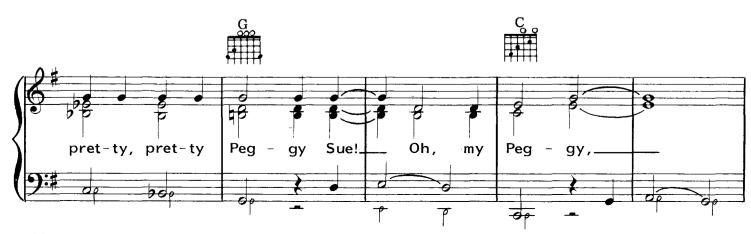










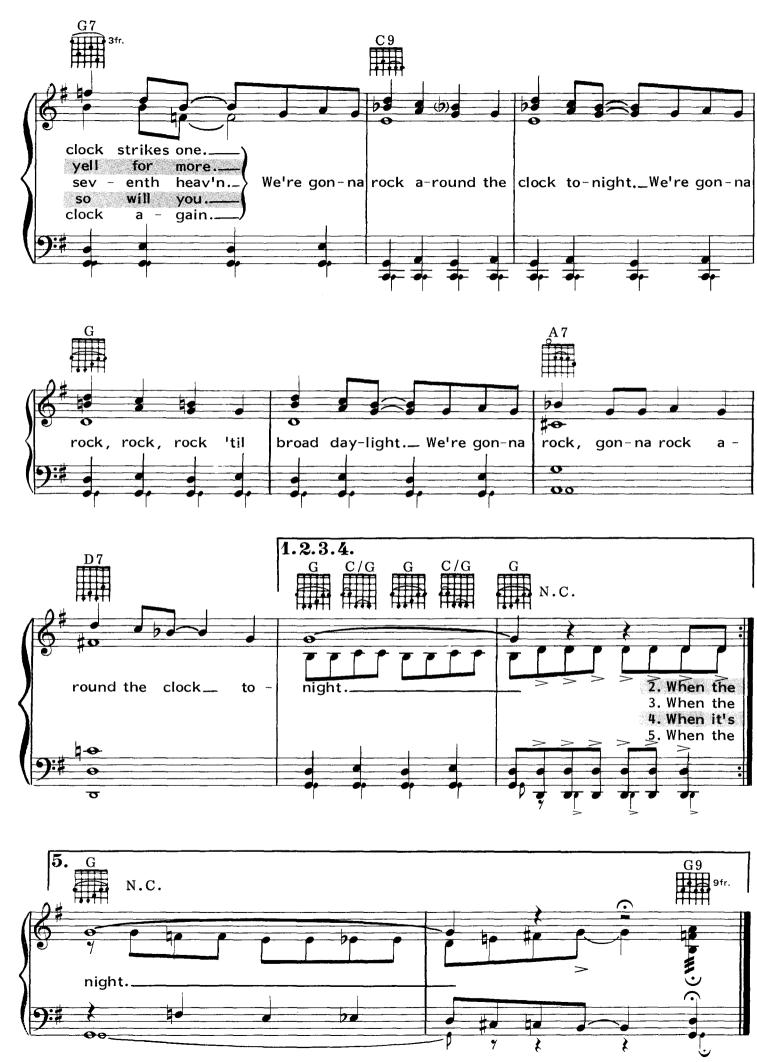


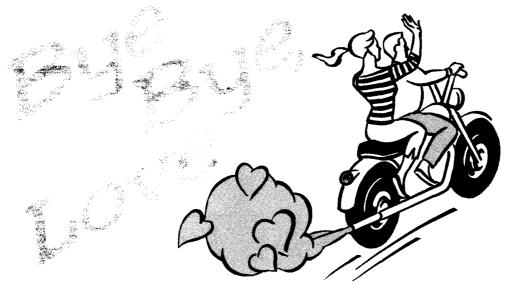


STANE CLOCK

Now it's hard to believe, but Bill Haley and His Comets' "Rock Around the Clock" went almost unnoticed when the recording was released in the spring of 1954. A year later the song was featured on the sound track of *The Blackboard Jungle*, a movie that starred Glenn Ford as a city high-school teacher fighting back against juvenile delinquency. The re-released single became a sensation, selling millions of copies and becoming the first rock-and-roll record to reach No.1 on the hit parade.

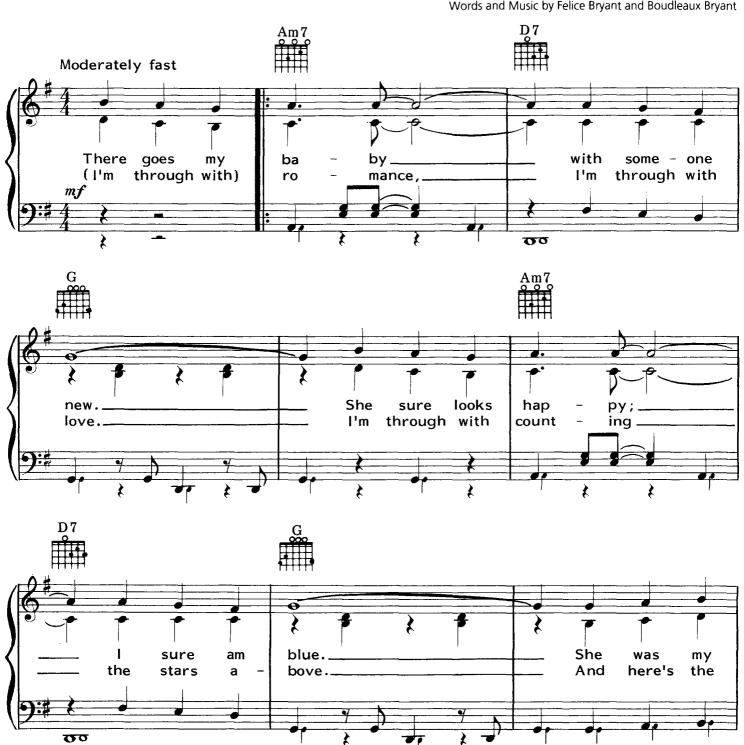






This rockabilly lament penned by husband-and-wife songwriters Boudleaux and Felice Bryant meant stardom for The Everly Brothers. Sons of country singers Ike and Margaret Everly, Don and Phil grew up on the road, singing and playing guitar at clubs and on radio stations throughout the South and Midwest. "Bye Bye, Love," in May 1957, was their big breakthrough, followed by such other tuneful Bryant collaborations as "Wake Up, Little Susie," "Bird Dog" and "All I Have to Do Is Dream."

Words and Music by Felice Bryant and Boudleaux Bryant







Charlie Brown

Medium bright rock (8th notes played evenly)

Nothing to do with Peanuts and Lucy here, folks: this Charlie Brown is a cool dude who strolls through life unfazed by anything. This 1959 tune is one of the songs of protest and sly satire that Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller were turning out in the late '50s and that their protégés The Coasters were turning into best-sellers on both the pop and rhythm-and-blues charts. Other Coasters classics include the two-sided hit "Searching" and "Young Blood," "Yakety Yak" and "Along Came Jones."









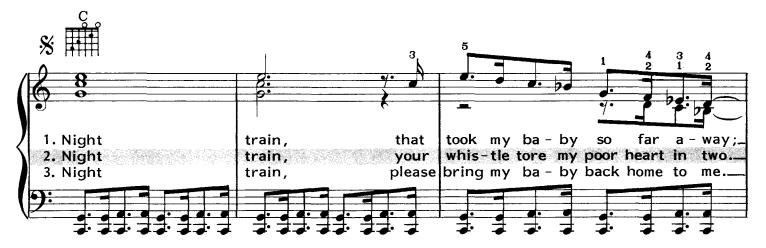
NIGHT TRAIN

It all started with Duke Ellington, who stitched this simple, insistent blues theme into his 1946 concert suite *Happy-Go-Lucky Local*. The railroad association clearly stuck in the mind of tenor saxophonist Jimmy Forrest, who worked with Ellington in 1949–50. After leaving the Duke, he developed the tune as a rhythmand-blues specialty. Bandleader Buddy Morrow picked it up, and eventually it gained a lyric. The result: an enduring hit—but one not credited to Ellington.

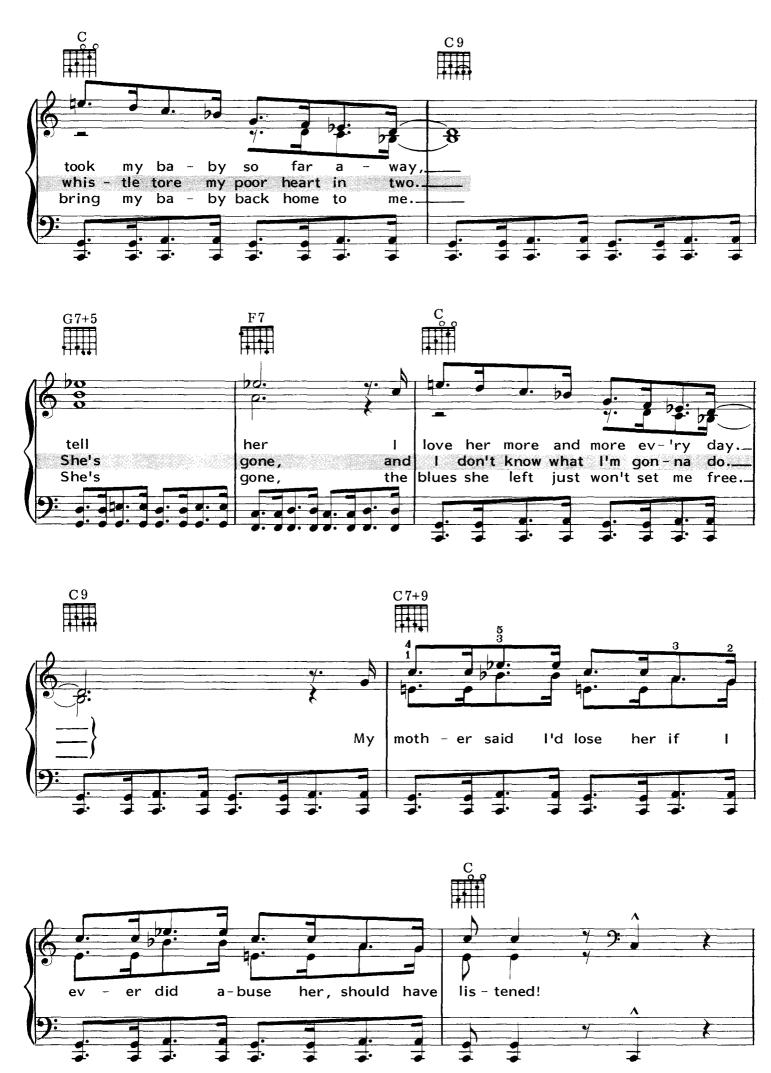
Words by Oscar D. Washington and Lewis E. Simpkins; Music by Jimmy Forrest



Note: Organ pedal doubles lowest note of piano left hand throughout.





