Soprano Volume 1 Revised Edition

Return to Rich Hinkolman

A collection of songs from the musical stage, categorized by voice type. The selections are presented in their authentic settings, excerpted from the original vocal scores.

ISBN 0-88188-546-0



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Foreword

The Singer's Musical Theatre Anthology is the most comprehensive series of its kind ever to appear in print. Its unique perspective is in looking at the field of musical theatre in terms of vocal literature. One of the prime parameters in choosing the songs for this series was that they should all be, in some way, particularly vocally gratifying.

Many of the songs included here are very familiar to us, yet we seldom see them printed as they were originally written and performed. The long tradition in sheet music throughout this century has been to adapt a song in several ways to conform to a format which makes it accessible to the average pianist. This type of arrangement is what one finds in vocal selections, or in any piano/vocal collection of show music. These sheet arrangements serve their purpose very well, but aren't really the best performing editions for a singer. In contrast, the selections in this series have been excerpted from the original vocal scores. One of the many benefits of this is a much more satisfying piano accompaniment. In addition, many songs here have never been available separately from the full vocal scores.

In some cases, a song has required some adaptation in order to be excerpted from a show's vocal score. The practice of performing arias as removed from their operatic context gives many precedents for making such adjustments. In many ways, one could view this anthology as a "performing edition." Significant editorial adjustments are indicated by footnotes in some instances.

The original keys of this literature (which are used here) can give important information to a singer about the nature of a song and how it should sound, and in most cases they will work very well for most singers. But, unlike opera, these original keys do not necessarily need to be reverently maintained. With some musical theatre literature, a singer should not rule out transposing a song up or down for vocal comfort. Concerning keys, one important factor to remember is that the preferred vocal sound in women's musical theatre literature is often significantly lower than as defined by classical vocal tradition, especially by operatic standards of tessitura.

There is certainly no codified system for classifying theatre music as to voice type. With some roles the classification is obvious. With others there is a good deal of ambiguity. As a result, a particular singer might find suitable literature in this anthology in both volumes of his/her gender.

Any performer of these songs will benefit greatly by a careful study of the show and role from which any given song is taken. This type of approach is taken for granted with an actor preparing a monologue or an opera singer preparing an aria. But because much theatre music has been the popular music of its time, we sometimes easily lose awareness of its dramatic context.

The selections in **The Singer's Musical Theatre Anthology** will certainly be significant additions to a singer's repertory, but no anthology can include every wonderful song. There is a vast body of literature, some of it virtually unknown, waiting to be discovered and brought to life.

In the Revised Edition we answered some criticisms of where songs were previously published, and also have been able to slightly improve the overall mix of selections. We have moved "My Funny Valentine," "The Saga of Jenny," and "Glad to Be Unhappy" into Soprano Volume I, a more natural vocal fit for those wonderful songs in their original keys. "Ten Minutes Ago" has also been added to the Revised Edition.

THE SINGER'S MUSICAL THEATRE ANTHOLOGY

Soprano

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ALLEGRO

MUSIC: Richard Rodgers

LYRICS AND BOOK: Oscar Hammerstein II

DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER: Agnes de Mille

OPENED: 10/10/47

Allegro was the third Rodgers and Hammerstein musical on Broadway and the first with a story that had not been based on a previous source. It was a particularly ambitious undertaking, with its theme of the corrupting effect of big institutions told through the life of a doctor, Joseph Taylor, Jr. (John Battles), from his birth in a small American town to his thirty-fifth year. Joe grows up, goes to school, marries a local belle (Roberta Jonay), joins the staff of a large Chicago hospital that panders to wealthy patients, discovers that his wife is unfaithful, and, in the end, returns to his home town with his adoring nurse (Lisa Kirk) to dedicate himself to healing the sick and helping the needy. One innovation in the musical was the use of a Greek chorus to comment on the action and sing directly to the actors and the audience.

BABES IN ARMS

BOOK: Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart

CHOREOGRAPHER: George Balanchine

CHOREOGRAPHER: George Balanchine

CHOREOGRAPHER: Hanya Holm

BOOK: George Abbott

MUSIC: Richard Rodgers LYRICS: Lorenz Hart DIRECTOR: Robert Sinclair

OPENED: 4/14/37

With such songs as "I Wish I Were in Love Again," "Johnny One Note," "The Lady Is a Tramp," "My Funny Valentine," and "Where or When," *Babes in Arms* boasted more hits than any of Rodgers and Hart's twenty-nine stage musicals. In the high-spirited, youthful show, a group of youngsters, whose parents are out-of-work vaude-villians, stage a revue to keep from being sent to a work farm. Unfortunately, the show is not a success. Later, when a transatlantic French flyer lands nearby, they attract enough publicity to put on a successful show and have their own youth center. Among the cast's babes in arms were such future stars as Alfred Drake and Dan Dailey, both appearing in their first Broadway roles.

MGM's 1939 film version, starring Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland, retained only two of the Rodgers and Hart songs. The director was Busby Berkeley.

THE BOYS FROM SYRACUSE

MUSIC: Richard Rodgers LYRICS: Lorenz Hart

DIRECTOR: George Abbott

OPENED: 11/23/38

The idea for *The Boys from Syracuse* began when Rodgers and Hart, while working on another show, were discussing the fact that no one had yet done a musical based on a play by Shakespeare. Their obvious choice was *The Comedy of Errors* chiefly because Lorenz Hart's brother Teddy Hart was always being confused with another comic actor, Jimmy Savo. Set in Ephesus in ancient Asia Minor, the ribald tale concerns the efforts of two boys from Syracuse, Antipholus and his servant Dromio (Eddie Albert and Jimmy Savo) to find their long-lost twins, also named Antipholus and Dromio (Ronald Graham and Teddy Hart). Complications arise when the wives of the Ephesians, Adriana (Muriel Angelus) and her servant Luce (Wynn Murray), mistake the two strangers for their husbands. A highly successful Off Broadway revival of *The Boys from Syracuse* was presented in 1963 and ran for 502 performances. The movie version, which RKO-Radio released in 1940, starred Allan Jones and Joe Penner (both in dual roles). It was directed by A. Edward Sutherland.

CAMELOT

MUSIC: Frederick Loewe

LYRICS AND BOOK: Alan Jay Lerner

DIRECTOR: Moss Hart **OPENED:** 12/3/60

Lerner and Loewe's first Broadway production following their spectacular hit, *My Fair Lady*, was another musical based on a highly esteemed work of British fiction, T.H. White's novel, *The Once and Future King*. Again, too, they were joined by fair lady Julie Andrews and director Moss Hart for an opulently mounted retelling of the Arthurian legend, with its high-minded knights of the round table and its tragic romantic triangle involving King Arthur, his queen Guenevere, and his trusted knight, Sir Lancelot. Helped by a huge advance ticket sale, *Camelot* easily surmounted a divided press to become something of a Broadway legend itself.

In 1980, during a tour headed by Richard Burton, the original King Arthur, *Camelot* returned to New York to play the New York State Theatre for 56 performances. After Burton was succeeded on the road by Richard Harris, the musical came back again, this time to the Winter Garden for an additional 48 performances. Mr. Harris also starred in the film version with Vanessa Redgrave, which Joshua Logan directed for Warner Bros. in 1967.

Most of the material in this section was previously published in **The Broadway Fake Book**, for which noted author Stanley Green was consultant and contributor.

CAROUSEL 5

MUSIC: Richard Rodgers CHOREOGRAPHER: Agnes de Mille

LYRICS AND BOOK: Oscar Hammerstein II

DIRECTOR: Rouben Mamoulian

OPENED: 4/19/45

The collaborators of *Oklahoma!* chose Ferenc Molnar's *Liliom* as the basis for their second show. Oscar Hammerstein shifted Molnar's Budapest locale to a late nineteenth century fishing village in New England. The two principal roles are Billy Bigelow, a shiftless carnival barker, and Julie Jordan, an ordinary factory worker. This is not merely a simple boy meets girl plot, but contains a predominant theme of tragedy throughout most of the play. The score is rich with musical high points, the first coming with "If I Loved You," sung by Julie and Billy at their first meeting. In "Mister Snow" Carrie, Julie's friend, describes her almost perfect fiance. Billy's famous "Soliloquy" is Richard Rodgers longest and most operatic song, and can truly be considered an aria. The show closes with the moving, hymn-like "You'll Never Walk Alone."