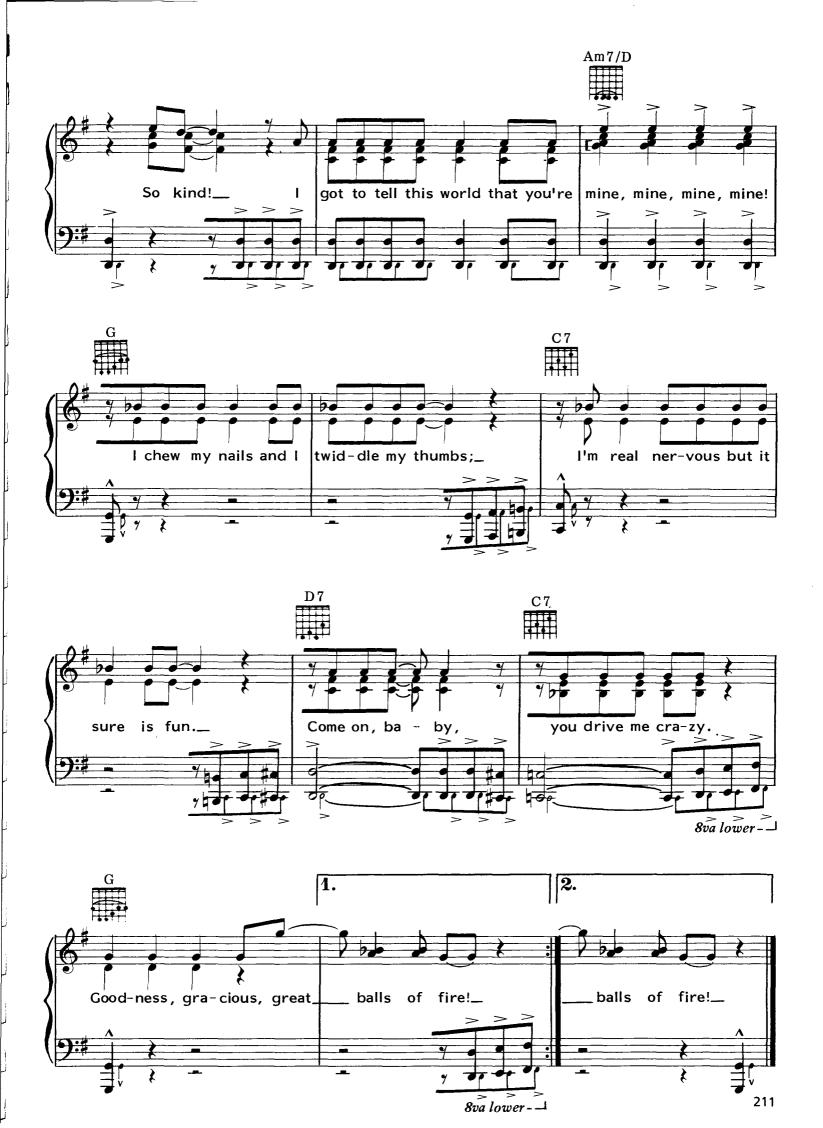




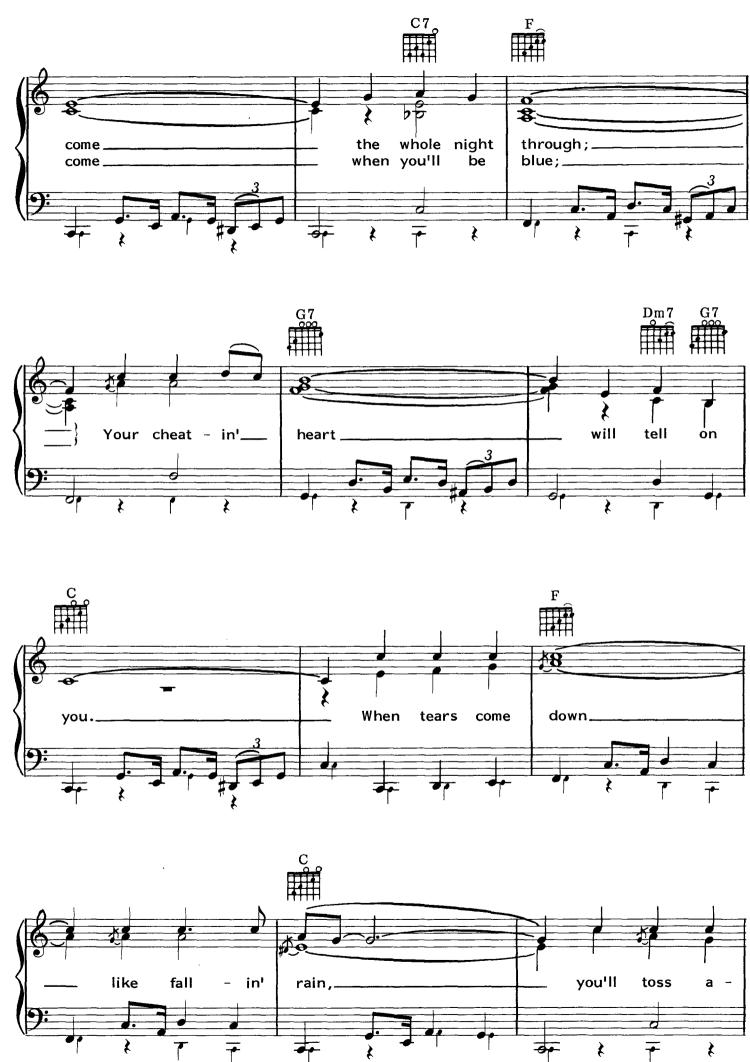
Jerry Lee Lewis, born in Ferriday, Louisiana, began his career at Sun Records in Memphis, where Elvis Presley also started out. "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On," his first hit in the summer of 1957, was followed by "Great Balls of Fire," which became No. 1 in both the country and pop fields. A lackluster decade with few hits followed and the summer of 1957 and the summer of 1957 and 1957 are supported by the summer of 1957 and 1957 are supported by the summer of 1957 and 1957 are supported by the summer of 1957 and 1957 are supported by the summer of 1957 and 1957 are supported by the summer of 1957 and 1957 are supported by the summer of 1957 are supported by the summer country roots. Great Balls of Fire was the title of a 1989 movie depicting "The Killer's" flamboyant life.













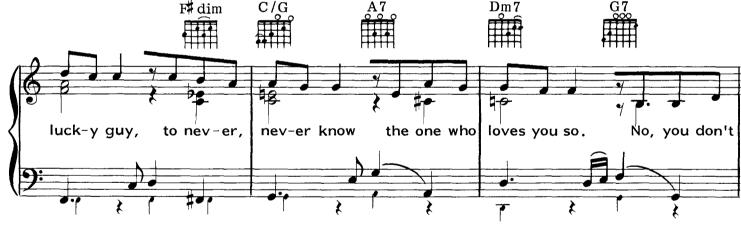
Eddy Arnold was probably the first country performer to "cross over" successfully into the pop market. Starting with such million-sellers as "I'll Hold You in My Heart (Till I Can Hold You in My Arms)," "Any Time" and "Bouquet of Roses" in the late 1940s, he proved that a relaxed, easygoing approach to a song would appeal to any audience. This lover's confession, which he co-authored with Cindy Walker in 1955, turned out to be one of the Tennessee Plowboy's major successes.

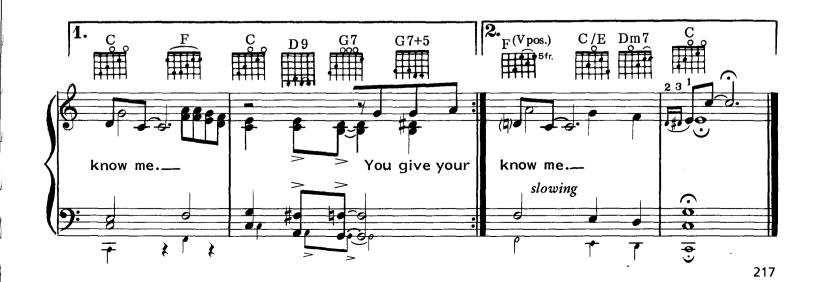




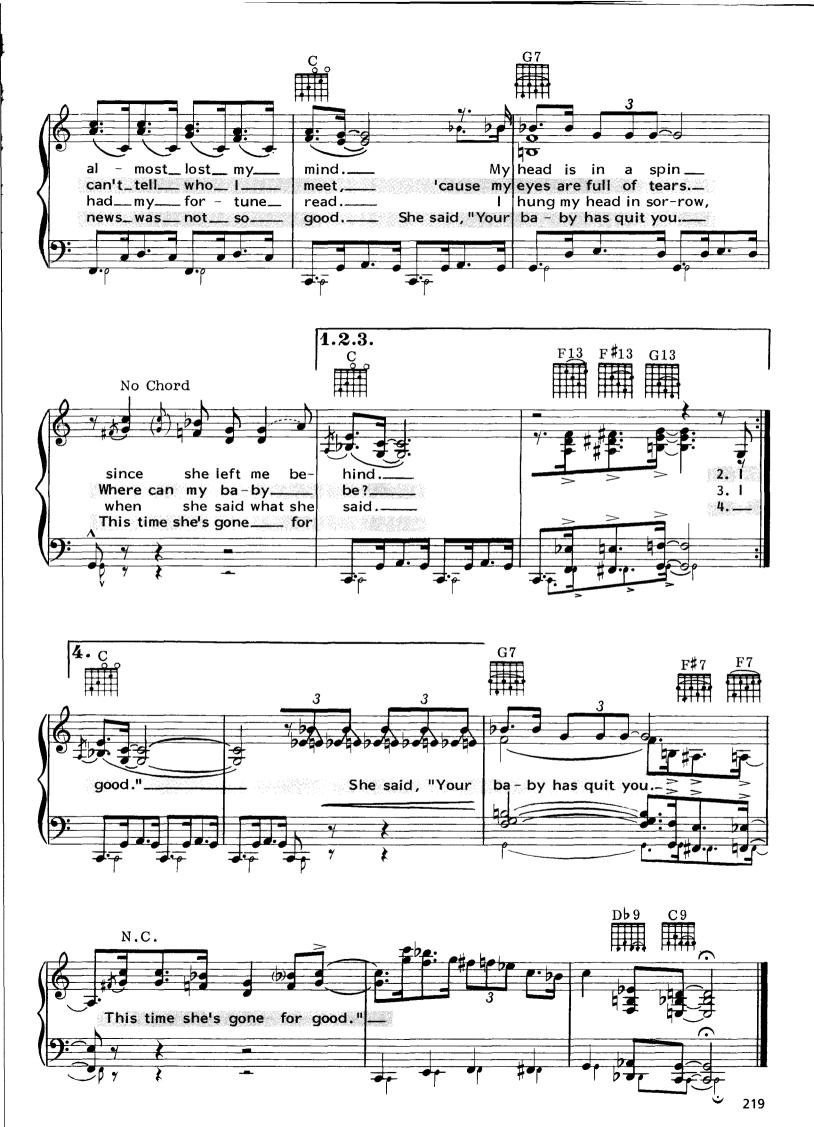














Three guys named Eddie figured in the success of this lilting love song, which was around nearly 30 years before becoming a hit. Country singer Eddy Arnold spotted and recorded it in 1948, turning it into a million-seller. But it took 23-year-old Eddie Fisher, protégé of the great comedian Eddie Cantor, to hit the big money—and No. 2 on the charts—with a pop version of the song, in 1951. "Any Time" made Fisher a star, and remained his trademark for years to come.

made Fisher a star, and remained his trademark for years to come. Words and Music by Herbert "Happy" Lawson Moderately D7 time you're feel-ing lone you're feel - ing time blue, Bbm6 that will time. you feel down-|heart -O your love for prove me is true.

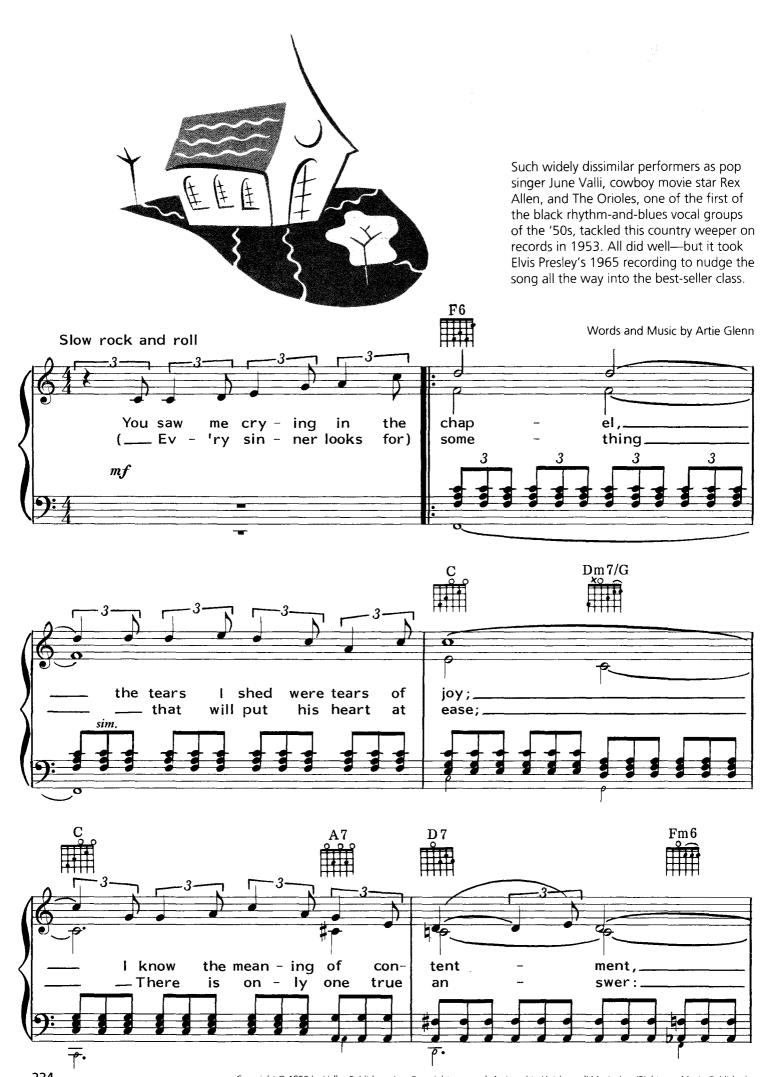


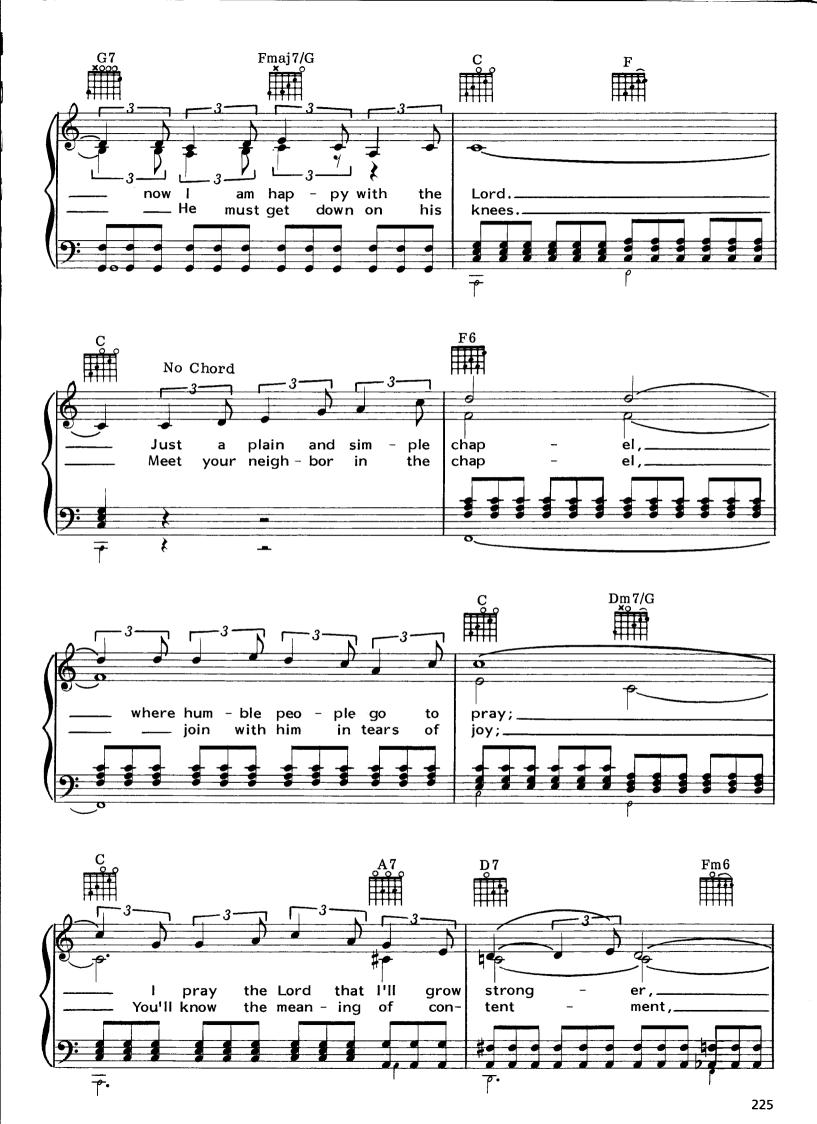


Now wait just a minute: a song called "Tennessee Waltz," about a song called "Tennessee Waltz"? Curious—though none of the 6 million people who bought Patti Page's hit 1950 record seemed unduly bothered by the apparent illogicality. Written by *Grand Ole Opry* stars Pee Wee King and Redd Stewart (after they heard the "Kentucky Waltz" on the radio), it became Tennessee's official song in 1965.

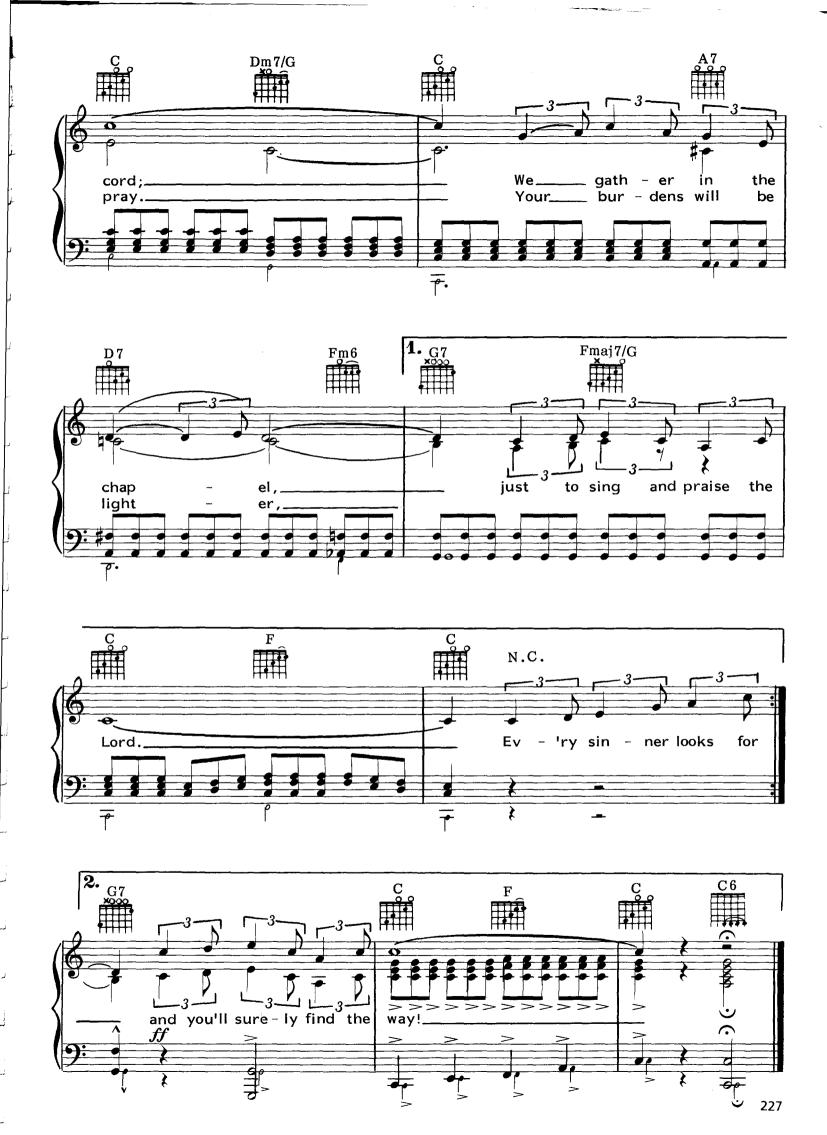








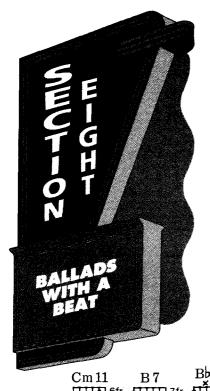












Blue Velvet

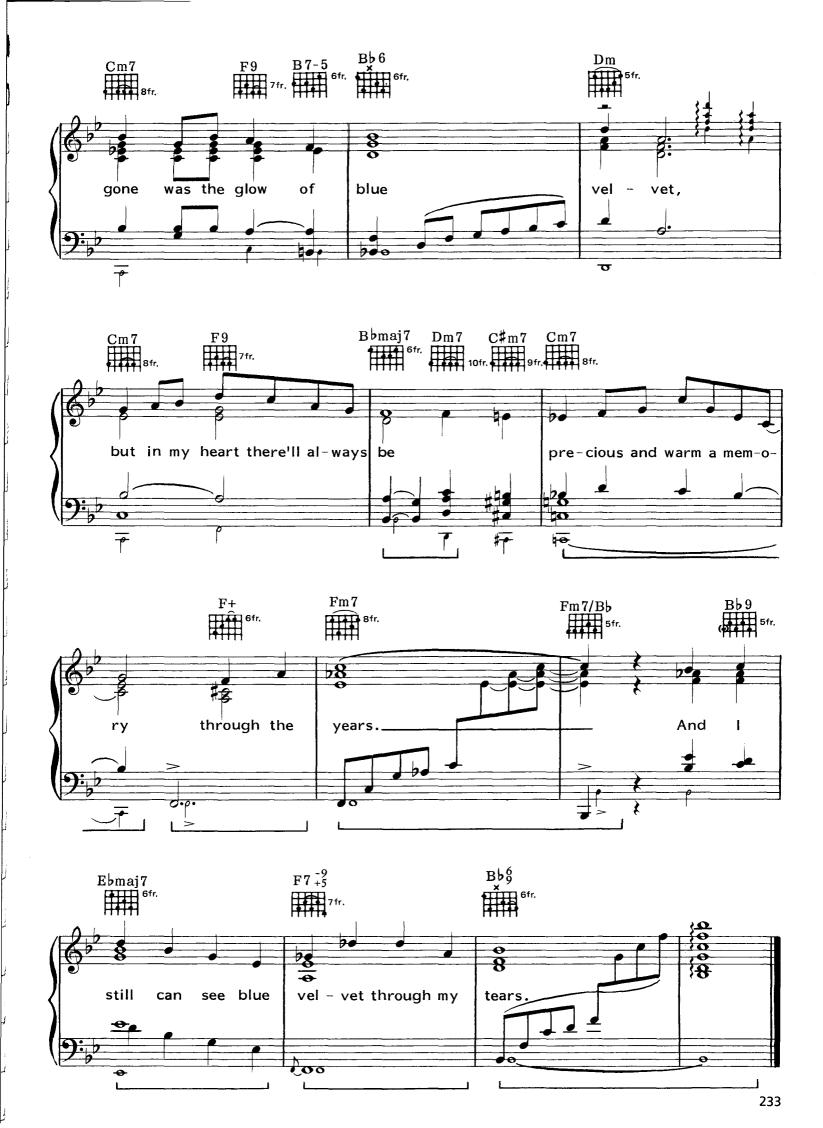
Tony Bennett first came to prominence in June of 1951 with "Because of You" and within a few years had put eight other songs on the charts. One of these was "Blue Velvet"—the romantic song for many teenagers growing up in the decade. Bobby Vinton had an even bigger hit with the tune in 1963. And the song's staying power was certified when it lent its title to director David Lynch's 1986 cult classic film Blue Velvet.