CELEBRATION

MUSIC: Harvey Schmidt

LYRICS AND BOOK: Tom Jones

DIRECTOR: Tom Jones **OPENED:** 1/22/69

The setting is New Year's Eve, that most hopeful of holidays; the theme is of personal renewal and growth. Typically, using a minimum of characters, Schmidt and Jones tell their story with moving simplicity. The song chosen for this anthology, "Under the Tree," is written for a solo singer with a trio, but has been adapted for one singer in the edition that appears here.

CINDERELLA

MUSIC: Richard Rodgers CHOREOGRAPHER: Jonathan Lucas

LYRICS AND BOOK: Oscar Hammerstein II

DIRECTOR: Ralph Nelson **OPENED:** 3/31/57 (television)

When CBS-TV decided to mount a musical version of Cinderella, the network was fortunate in securing the services of Julie Andrews, fresh from her engagement as the Cinderella-like heroine of *My Fair Lady*, as well as the Broadway theatre's most illustrious writing team, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. In adapting the children's fairy tale, Hammerstein was careful not to alter or update the familiar story. It was still about the putupon drudge (Julie Andrews), her wicked Stepmother (Ilka Chase) and Stepsisters (Kaye Ballard and Alice Ghostley), her Fairy Godmother (Edith Adams), the ball that the King and Queen (Howard Lindsay and Dorothy Stickney) give for their son (Jon Cypher), the love that blossoms when Cinderella and the Prince meet, Cinderella's loss of a glass slipper, and the Prince's discovery that the foot that belongs to the slipper also belongs to his inamorata.

Because the production was filmed live and could not be preserved except in black-and-white kinescope, a new production was filmed in 1965, and has since been repeated eight times. Heading the cast were Lesley Ann Warren (Cinderella), Stuart Damon (The Prince), Celeste Holm (Fairy Godmother), Walter Pidgeon (King), and Ginger Rogers (Queen). The stage adaptation (which includes the song "Boys and Girls Like You and Me," originally intended for *Oklahoma!*) has been produced frequently throughout the United States.

THE FANTASTICKS

MUSIC: Harvey Schmidt

LYRICS AND BOOK: Tom Jones DIRECTOR: Word Baker

OPENED: 5/3/60

The statistics alone are, well, fantastic. Since *The Fantasticks* opened over 40 years ago at a tiny Greenwich Village theatre, there have been, to date, many thousands of productions in the United States, fifteen touring companies, hundreds of productions in more than 66 foreign countries, and the backers have received more than 10,000% profit on their initial investment of \$16,500. No other production, on or off Broadway, has ever enjoyed such a lengthy run. Curiously, the initial reviews were either mixed or negative, and producer Lore Noto seriously considered closing the show after its first discouraging week. But an Off Broadway award, the popularity of the song "Try to Remember," and, most important, word of mouth, all helped to turn the show's fortunes around.

The fragile fantasy is concerned with the theme of seasonal rebirth, or the paradox of "why Spring is born out of Winter's laboring pain." In the story, adapted from Edmond Rostand's play, *Les Ramanesques*, the fathers of two youthful lovers, Luisa and Matt, feel they must show parental disapproval to make sure that their progenies remain together. When this deception is revealed, the lovers quarrel and Matt goes off to seek adventure. At the end, after a number of degrading experiences, he returns to Luisa's waiting arms.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

MUSIC: Jerry Bock BOOK: Joseph Stein

LYRICS: Sheldon Harnick

DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER: Jerome Robbins

OPENED: 9/22/64

An undeniable classic of the Broadway theatre, *Fiddler on the Roof* took a compassionate view of a Jewish community in Czarist Russia where people struggled to maintain their traditions and identity in the face of persecution. Despite a story that some thought had limited appeal (it was based on tales by Sholom Aleichem, including "Tevye's Daughters"), the theme struck such a universal response that the Fiddler was perched precariously on his roof for a record run of over seven years, nine months. The plot is set in the village of Anatevka in 1905 and deals mainly with the efforts of Tevye (Zero Mostel), a dairyman, his wife Golde (Maria Karnilova), and their five daughters to cope with their harsh existence. At the play's end, when a Cossack pogrom has forced everyone out of the village, Tevye and what is left of his family look forward to a new life in America.

Because of the musical's lengthy run, Zero Mostel was succeeded after a year by Luther Adler, followed by Herschel Bernardi, Harry Goz, Paul Lipson, and Jan Peerce. Others who took over roles during the Broadway engagement were Pia Zadora and Bette Midler, playing two of the daughters. *Fiddler on the Roof* was revived on Broadway at the Winter Garden in 1976, with Zero Mostel again in the lead, and at the New York State Theatre in 1981 with Herschel Bernardi and Maria Karnilova.

The United Artists film version, directed by Norman Jewison, opened in 1971 with Topol (who had played Tevye in London), Norma Crane and Molly Picon. Isaac Stern was the violin soloist heard on the soundtrack.

FLOWER DRUM SONG

MUSIC: Richard Rodgers

BOOK: Oscar Hammerstein II and Joseph Fields
LYRICS: Oscar Hammerstein II

CHOREOGRAPHER: Carol Haney

LYRICS: Oscar Hammerstein II

DIRECTOR: Gene Kelly

OPENED: 12/1/58

It was librettist Joseph Fields who first secured the rights to C.Y. Lee's novel and then approached Rodgers and Hammerstein to join him as collaborators. To dramatize the conflict between the traditionalist older Chinese-Americans living in San Francisco and their thoroughly Americanized offspring, the musical tells the story of Mei Li (Miyoshi Umeki), a timid "picture bride" from China, who arrives to fulfill her contract to marry night-club owner Sammy Fong (Larry Blyden). Sammy, however, prefers dancer Linda Low (Pat Suzuki), who obviously enjoys being a girl, and the problem is resolved when Sammy's friend Wang Ta (Ed Kenney) discovers that Mei Li is really the bride for him. *Flower Drum Song* marked the only Broadway musical directed by Gene Kelly.

In Universal's 1961 movie version, the cast was headed by Miyoshi Umeki, Nancy Kwan, and James Shigeta. Henry Koster was the director.

FOLLIES

MUSIC AND LYRICS: Stephen Sondheim

DIRECTORS: Harold Prince and Michael Bennett

BOOK: James Goldman

CHOREOGRAPHER: Michael Bennett

OPENED: 4/4/71

Taking place at a reunion of former *Ziegfeld Follies*-type showgirls, the musical dealt with the reality of life as contrasted with the unreality of theatre, a theme it explored through the lives of two couples, the upper-class, unhappy Phyllis and Benjamin Stone (Alexis Smith and John McMartin) and the middle-class, unhappy Sally and Buddy Plummer (Dorothy Collins and Gene Nelson). *Follies* also depicted these couples as they were in their youth, a flashback device that prompted Stephen Sondheim to come up with songs purposely reminiscent of the styles of some of the theatre's great composers and lyricists of the past.

The show was given two concert performances in September of 1985 at Avery Fisher Hall in New York City, with a cast that included Barbara Cook, George Hearn, Mandy Patinkin, Lee Remick, Carol Burnett and many others. A new recording of the musical was released as a result of these performances.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

MUSIC AND LYRICS: Stephen Sondheim

DIRECTOR: George Abbott

OPENED: 5/8/62

BOOK: Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart

CHOREOGRAPHER: Jerome Robbins

CHOREOGRAPHER: Jack Cole

Full of sight gags, pratfalls, mistaken identity, leggy girls, and other familiar vaudeville ingredients, this was a bawdy, farcical, pellmell musical whose likes have seldom been seen on Broadway. Originally intended as a vehicle first for Phil Silvers and then for Milton Berle, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* opened on Broadway with Zero Mostel as Pseudolus the slave, who is forced to go through a series of mad-cap adventures before being allowed his freedom. Though the show was a hit, things had not looked very promising during the pre-Broadway tryout, and director Jerome Robbins was called in. The most important change: beginning the musical with the song "Comedy Tonight," which set the right mood for the wacky doings that followed.