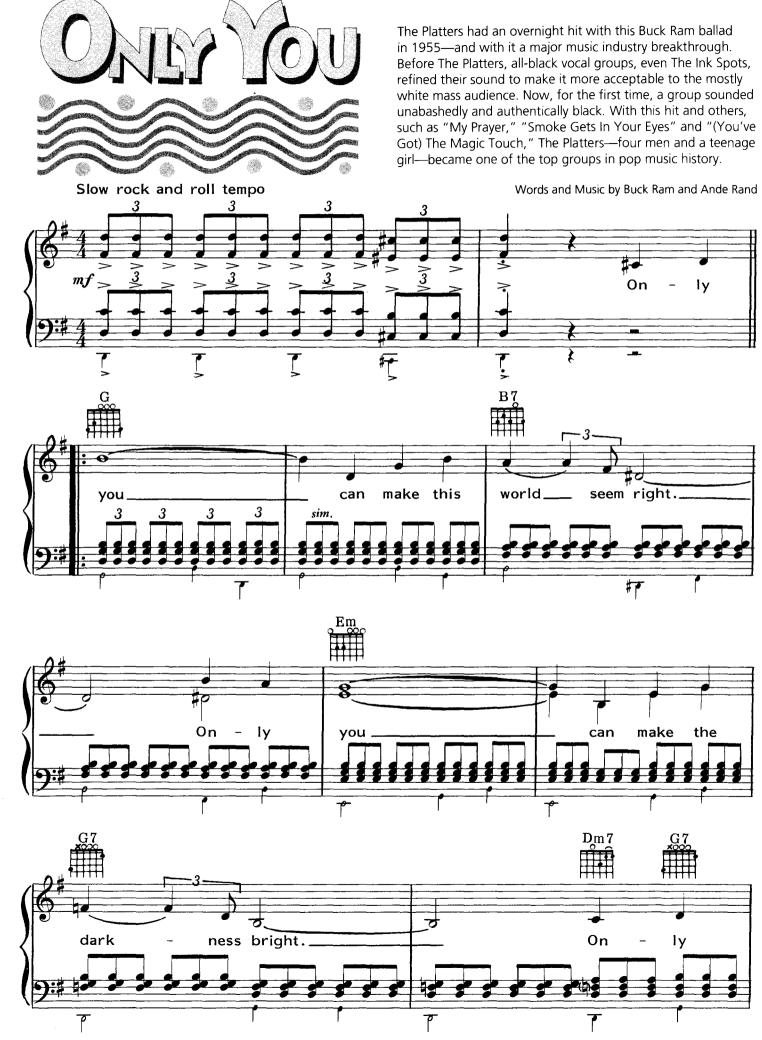


Words and Music by Bernie Wayne and Lee Morris

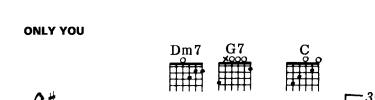


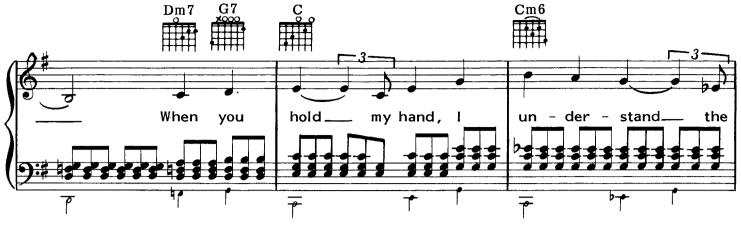


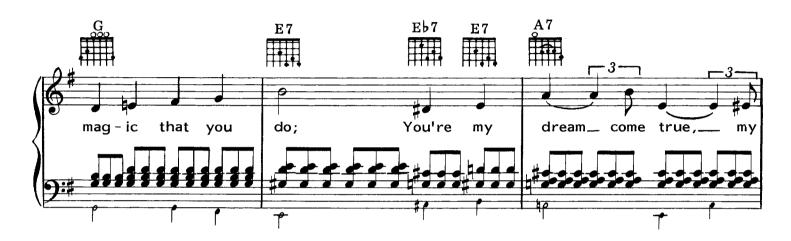


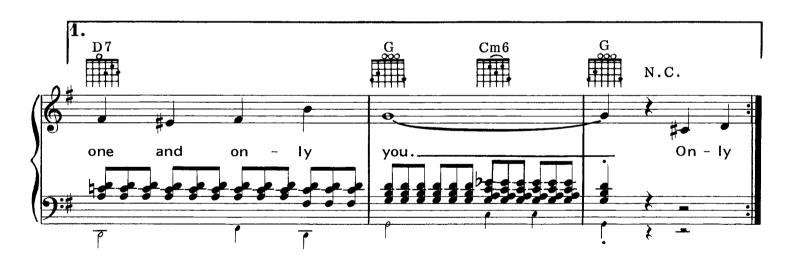


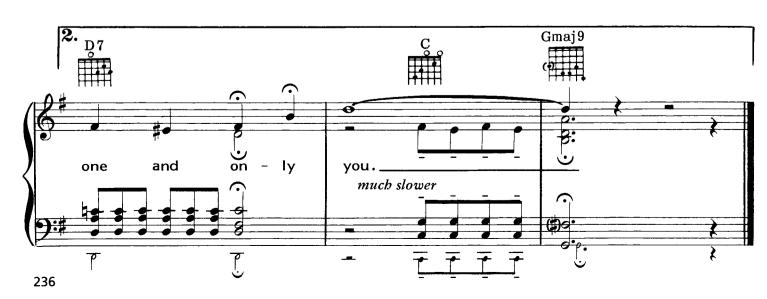


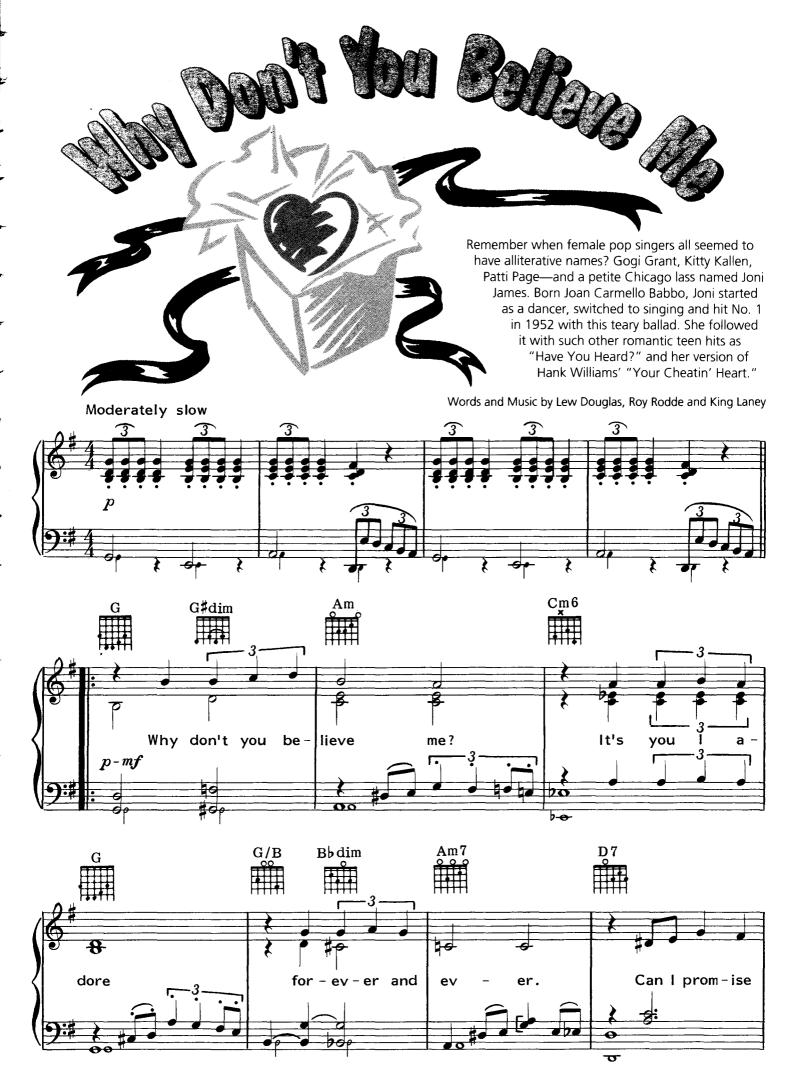










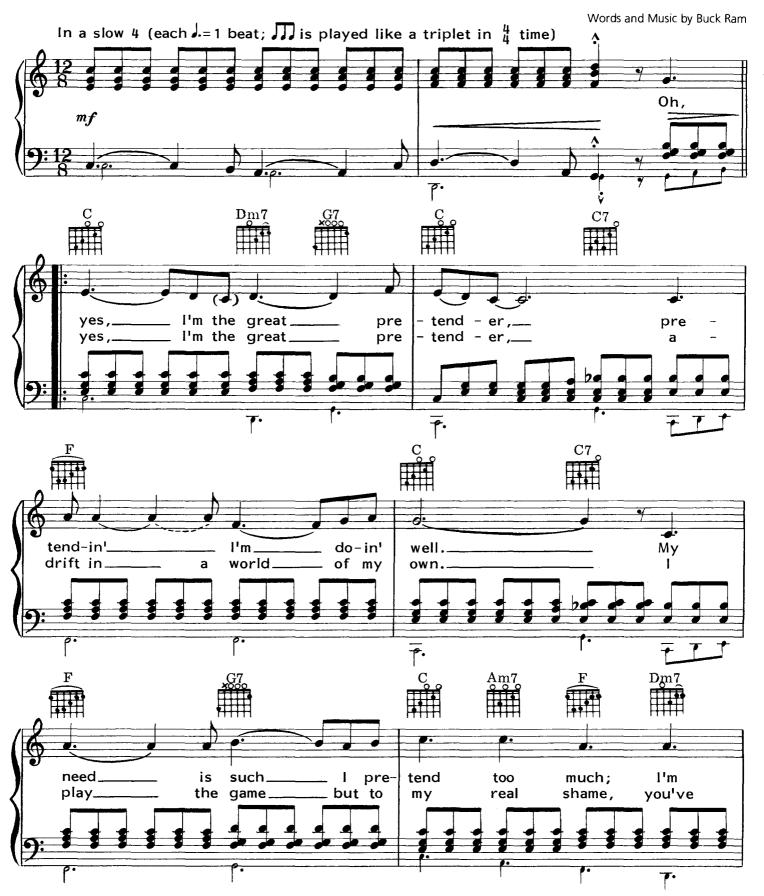


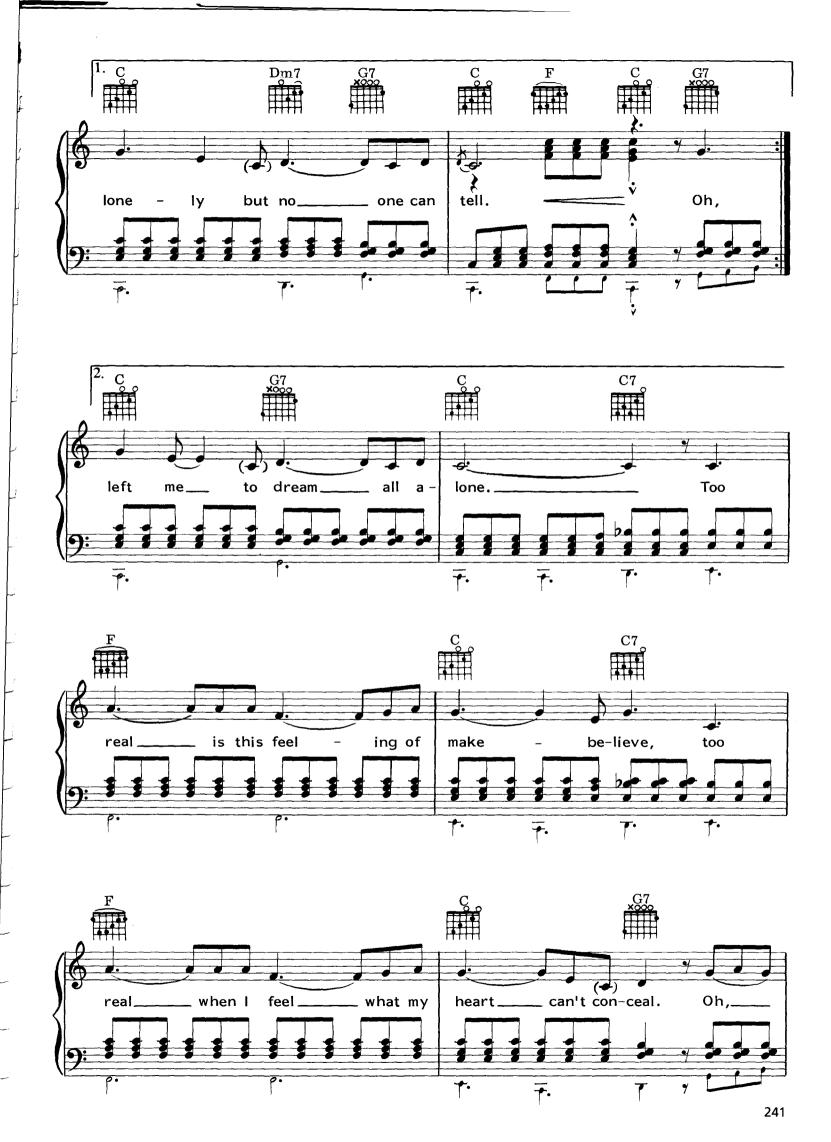


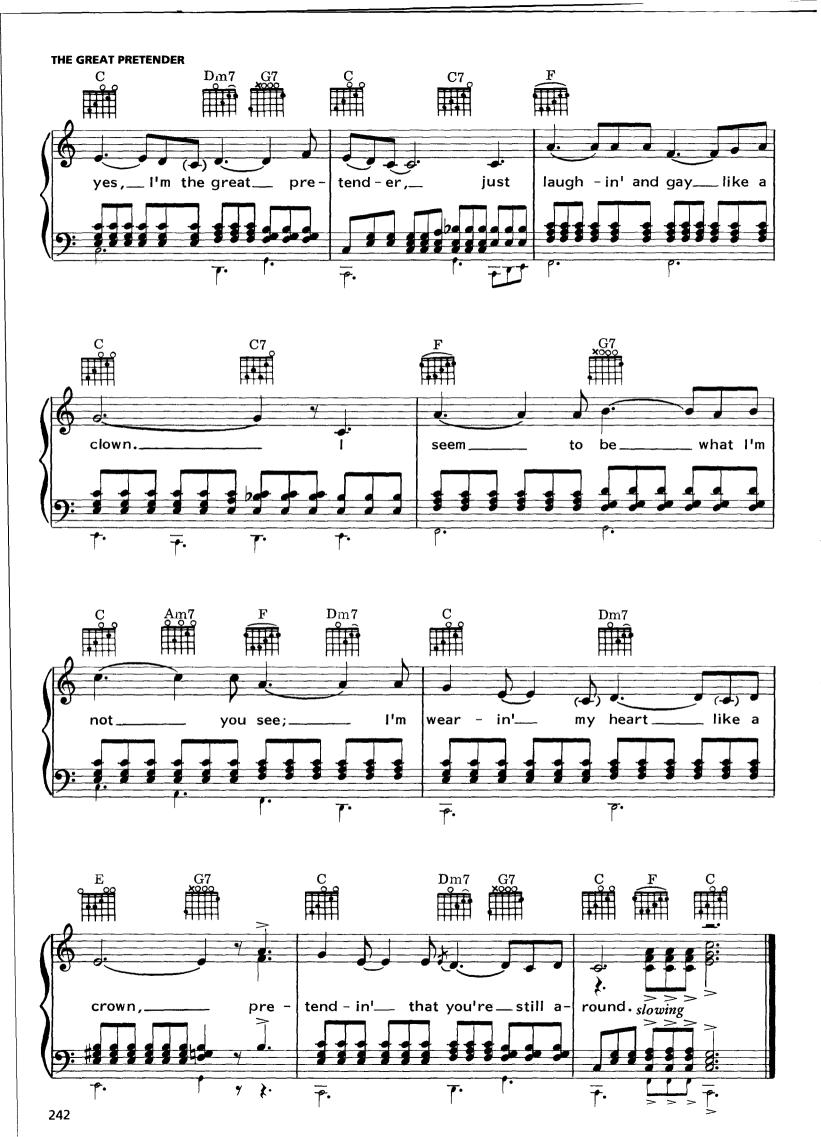


The Great Pretender

The first association here, of course, is with the vocal stylings of The Platters—Tony Williams, Herbert Reed, David Lynch, Paul Robi and Zola Taylor (who first joined the group on this recording). But the creative force behind both the group and this, their greatest hit, was the versatile Buck Ram. Saxophonist, arranger, songwriter, agent and talent scout, Ram had worked for everybody, had helped discover Ella Fitzgerald and Maxine Sullivan and had sold both The Platters and The Penguins to Mercury Records. He also wrote two other Platters successes, "Only You" (see page 234) and "Twilight Time."





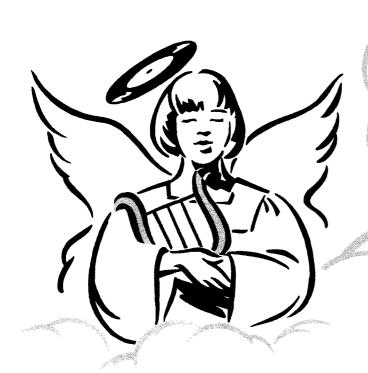




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Australia (Special) Australia (Special)

Some people contend that Nashville's reign as a major pop hit factory began with this 1957 crossover success. Texasborn composer Jimmy Duncan had been writing songs since age 11, but "My Special Angel"—as performed by Bobby Helms—put him on the wider popular music map. The tune, which reached No. 7 in November, was one of three hits that Helms had in late '57: his recording of "Fraulein" climbed the charts in October, and the seasonal favorite "Jingle-Bell Rock" clicked in December.

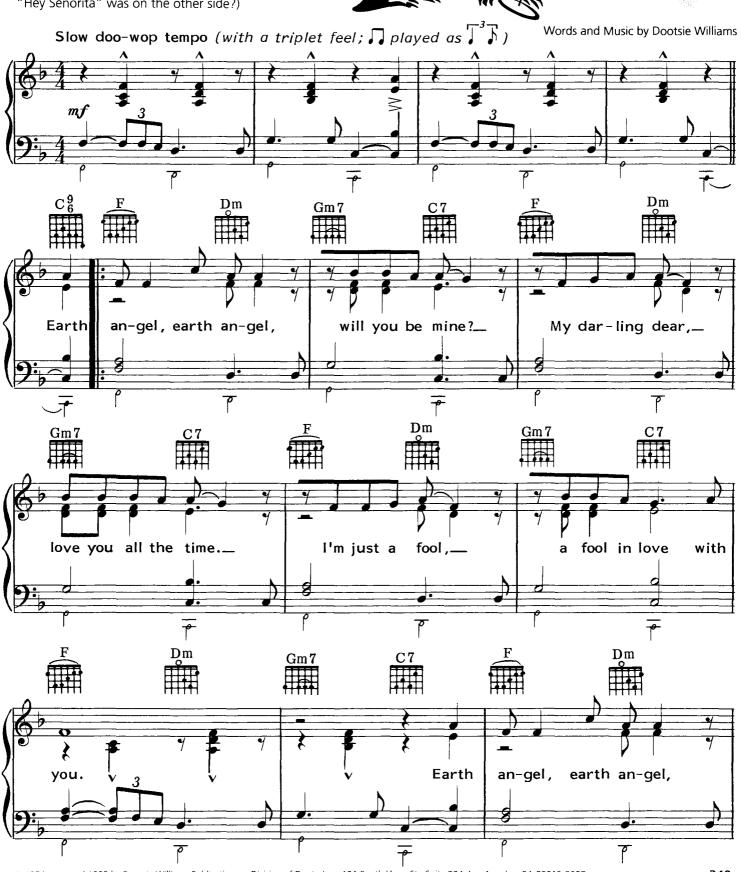




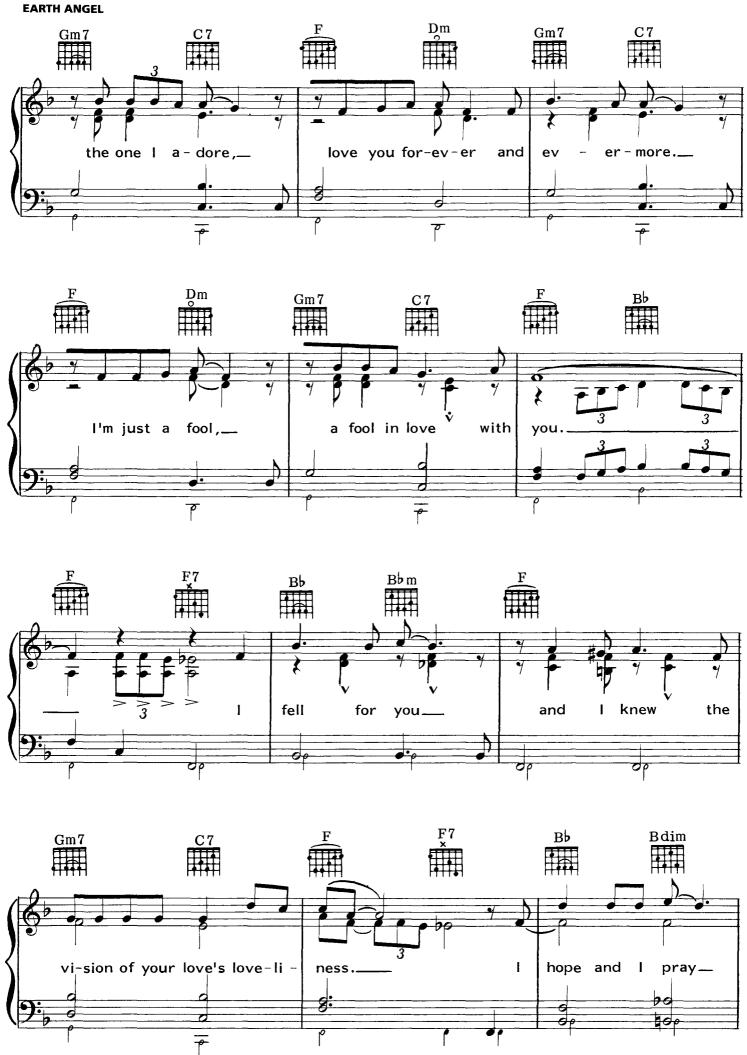


They only had one hit—but it made the doo-wopping Penguins one of the most important groups in the development of rock and roll. Co-written by Penguin founder Curtis Williams, "Earth Angel" was among the first rhythm-and-blues records to make it onto the pop charts, in December 1954. A "cover" version by The Crew Cuts was also a tremendous success, but for many people The Penguins' recording will always be the definitive one. (And how many remember that "Hey Senorita" was on the other side?)









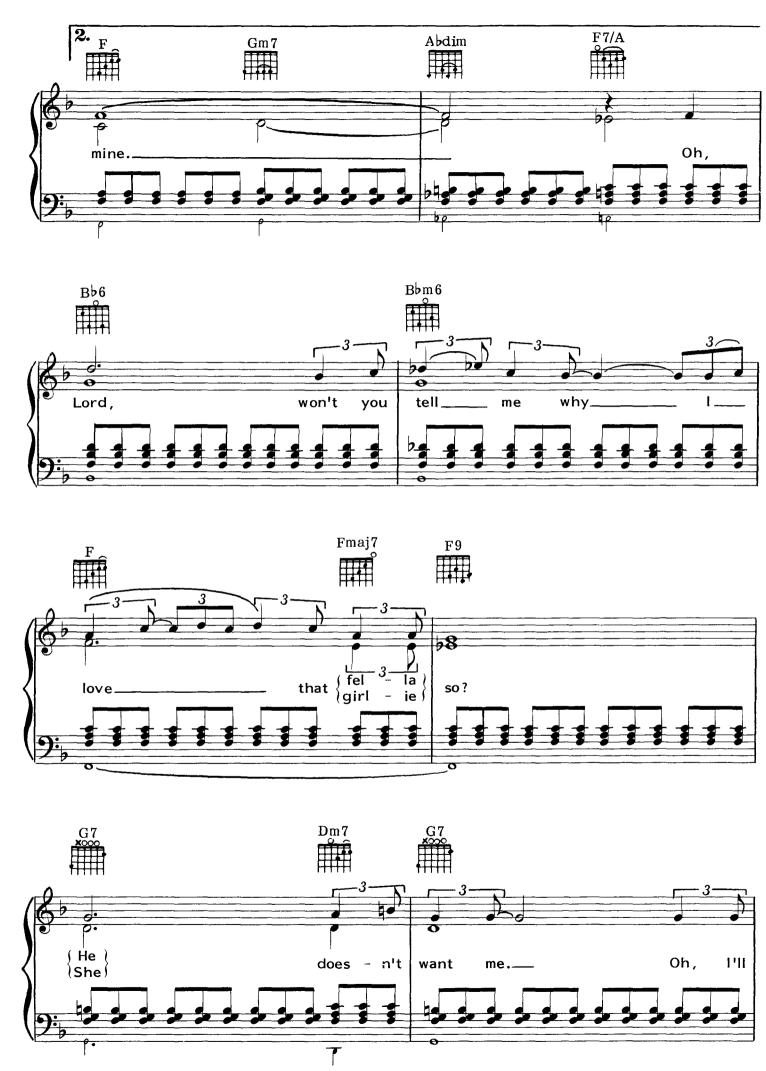




Sincerely

Like uncle, like nephew. Harvey Fuqua, who wrote "Sincerely" with disc jockey Alan Freed and sang it to fame with his group The Moonglows in 1954, was the nephew of Charlie Fuqua, one of the original Ink Spots. The McGuire Sisters—Chris, Dotty and Phyllis—who were then part of Arthur Godfrey's troupe, had an even bigger hit with the song, turning it into a million-seller.