To come up with a script, the librettists researched all twenty-one surviving comedies by the Roman playwright Plautus (254–184 BC), then wrote an original book incorporating such typical Plautus characters as the conniving servants, the lascivious master, the domineering mistress, the officious warrior, the simple-minded hero (called Hero), and the senile old man. One situation, regarding the senile old man who is kept from entering his house because he believes it is haunted, was, in truth, originally discovered in a play titled *Mostellaria*.

In 1972, Phil Silvers at last got his chance to appear as Pseudolus in a well-received revival whose run was curtailed by the star's illness. Both Mostel (as Pseudolus) and Silvers (as Marcus Lycus) were in the 1966 United Artists screen version, along with Jack Gilford and Buster Keaton. Richard Lester was the director.

HAPPY END

MUSIC: Kurt Weill WORDS: Bertolt Brecht

ADAPTATION: Elisabeth Hauptmann

OPENED: 9/2/29 (Berlin)

Few musical plays have fostered such high expectations and received such complete condemnation as did *Happy End* at the time of its premiere. The German press seemed convinced that Brecht and Weill had attempted to duplicate their early success with *The Threepenny Opera*, and the virtually unanimous verdict was that they had failed miserably. It was not until the 1956 revival in Munich that the show began to be seen and appreciated on its own terms. *Happy End* seems to be slowly gaining a following, yet still remains one of Weill's least known works. The one song from the show which has always maintained a fame of its own, even among the infamy of the show's premiere, is "Surabaya Johnny." It is sung by Lilian Holiday, lieutenant of the Salvation Army, to Bill Cracker, a Chicago gangster and dance hall owner. Lilian chose this song to sing to Bill because she is out to save his soul, as well as trying to convince him of the pain he has caused her.

THE KING AND I

MUSIC: Richard Rodgers

LYRICS AND BOOK: Oscar Hammerstein II

DIRECTOR: John van Druten

OPENED: 3/29/51

The idea of turning Margaret Landon's novel, *Anna and the King of Siam*, into a musical first occurred to Gertrude Lawrence who saw it as a suitable vehicle for her return to the Broadway musical stage. Based on the diaries of an adventurous Englishwoman, the story is set in Bangkok in the early 1860s. Anna Leonowens, who has accepted the post of schoolteacher to the Siamese king's children, has frequent clashes with the monarch but eventually comes to exert great influence on him, particularly in creating a more democratic society for his people. The show marked the fifth collaboration between Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, and their third to run over one thousand performances.

Cast opposite Miss Lawrence (who died in 1952 during the run of the play) was the little-known Yul Brynner. After the original production, Brynner virtually made the King his personal property. In 1956, he co-starred with Deborah Kerr in the Fox movie version directed by Walter Lang. Twenty years later, by now solo starred, he began touring in a new stage production which played New York in 1977 with Constance Towers as Anna, and London in 1979 with Virginia McKenna as Anna. Brynner resumed touring in 1981 and, at the time of his death in 1985, had given thousands of performances as King Rama IV.

KISS ME, KATE

MUSIC AND LYRICS: Cole Porter **DIRECTOR:** John C. Wilson

OPENED: 12/30/48

BOOK: Samuel and Bella Spewack CHOREOGRAPHER: Hanya Holm

The genesis of Cole Porter's longest-running musical occurred in 1935 when producer Saint Subber, then a stagehand for the Theatre Guild's production of Shakespeare's Taming of the Shrew, became aware that its stars Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, quarreled almost as much in private as did the characters in the play. Years later he offered this parallel story as the basis for a musical comedy to the same writing trio, Porter and the Spewacks, who had already worked on the successful show, Leave It to Me! The entire action of Kiss Me, Kate occurs backstage and onstage at Ford's Theatre, Baltimore during a tryout of a musical version of *The Taming of the Shrew*. The main plot concerns the egotistical actor-producer Fred Graham (Alfred Drake) and his temperamental ex-wife Lili Vanessi (Patricia Morison) who—like Shakespeare's Petruchio and Kate—fight and make up and eventually demonstrate their enduring affection for each other.

One of the chief features of the score is the skillful way Cole Porter combined his own musical world ("So in Love," "Too Darn Hot," and "Why Can't You Behave?") with Shakespeare's world ("I Hate Men"), while also tossing off a Viennese waltz parody ("Wunderbar") and a comic view of the Bard's plays ("Brush Up Your Shakespeare").

MGM's 1953 screen version, under George Sidney's direction, had a cast headed by Howard Keel, Kathryn Grayson and Ann Miller.

LADY IN THE DARK

MUSIC: Kurt Weill

BOOK: Moss Hart LYRICS: Ira Gershwin CHOREOGRAPHER: Albertina Rasch

DIRECTORS: Hassard Short and Moss Hart

OPENED: 1/23/41

Although dreams had long been employed as a theatrical device, Moss Hart was the first to write a musical play dealing with their psychoanalytic implications. An austere and businesslike Liza Elliot (Gertrude Lawrence), editor of a successful fashion magazine, had been bothered by her dreams and visits a psychoanalyst. Her four haunting dreams revolve around four men: Kendall Nesbitt (Bert Lytell), her married lover who aided her rise to editor; Randy Curtis (Victor Mature), a glamorous but shallow Hollywood star; Russell Paxton (Danny Kaye), the magazine's effeminate and zany photographer; and most importantly, Charlie Johnson (MacDonald Carey), the magazine's crusty advertising manager. In relating her dreams, Liza finally comes to understand that all her decisions in life were made because of her father's rejection. With the exception of "My Ship," the musical numbers were sung only during the elaborate dream sequences Liza describes to her doctor.

Ginger Rogers and Ray Milland starred in the 1944 Paramount film version under the direction of Mitchell Leisen.

ME AND JULIET

MUSIC: Richard Rodgers

LYRICS AND BOOK: Oscar Hammerstein II.

DIRECTOR: George Abbott

OPENED: 5/28/53

Me and Juliet was Rodgers and Hammerstein's Valentine to show business, with its action—in Kiss Me, Kate fashion—taking place both backstage in a theatre and onstage during the performance of a play. Here the tale concerns a romance between a singer in the chorus (Isabel Bigley) and the assistant stage manager (Bill Hayes) whose newfound bliss is seriously threatened by the jealous electrician (Mark Dawson). A comic romantic subplot involves the stage manager (Ray Walston) and the principal dancer (Joan McCracken). The melody of the show's best-remembered song, "No Other Love," had previously been composed by Rodgers as background music for the "Beneath the Southern Cross" episode in the NBC-TV documentary series Victory at Sea.

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

MUSIC AND LYRICS: Stephen Sondheim

DIRECTOR: Harold Prince

OPENED: 11/16/81

BOOK: George Furth

CHOREOGRAPHER: Larry Fuller

CHOREOGRAPHER: Robert Alton

Founded on the George S. Kaufman-Moss Hart play of the same name, Merrily We Roll Along had a highly innovative concept: it told its tale backwards—or from the present when Franklin Shepard (Jim Walton) is a rich, famous, but morally compromised film producer and composer to his idealistic youth when he graduated from high school. Though daring and original, Merrily We Roll Along proved too much of a musical morality play, and represented the only out-and-out commercial failure with which composer-lyricist Sondheim and director Prince were associated together.

THE MOST HAPPY FELLA

MUSIC, LYRICS AND BOOK: Frank Loesser CHOREOGRAPHER: Dania Krupska

DIRECTOR: Joseph Anthony

OPENED: 5/3/56

Adapted from Sidney Howard's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *They Knew What They Wanted, The Most Happy Fella* was a particularly ambitious work for the Broadway theatre, with more than thirty separate musical numbers including arias, duets, trios, quartets, choral pieces, and recitatives. Robust, emotional expressions ("Joey, Joey, Joey, Joey") were interspersed with more traditional specialty numbers ("Big 'D" and "Standing on the Corner"), though in the manner of an opera; the program credits did not list individual selections. In the story, set in California's Napa Valley, an aging vineyard owner (played by opera singer Robert Weede, in his first Broadway role) proposes to a waitress, Rosabella (Jo Sullivan), by mail and she accepts. Rosabella is so upset to find Tony old and fat that, on their wedding night, she allows herself to be seduced by Joe, the handsome ranch foreman (Art Lund). Once he discovers that his wife is to have another man's child, Tony threatens to kill Joe, but there is a reconciliation and the vintner even offers to raise the child as his own. A revival of *The Most Happy Fella* played on Broadway in 1979, with Giorgio Tozzi in the leading role. It ran 52 performances.