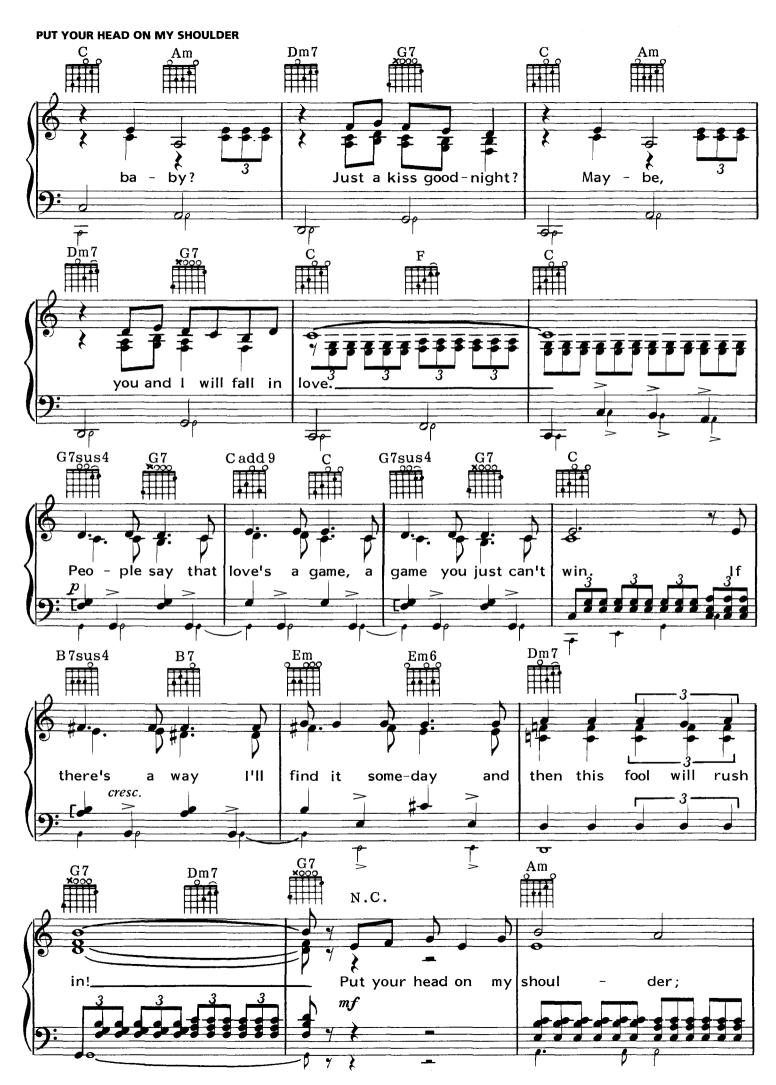
Put Your Head on My Shoulder
Paul Anka may have started out as just another teen idol in the late '50s,

but he didn't let it rest there. As an actor he did well in *The Longest Day* (and wrote the title song); his translation of the French song "Comme d'Habitude" helped make "My Way" one of Frank Sinatra's greatest hits; he wrote the theme for Johnny Carson's *Tonight* show; and meanwhile he had 33 Top 40 hits between 1957 and 1983, including "Lonely Boy," "Diana" and "(You're) Having My Baby." In this 1958 ode he offered a soft-edged alternative to the rock revolution.

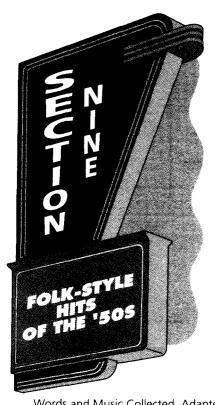


Words and Music by Paul Anka









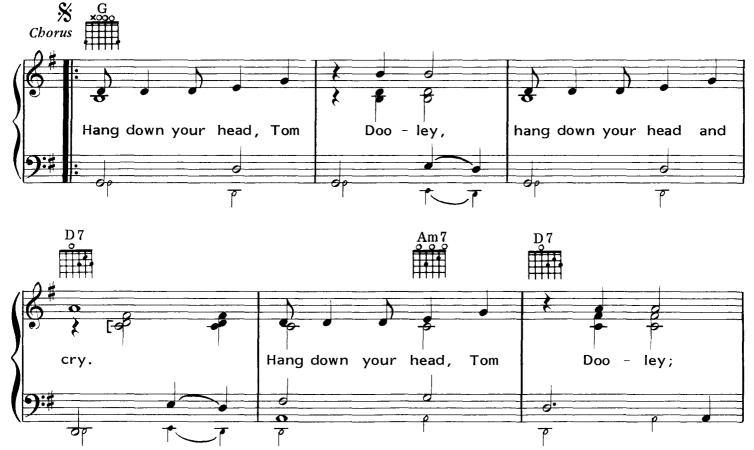
IOM Decley

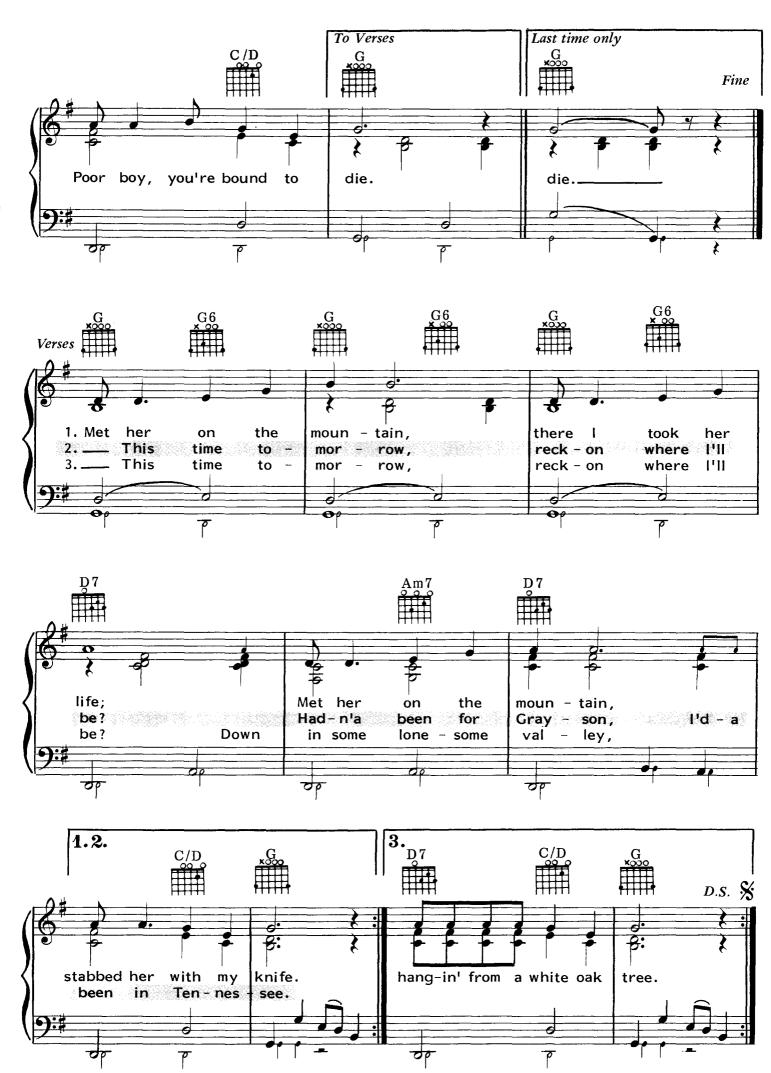
His name was really Tom Dula, and he returned a hero to his hometown of Statesville, North Carolina, after fighting in the Civil War—only to walk into tragedy. Under circumstances that have never been quite clear, Tom stabbed a girlfriend to death, and died for it on the gallows. His story was recounted in a folk ballad which, adapted and toned down a bit by The Kingston Trio in 1958, became a major hit and focal point of the late '50s folk music revival.



Words and Music Collected, Adapted and Arranged by Frank Warner, John A. Lomax and Alan Lomax. From the singing of Frank Proffitt