THE MUSIC MAN

MUSIC, LYRICS AND BOOK: Meredith Willson CHOREOGRAPHER: Onna White

DIRECTOR: Morton Da Costa

OPENED: 12/19/57

With *The Music Man*, composer-lyricist-librettist Meredith Willson recaptured the innocent charm of the middle America he knew growing up in an Iowa town. It is the Fourth of July, 1912, in River City, Iowa, and "Professor" Harold Hill, a traveling salesman of musical instruments, has arrived to con the citizens into believing that he can teach the town's children how to play in a marching band. But instead of skipping town before the instruments are to arrive, Hill is persuaded to remain because of the love of a good woman, librarian Marian Paroo. The story ends with the children, though barely able to produce any kind of a recognizable musical sound, being hailed by their proud parents.

The show, which took eight years and over thirty rewrites before it was produced on Broadway, marked Willson's auspicious debut in the theatre.

It was also the first musical-stage appearance of Robert Preston, playing the role of Harold Hill, who went on to repeat his dynamic performance in the 1962 Warner Bros. screen version. Shirley Jones and Hermione Gingold were also in the movie, which was directed by the original stage director, Morton Da Costa.

MY FAIR LADY

MUSIC: Frederick Loewe CHOREOGRAPHER: Hanya Holm

LYRICS AND BOOK: Alan Jay Lerner

DIRECTOR: Moss Hart **OPENED:** 3/15/56

The most celebrated musical of the 1950s began as an idea of Hungarian film producer Garbiel Pascal, who devoted the last two years of his life to trying to find writers to adapt George Bernard Shaw's play, *Pygmalion*, into a stage musical. The team of Lerner and Loewe also saw the possibilities, particularly when they realized that they could use most of the original dialogue and simply expand the action to include scenes at the Ascot Races and the Embassy Ball. They were also scrupulous in maintaining the Shavian flavor in their songs, most apparent in such pieces as "Get Me to the Church on Time," "Just You Wait," "Why Can't the English?," "Show Me," and "Without You."

Shaw's concern with class distinction and his belief that barriers would fall if all Englishmen would learn to speak properly was conveyed through a story about Eliza Doolittle (Julie Andrews) a scruffy flower seller in Covent Garden, who takes speech lessons from Prof. Henry Higgins (Rex Harrison) so that she might qualify for the position of a florist in a shop. Eliza succeeds so well that she outgrows her social station and—in a development added by librettist Lerner—even makes Higgins fall in love with her. Though the record was subsequently broken, *My Fair Lady* became the longest running production in Broadway history, remaining for over six and a half years. Two major revivals were mounted in New York. In 1976, the musical ran for 377 performances with Ian Richardson and Christine Andreas as Higgins and Eliza; in 1981, it lasted 119 performances with Rex Harrison in his original role and Nancy Ringham. Harrison and Audrey Hepburn (whose singing was dubbed by Marni Nixon) were costarred in the 1964 Warner Bros. movie version, which was directed by George Cukor.

OKLAHOMA!

MUSIC: Richard Rodgers

LYRICS AND BOOK: Oscar Hammerstein II

DIRECTOR: Rouben Mamoulian

OPENED: 3/31/43

There are many reasons why *Oklahoma!* is a recognized landmark in the history of American musical theatre. In the initial collaboration between Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, it not only expertly fused the major elements in the production—story, songs and dances— it also utilized dream ballets to reveal hidden desires and fears of the principals. In addition, the musical, based on Lynn Riggs' play, *Green Grow the Lilacs*, was the first with a book that honestly depicted the kind of rugged pioneers who had once tilled the land and tended the cattle. Set in Indian Territory soon after the turn of the century, *Oklahoma!* spins a simple tale mostly concerned with whether the decent Curly (Alfred Drake) or the menacing Jud (Howard Da Silva) gets to take Laurey (Joan Roberts) to the box social. Though she chooses Jud in a fit of pique, Laurey really loves Curly and they soon make plans to marry. At their wedding they join in celebrating Oklahoma's impending statehood, then—after Jud is accidentally killed in a fight with Curly—the couple rides off in their surrey with the fringe on top.

With its Broadway run of five years, nine months, *Oklahoma!* established a long-run record that it held for fifteen years. It also toured the United States and Canada for over a decade. In 1979, the musical was revived on Broadway with a cast headed by Laurence Guittard and Christine Andreas, and ran for 293 performances. The film version, the first in Todd-AO, was released by Magna in 1955. Gordon MacRae, Shirley Jones and Charlotte Greenwood were in it, and the director was Fred Zinnemann.

ON YOUR TOES

MUSIC: Richard Rodgers BOOK: George Abbott, Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart

LYRICS: Lorenz Hart CHOREOGRAPHER: George Balanchine

DIRECTORS: Worthington Miner, (George Abbott, uncredited)

OPENED: 4/11/36

On Your Toes scored a major theatrical breakthrough as the first Broadway entertainment to combine musical comedy and ballet. The story tells of how Junior Dolan (Ray Bolger), an ex-vaudevillian now a music teacher in New York, persuades a classical ballet company to perform a modern work, "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue," and then assumes the leading male role himself. Because he has also become involved with the company's chief ballerina, Vera Barnova (Tamara Geva), Vera's jealous lover and dancing partner hires two thugs to kill Junior during a performance of the ballet. To avoid being a target, Junior keeps dancing after the ballet is over; after the police have arrested the gunmen, he falls exhausted to the floor. The musical offered Ray Bolger his first major role and it also marked the first time that the ballet choreographer, George Balanchine, was engaged to create dances for a book musical.

Rodgers and Hart had originally conceived the musical as a screen vehicle for Fred Astaire, but the dancer turned it down because it did not give him the chance to wear top hat, white tie and tails. Though George Abbott, the book's co-author, was to have directed the production, repeated delays forced him to withdraw; he did, however, return to the show when it was having problems during the Boston tryout. *On Your Toes* has had two major Broadway revivals. In 1954, Abbott and Balanchine put together a production starring Bobby Van, Vera Zorina, and Elaine Stritch, which had a run of 64 performances. A more successful Broadway revival was mounted in 1983, again with Abbott directing and with choreography by Donald Saddler and Peter Martins, based on Balanchine's original work. The cast was headed by Natalia Makarova (Vera) and Lara Teeter (Junior).

With Eddie Albert and Vera Zorina in the leads (and the music used only as background), On Your Toes was filmed by Warner Bros. in 1939. Ray Enright directed.

110 IN THE SHADE

MUSIC: Harvey Schmidt BOOK: N. Richard Nash DIRECTOR: Joseph Anthony

OPENED: 10/24/63

LYRICS: Tom Jones

CHOREOGRAPHER: Agnes de Mille

CHOREOGRAPHER: Agnes de Mille

N. Richard Nash adapted his own play, *The Rainmaker*, for Schmidt and Jones' first Broadway musical, following their wildly successful *The Fantasticks* Off Broadway. Nash's play is probably best remembered for the film version which starred Burt Lancaster and Katharine Hepburn. The plot of the musical version remains quite faithful to that of its predecessor. It is a simple tale of Lizzie, an aging unmarried woman who lives with her father and brothers on a drought-stricken ranch in the American west. Starbuck, a transient "rainmaker" comes on the scene and is soon seen to be the con man that he is, despite his dazzling charisma. He does, however, pay sincere attention to Lizzie, and awakens love and life in her. The song in this volume, "Old Maid," is a moving aria that ends the first act, in which Lizzie nakedly reveals her fears of forever being alone.

PORGY AND BESS

MUSIC: George Gershwin

LYRICS: Ira Gershwin and DuBose Heyward

LIBRETTO: DuBose Heyward DIRECTOR: Rouben Mamoulian

OPENED: 10/10/35

Universally recognized as the most esteemed and popular opera written by an American composer, *Porgy and Bess* began in 1925 as a novel called *Porgy* by DuBose Heyward. Heyward's setting of Catfish Row in Charleston, South Carolina, and his emotional story of the crippled beggar Porgy, the seductive Bess, the manacing Crown, and the slinky cocaine dealer, Sportin' Life, fired Gershwin's imagination even before Heyward and his wife, Dorothy, transformed the book into a play two years later. After many delays, Gershwin, with Heyward and the composer's brother Ira, began writing the opera late in 1933, and completed it—including orchestrations—in twenty months.

The initial Broadway production, with Todd Duncan and Anne Brown in the title roles, was not a commercial success, though many of the solos and duets—"Summertime," "Bess, You Is My Woman Now," "I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'," "It Ain't Necessarily So" for example—quickly caught on. Four major revivals of *Porgy and Bess* have been mounted on Broadway since the first engagement. In 1942, again with Todd Duncan and Anne Brown, it ran 286 performances in a somewhat trimmed down version. In 1952, as part of a four-year international tour, it returned with William Warfield and Leontyne Price and ran for 305 performances. An acclaimed production in 1976 by the Houston Grand Opera Company featured Donnie Ray Albert as Porgy and Clamma Dale as Bess, and had a 122-performance run on Broadway. A 1983 production was based on the 1976 version and was the first dramatic work ever staged at the Radio City Music Hall. It gave 45 performances. The Metropolitan Opera produced the work in 1985, the first performances ever given in that house.

ROBERTA

MUSIC: Jerome Kern

LYRICS AND BOOK: Otto Harbach

DIRECTOR: Hassard Short **OPENED:** 11/18/33

The musical was adapted from Alice Duer Miller's novel *Gowns by Roberta*, but in the end the little plot that remained in the show seems to be a scant framework for some first rate songs. *Roberta* is probably best remembered as the source for its most famous song, "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," which appears in this volume. Two film versions were made of the play, the first one in 1953 and starring Irene Dunne, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

SHOW BOAT

MUSIC: Jerome Kern

LYRICS AND BOOK: Oscar Hammerstein II

DIRECTOR: Zeke Colvan **OPENED:** 12/27/27

No show ever to hit Broadway was more historically important, and at the same time more beloved than *Show Boat*, that landmark of the 1927 season. Edna Ferber's novel of life on the Mississippi was the source for this musical/operetta, and provided a rich plot and characters which Kern and Hammerstein amplified to become some of the most memorable ever to grace the stage. *Show Boat* is not only a summing up of all that had come before it, both in the musical and operetta genres, but plants a seed of complete congruity which later further blossoms in the more adventurous shows of the '30s, '40s, and '50s. Almost every song in the show is a familiar gem: "Make Believe;" "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man;" "You Are Love;" "Why Do I Love You?;" "Bill;" and that most classic song of the musical stage, "Ol' Man River." Since its premiere in 1927 the show has been in constant revival in some way or another, whether in its three film versions, in New York productions, in touring companies, in operatic repertories, or in the many, many amateur productions. *Show Boat* seems to be a permanent fixture in musical theatre.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

MUSIC: Richard Rodgers
LYRICS: Oscar Hammerstein II

DIRECTOR: Vincent J. Donehue

OPENED: 11/16/59

BOOK: Howard Linsay and Russel Crouse **CHOREOGRAPHER:** Joe Layton

CHOREOGRAPHER: José Limón

CHOREOGRAPHER: Sammy Lee

Rodgers and Hammerstein's final collaboration became their third longest running Broadway production. The story of *The Sound of Music* was adapted from Maria Von Trapp's autobiographical *The Trapp Family Singers* and the German film version, which Mary Martin was convinced would provide her with an ideal stage vehicle. Her husband, Richard Halliday, and producer Leland Hayward secured the rights and, initially, they planned to use only the music associated with the famed singing family plus one additional song by Rodgers and Hammerstein. Eventually, the songwriters were asked to contribute the entire score, and they also joined Halliday and Hayward as producers.

The play is set in Austria in 1938. Maria Rainier (Miss Martin), a free-spirited postulant at Nonnburg Abbey, takes a position as governess to the seven children of the widowed and autocratic Capt. Georg Von Trapp. (Theodore Bikel). After Maria and the captain fall in love and marry, their happiness is quickly shattered by the Nazi invasion which forces the family to flee over the Alps to Switzerland.

The 1965 film version, presented by 20th Century-Fox and directed by Robert Wise, starred Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer. According to *Variety*, from 1966 through 1969 *The Sound of Music* was the All-Time Box-Office Champion in rentals received in the U.S.-Canadian Market.

STREET SCENE

MUSIC: Kurt Weill LYRICS: Langston Hughes

DIRECTOR: Charles Friedman

OPENED: 1/9/47

BOOK: Elmer Rice

CHOREOGRAPHER: Anna Sokolow

Kurt Weill persuaded Elmer Rice to write the libretto based on his own Pulitzer Prize-winning play with poet Langston Hughes supplying the powerful and imaginative lyrics. Billed as "a dramatic musical," the blending of drama and music was very close to genuine opera. In fact, the play went on in 1966 to become part of the repertory of the New York City Opera Company. The story deals principally with the brief, star-crossed romance of Sam Kaplan (Brian Sullivan) and Rose Maurrant (Anne Jeffreys) and the tragic consequences of the infidelity of Rose's mother (Polyna Stoska). This plot loosely frames a series of vignettes, each depicting one of the colorful characters inhabiting the seedy tenement of the setting.

"Somehow I Never Could Believe" is one of the few truly great arias ever to emerge from a Broadway show. It is a full-blown, soaring operatic masterpiece which shows Weill at his American best.

SWEENEY TODD, THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

MUSIC AND LYRICS: Stephen Sondheim

DIRECTOR: Harold Prince

OPENED: 3/1/79

Despite the sordidness of its main plot—a half mad, vengeance-obsessed barber in Victorian London slits the throats of his customers whose corpses are then turned into meat pies by his accomplice, Mrs. Lovett—this near-operatic musical is a bold and often brilliant depiction of the cannibalizing effects of the Industrial Revolution. Sweeney Todd first appeared on the London stage in 1842 in a play called *A String of Pearls, or The Fiend of Fleet Street*. Other versions followed, the most recent being Christopher Bond's *Sweeney Todd*, produced in 1973, which served as the basis of the musical. Sondheim's masterwork is quickly gaining a foothold in the operatic repertory, with prominent productions at Houston and at New York City Opera.

THE THREEPENNY OPERA

MUSIC: Kurt Weill WORDS: Bertolt Brecht

ENGLISH TRANSLATION: Marc Blitzstein OPENED: 1928 (Berlin), 3/10/54 (New York)

The premiere of *The Threepenny Opera* in 1928 marked the 200th anniversary of *The Beggar's Opera*, and the earlier work is the basis for the famous Brecht-Weill collaboration. It revealed a revolutionary new style of German musical theatre, full of sardonic wit and political power. "Mack the Knife" has proven to be a durably popular product of the show, recorded and performed in widely varying styles and arrangements. Although the show had been performed in New York as early as the '30s, it didn't gain wide popularity until the famous 1954 production which starred Weill's widow, Lotte Lenya. That production went on to boast one of the longest runs in New York theatrical history, and the show continues to frequently appear on stages around the world.

TWO BY TWO

MUSIC: Richard Rodgers LYRICS: Martin Charnin DIRECTOR: Joe Layton OPENED: 1/10/70

BOOK: Peter Stone

BOOK: Hugh Wheeler

After an absence of almost thirty years, Danny Kaye returned to Broadway in a musical based on the legend of Noah and the Ark. Adapted from Clifford Odets' play, *The Flowering Peach*, *Two by Two* dealt primarily with Noah's rejuvenation and his relationship with his wife and family as he undertakes the formidable task that God has commanded. During the run, Kaye suffered a torn ligament in his left leg and was briefly hospitalized. He returned hobbling on a crutch with his leg in a cast, a situation he used as an excuse to depart from the script by cutting up and clowning around. For his third musical following Oscar Hammerstein's death, composer Richard Rodgers joined lyricist Martin Charnin (later to be responsible for *Annie*) to create a melodious score that included "The Golden Ram."