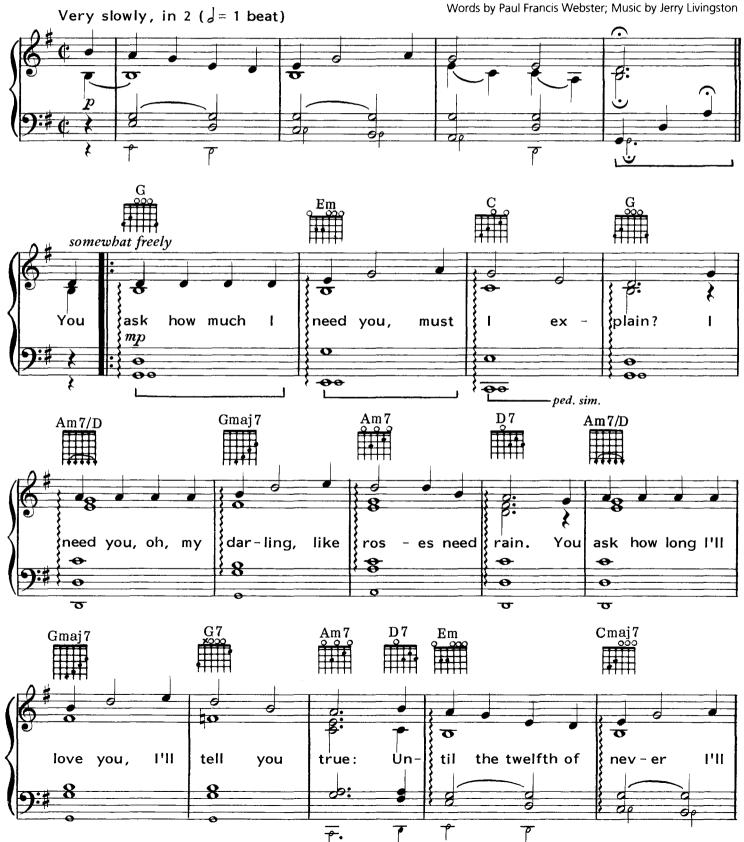


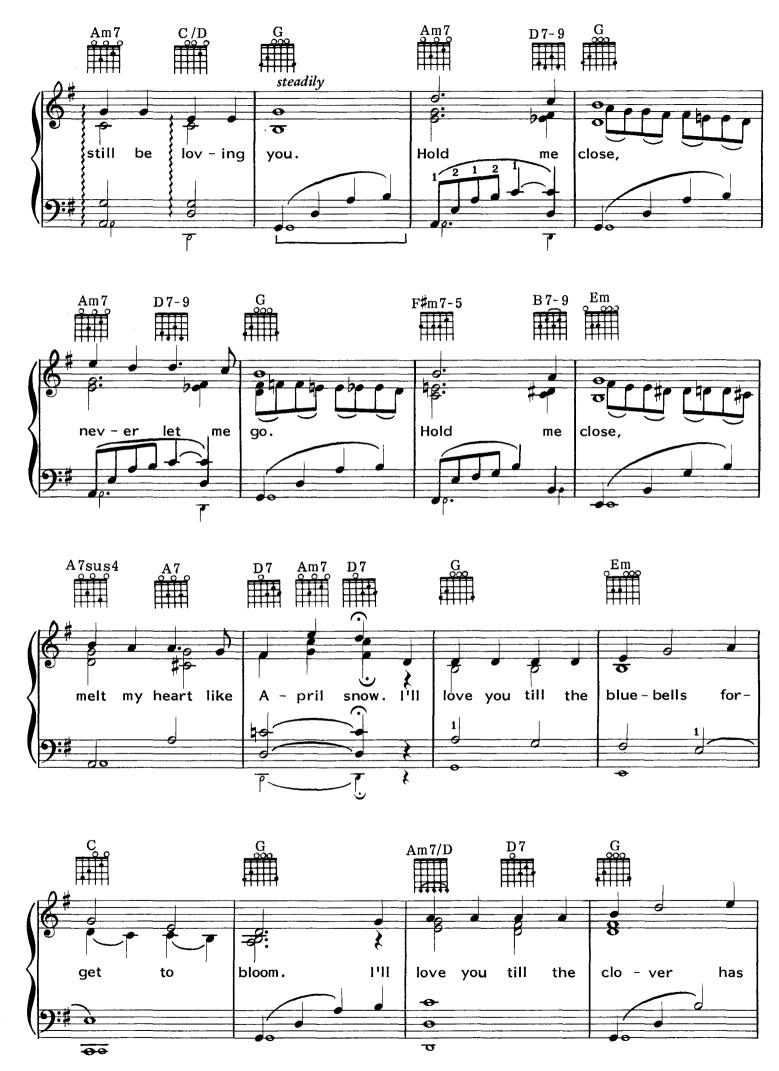


THE TWELFTH OF NEVER

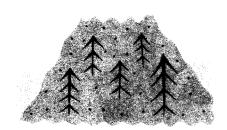
This well-traveled folk ballad probably started life in England, then showed up in the Kentucky hills as "The Riddle Song," or "I Gave My Love a Cherry." Altered a bit by Jerry Livingston and dressed up with a lyric by Paul Francis Webster, it made the charts in 1957 on the strength of a record by Johnny Mathis. Still later, such country artists as Slim Whitman "discovered" it, and the old song seems to have found a home at last as a country-folk standard.





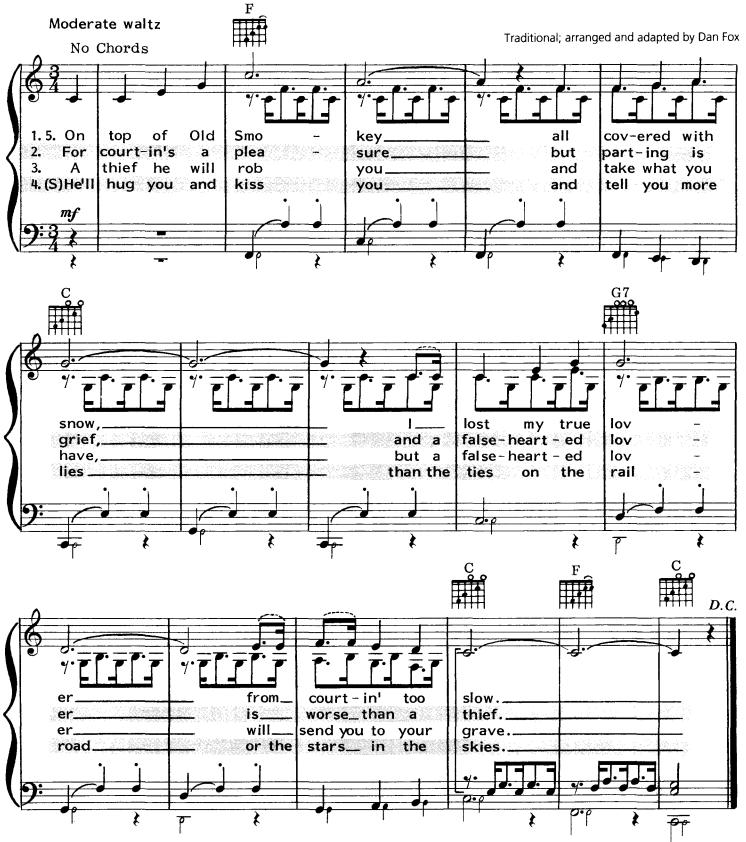


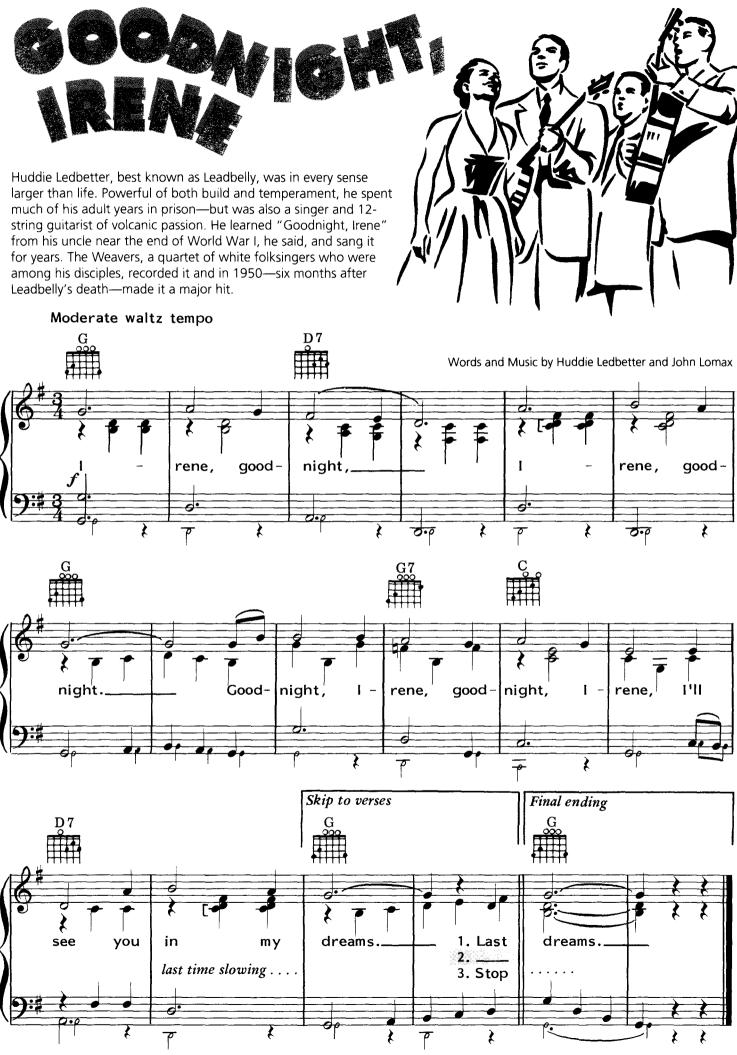


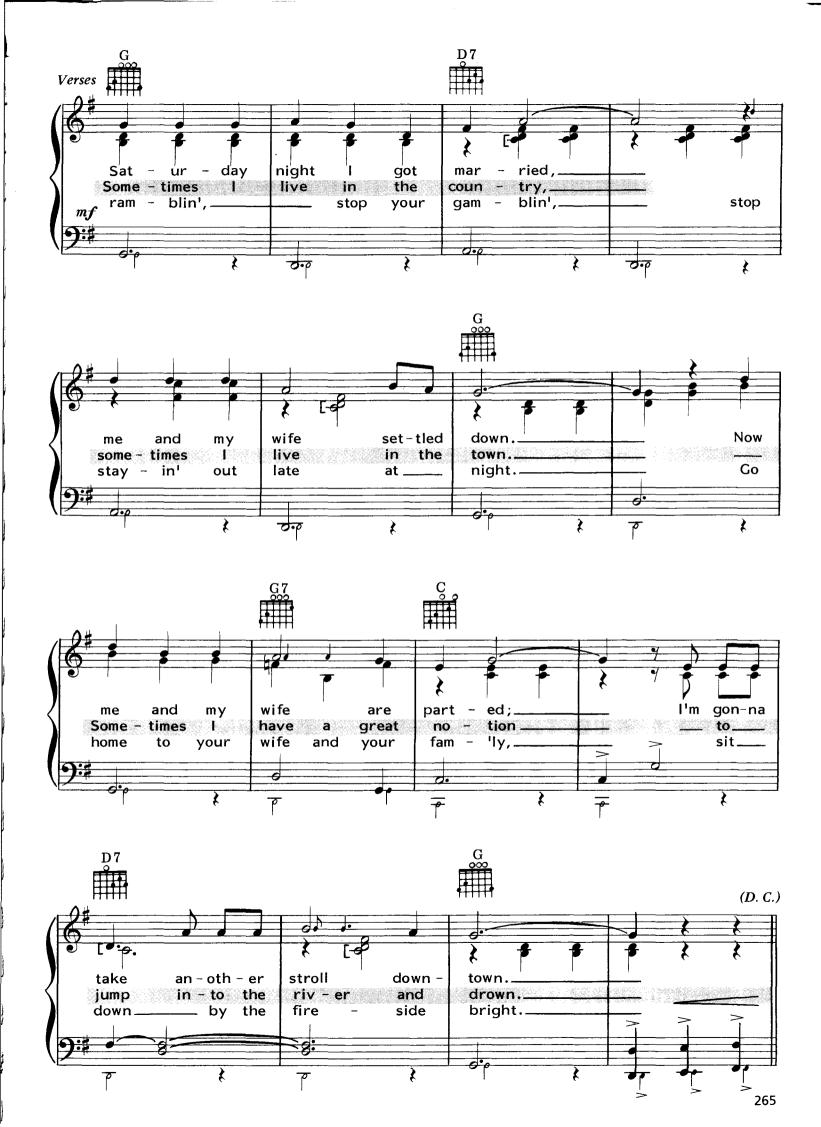


This English import became part of American history when settlers sang it while driving their covered wagons into the unexplored vastness of the West. By the early '50s, when The Weavers recorded it, the beloved folk ballad was as much a part of musical America as "The Blue-Tail Fly." The big folk music boom of the late '50s, in fact, can be traced directly to this and other old favorites put in circulation by the four singers.