COME HOME

from Allegro

Music by RICHARD RODGERS Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II



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WHERE OR WHEN

from Babes in Arms













FALLING IN LOVE WITH LOVE

from The Boys from Syracuse

Words by LORENZ HART Music by RICHARD RODGERS

















I LOVED YOU ONCE IN SILENCE

from Camelot

Words by ALAN JAY LERNER Music by FREDERICK LOEWE



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THE SIMPLE JOYS OF MAIDENHOOD

from Camelot

Words by ALAN JAY LERNER Music by FREDERICK LOEWE



















IF I LOVED YOU

from Carousel

Words by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II Music by RICHARD RODGERS









MISTER SNOW

from Carousel













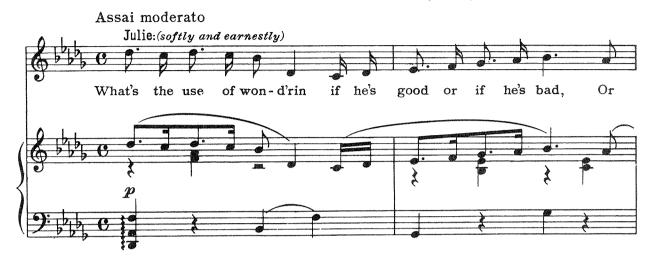




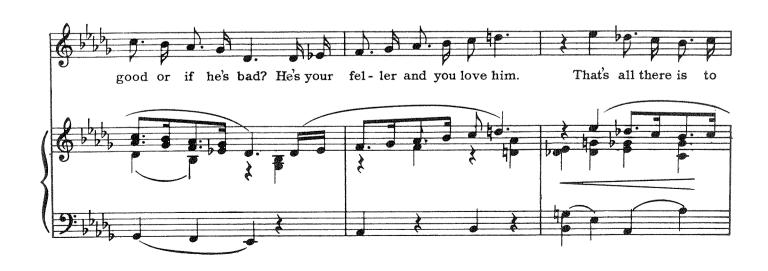
WHAT'S THE USE OF WOND'RIN'

from Carousel

Music by RICHARD RODGERS Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II





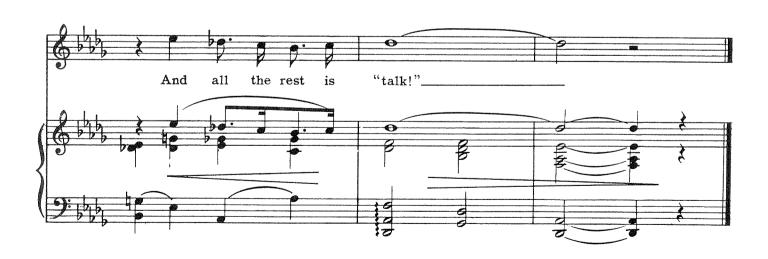












YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

from Carousel

Words by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II Music by RICHARD RODGERS







UNDER THE TREE

from Celebration

Lyrics by TOM JONES Music by HARVEY SCHMIDT



This song was originally written for a solo singer with a trio as a chorus.









TEN MINUTES AGO

from Cinderella

Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II Music by RICHARD RODGERS





The song is sung twice in the show, first by the Prince, then by Cinderella.







MUCH MORE from The Fantasticks

Words by TOM JONES Music by HARVEY SCHMIDT













FAR FROM THE HOME I LOVE







LOVE, LOOK AWAY from Flower Drum Song





ONE MORE KISS

from Follies



In the show this song is sung as a duet (two sopranos).









THAT'LL SHOW HIM

from A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum



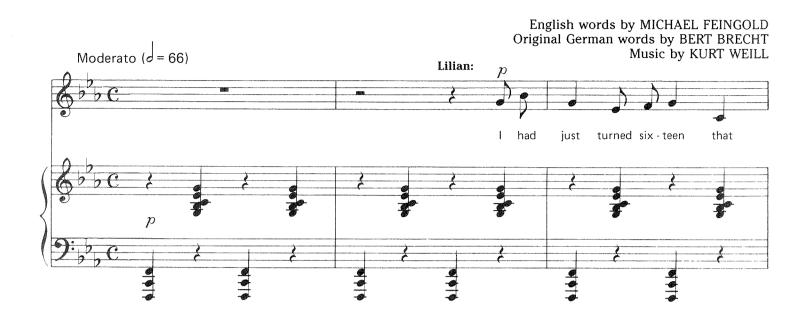


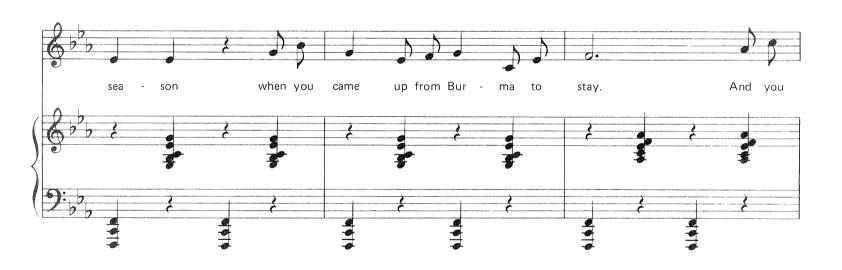


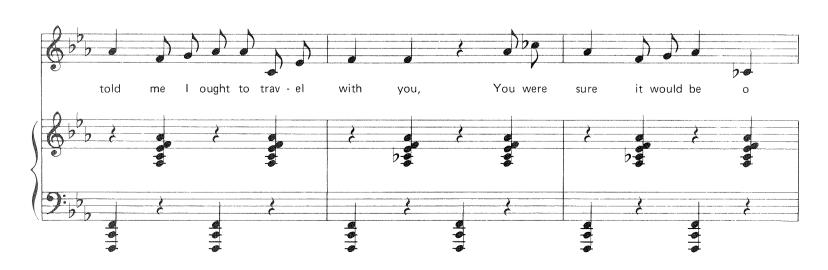


SURABAYA JOHNNY

from Happy End

















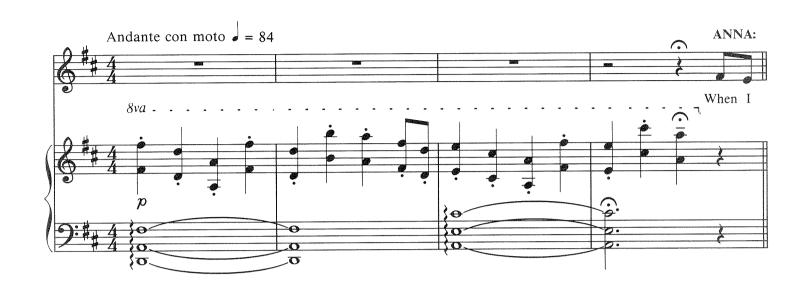


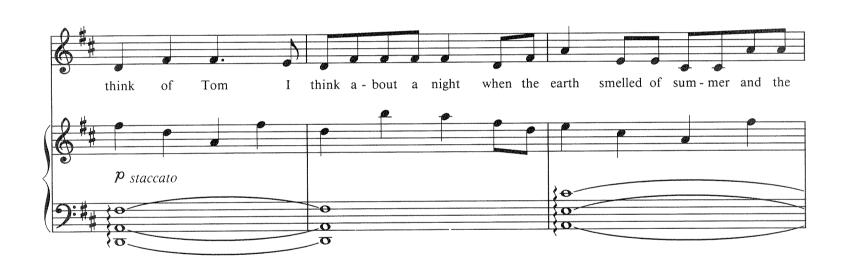


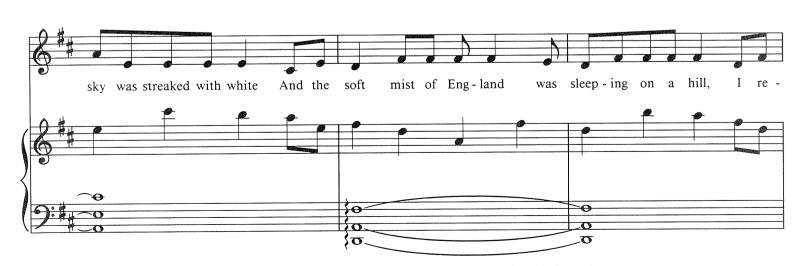


HELLO, YOUNG LOVERS from The King and I

Words by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II Music by RICHARD RODGERS















MY LORD AND MASTER

from The King and I

Words by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II Music by RICHARD RODGERS





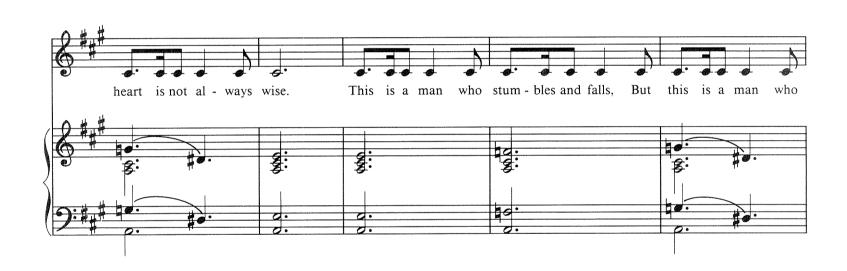


SOMETHING WONDERFUL

from The King and I

Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II Music by RICHARD RODGERS













SO IN LOVE

from Kiss Me, Kate



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NO OTHER LOVE

from Me and Juliet

Words by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II Music by RICHARD RODGERS

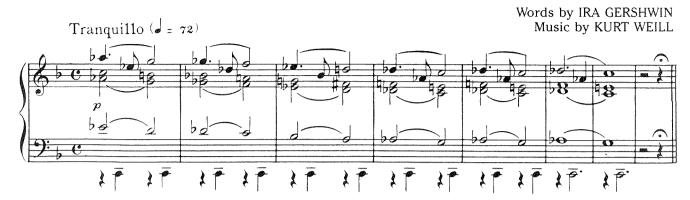






MY SHIP

from Lady in the Dark





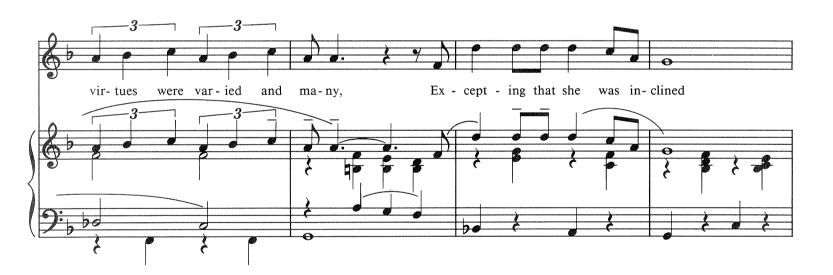


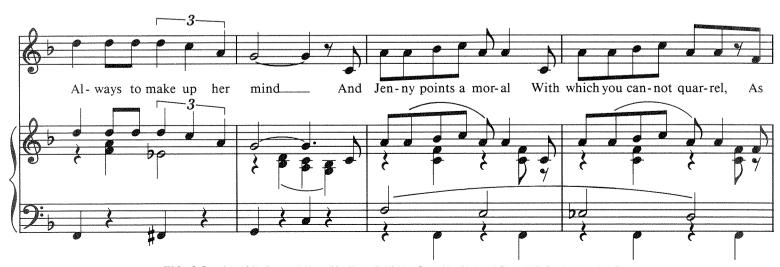
THE SAGA OF JENNY

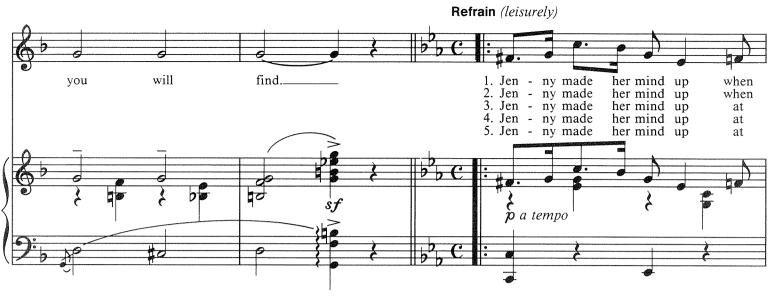
from Lady in the Dark

Words by IRA GERSHWIN Music by KURT WEILL





















NOT A DAY GOES BY

from Merrily We Roll Along

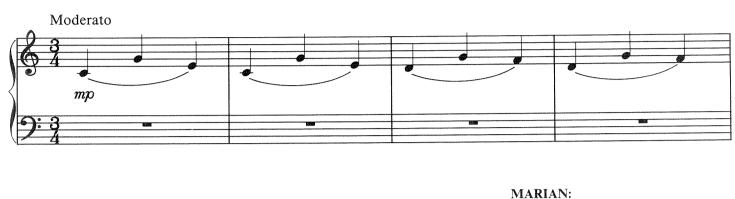


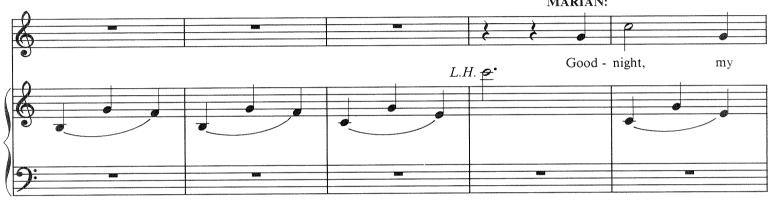


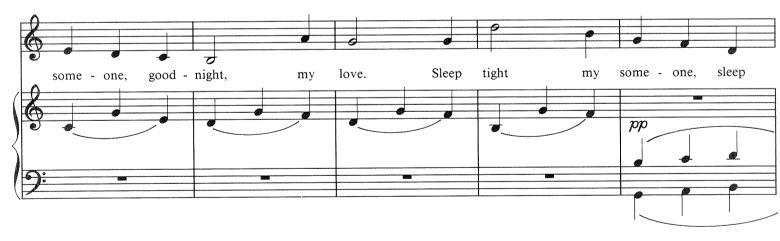


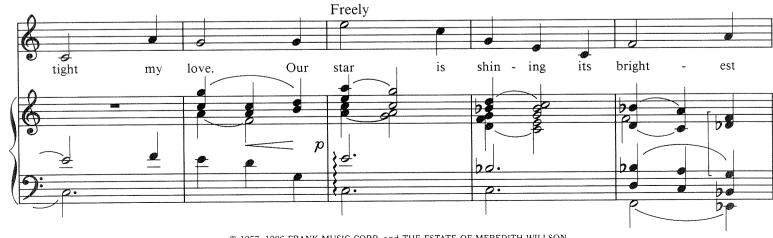
GOODNIGHT, MY SOMEONE from The Music Man

By MEREDITH WILLSON









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MY WHITE KNIGHT



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O







TILL THERE WAS YOU

from The Music Man









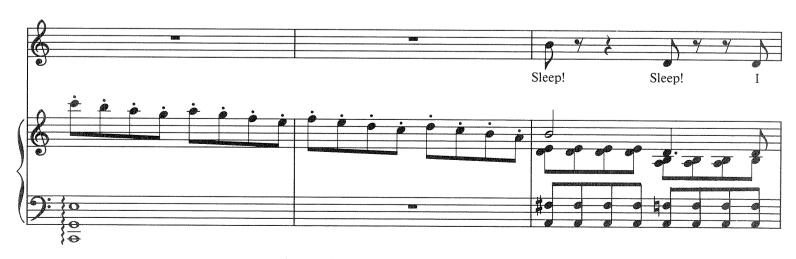
I COULD HAVE DANCED ALL NIGHT

from My Fair Lady

Words by ALAN JAY LERNER Music by FREDERICK LOEWE





















SHOW ME from My Fair Lady

Words by ALAN JAY LERNER Music by FREDERICK LOEWE











MANY A NEW DAY

from Oklahoma!

Words by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II Music by RICHARD RODGERS











OUT OF MY DREAMS

from Oklahoma!



This song appears in a somewhat different form here than in the context of the show.

Mr. Hammerstein revised the lyrics so that the song could stand alone, and it is this revision that is used here.