On Top of Old Smokey

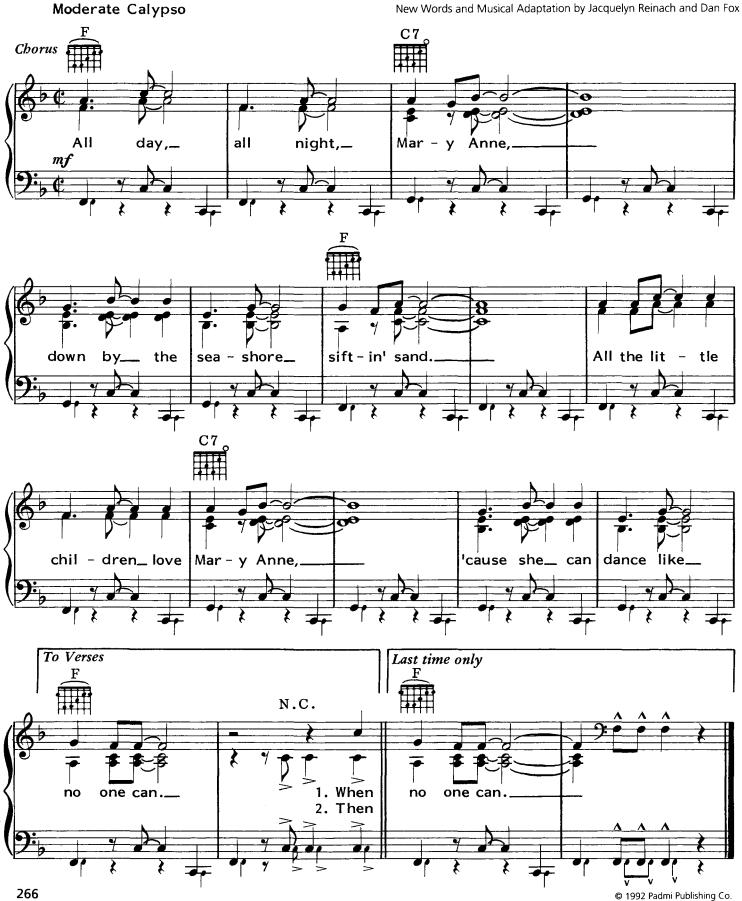


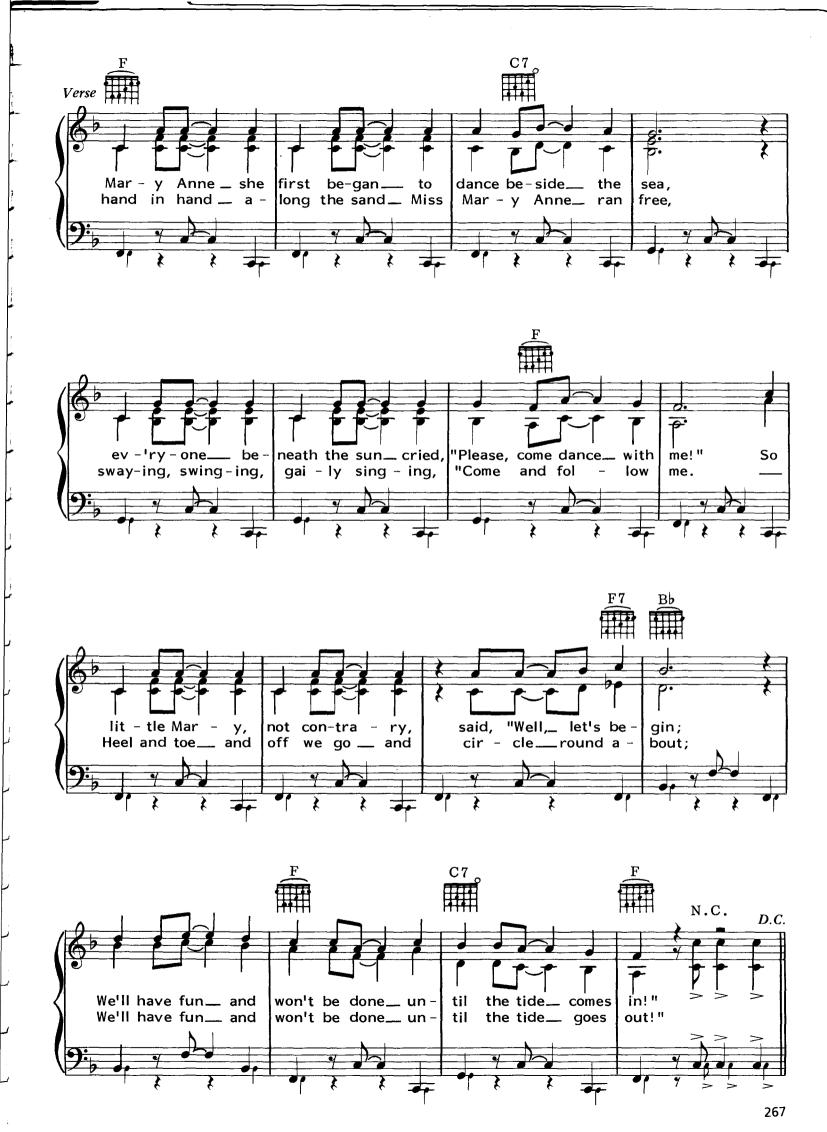






In the mid-'50s, the calypso beat danced its way up from the West Indies to the United States. One of its chief proponents was American-born, Jamaica-bred Harry Belafonte, who scored with such hits as "Jamaica Farewell" and "Banana Boat Song (Day-O)." Also along for the ride were Terry Gilkyson and The Easy Riders, who had a million-selling hit with this Bahamanian folk song in 1957. Our version features new lyrics and a musical adaptation by arranger Dan Fox and Jacquelyn Reinach.

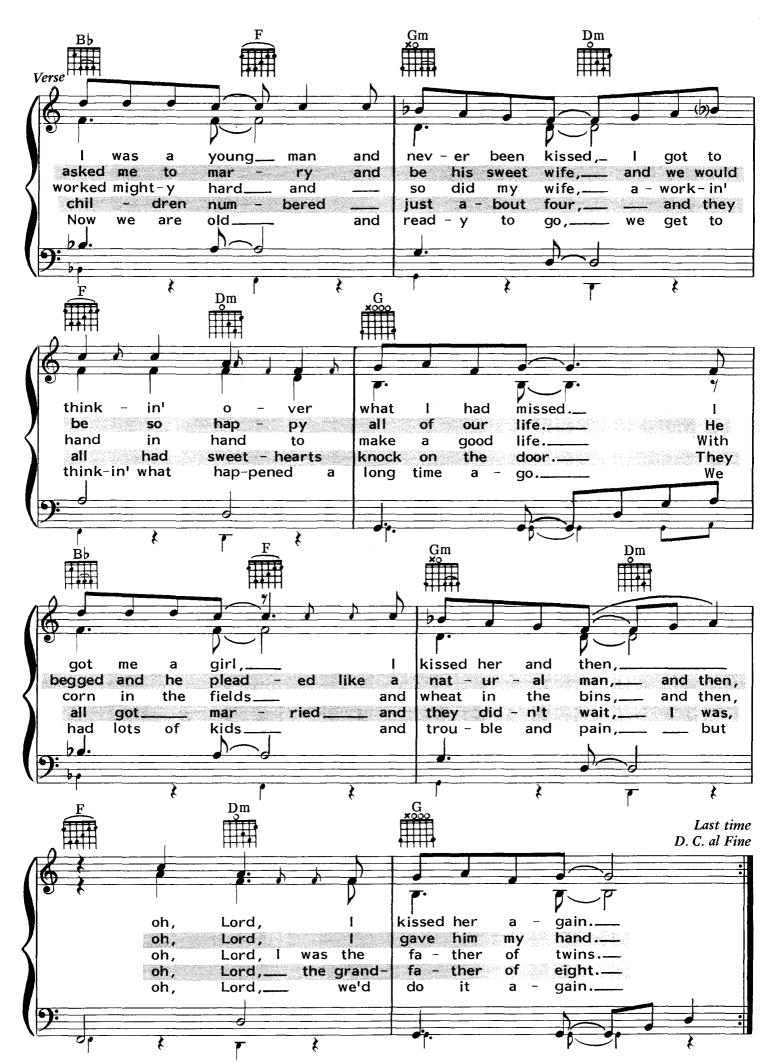






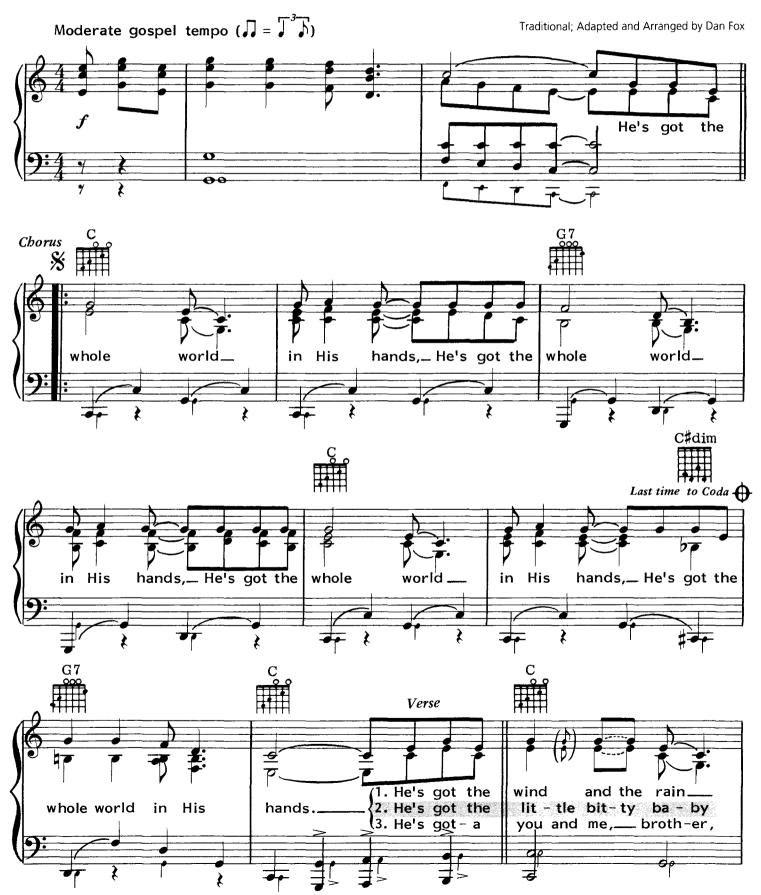
Leadbelly and The Weavers teamed up to adapt this Irish folk song. The Weavers' record joined "On Top of Old Smokey," "So Long (It's Been Good to Know Yuh)" and "Wimoweh" among their all-time hits. But it was Jimmie Rodgers who had the big hit with "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine," in 1957. It followed his first success, "Honeycomb," in a string of hits that also included "Oh-Oh, I'm Falling in Love Again" and "Secretly."

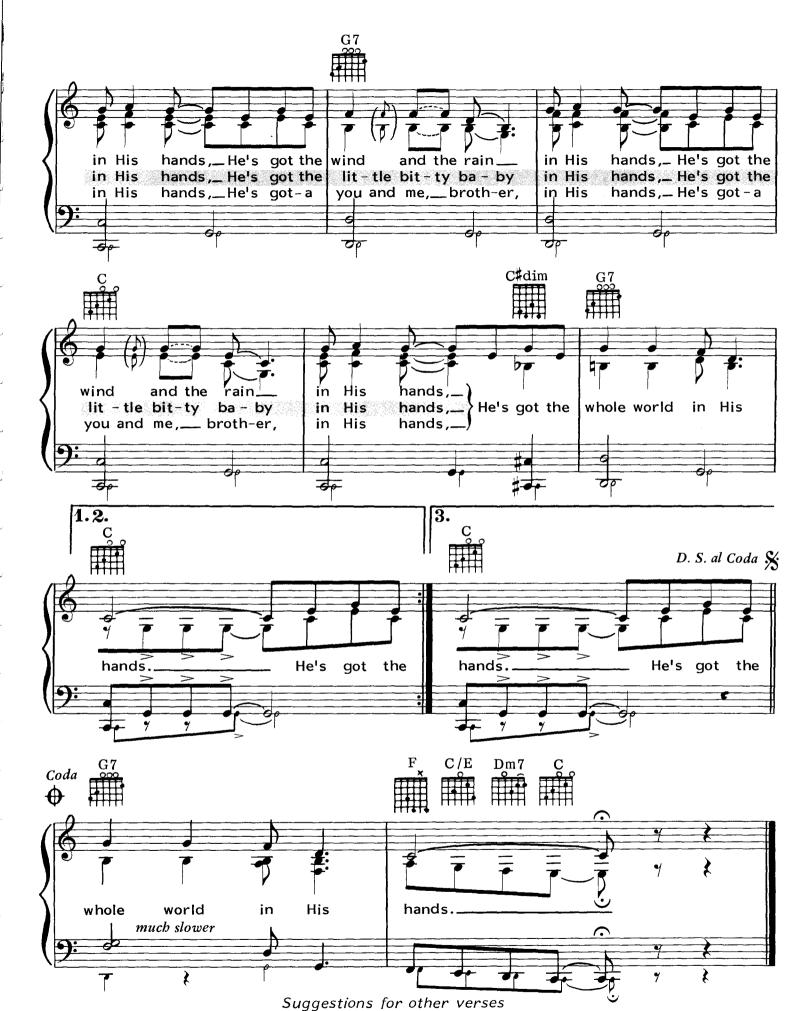




He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Who can hear this old gospel favorite without remembering Mahalia Jackson singing it, majestic in her white robes, her voice ringing out triumphantly? Miss Jackson's recording made the charts in 1958, but it was a 13-year-old British singer, Laurie London, who took "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" to No. 1 the same year.





He's got-a you and me, sister, in His hands... He's got the gamblin' man in His hands...

The Yellow Rose of Texas

Don George, a sometime associate of Duke Ellington, adapted this century-old Civil War song in 1955. Originally known as "The Gallant Hood of Texas," after Confederate General John Bell Hood, it was a favorite of President Franklin Roosevelt in the '30s, and was sung in a 1952 movie, Night Stage to Galveston, by Gene Autry. Mitch Miller's recording made the song a popular hit—and established the bearded record producer and former classical oboist as a pop star in his own right.