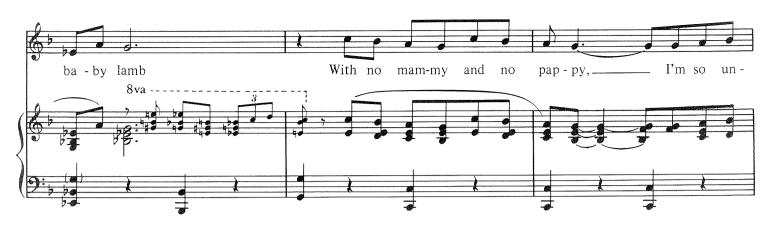
GLAD TO BE UNHAPPY

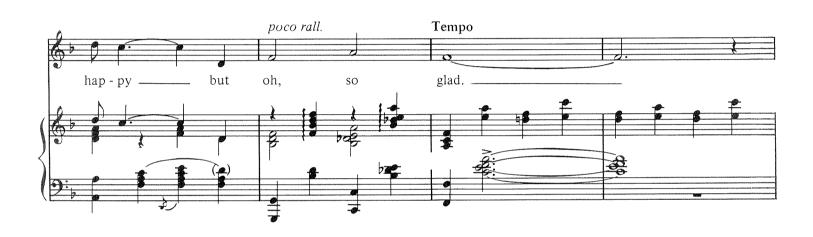
from On Your Toes

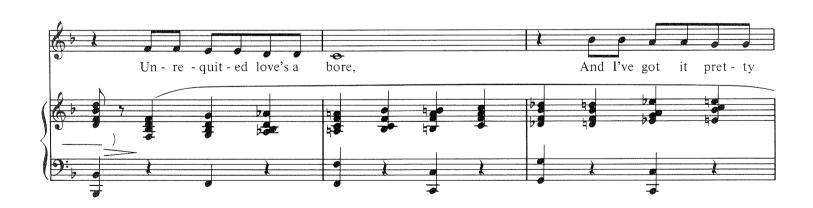












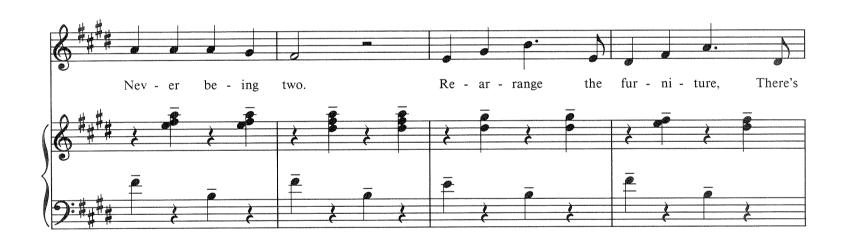


OLD MAID

from 110 in the Shade

Words by TOM JONES Music by HARVEY SCHMIDT



















SUMMERTIME

from Porgy and Bess

Words by DUBOSE HEYWARD Music by GEORGE GERSHWIN











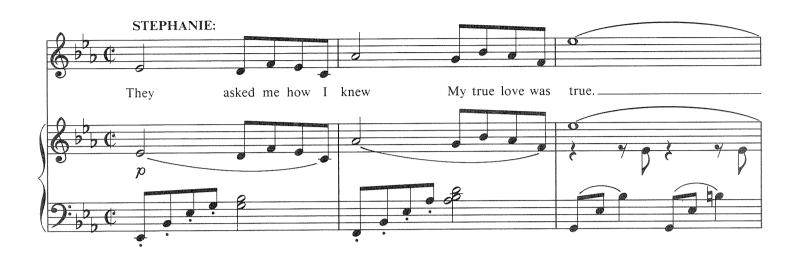


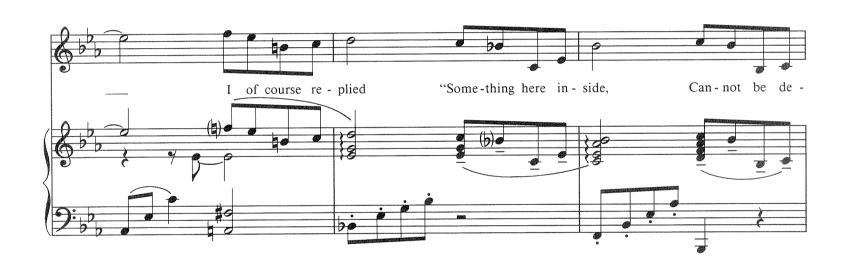


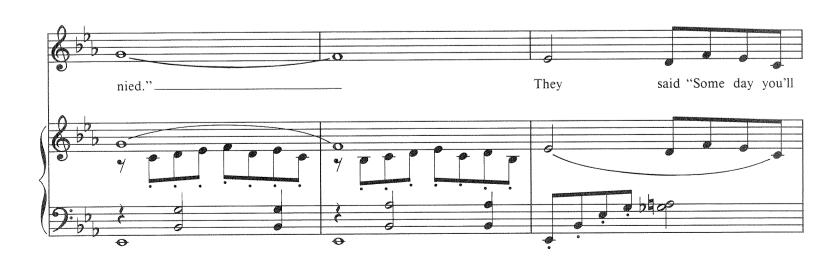
SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES

from Roberta

Words by OTTO HARBACH Music by JEROME KERN









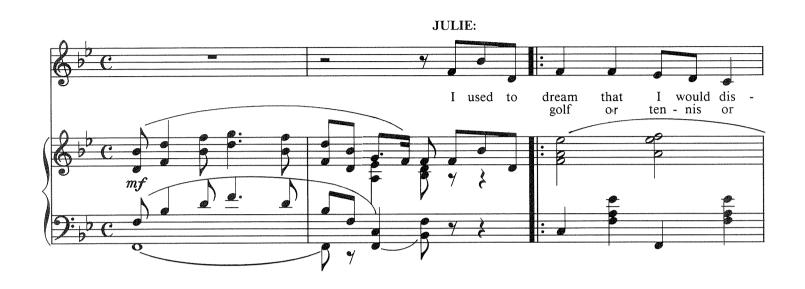


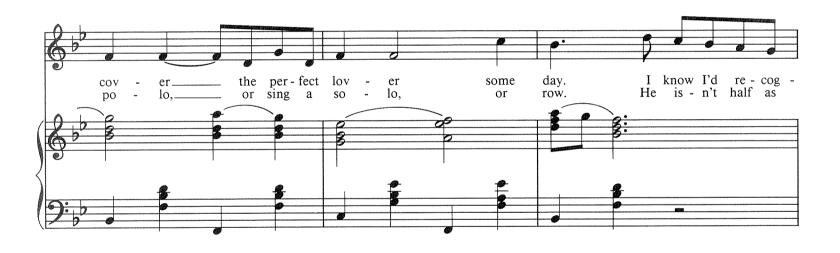


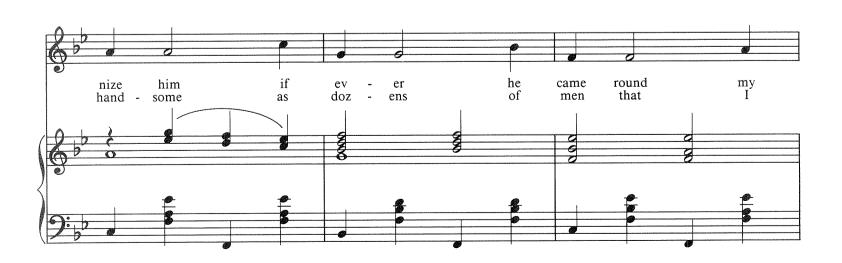


BILL from Show Boat

Words by P.G. WODEHOUSE and OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II Music by JEROME KERN











CAN'T HELP LOVIN' DAT MAN

from Show Boat

Words by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
Music by JEROME KERN









CLIMB EV'RY MOUNTAIN

from The Sound of Music Words by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
Music by RICHARD RODGERS









SOMEHOW I NEVER COULD BELIEVE

from Street Scene

Words by LANGSTON HUGHES Music by KURT WEILL



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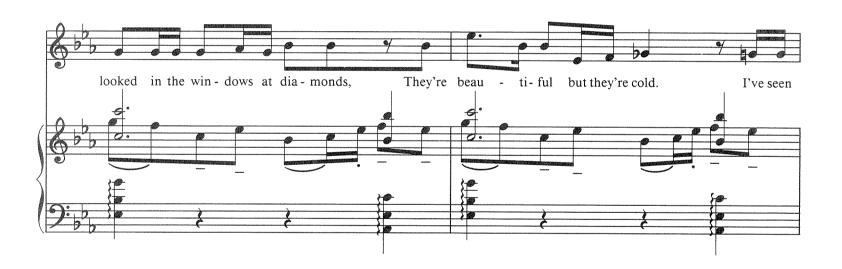


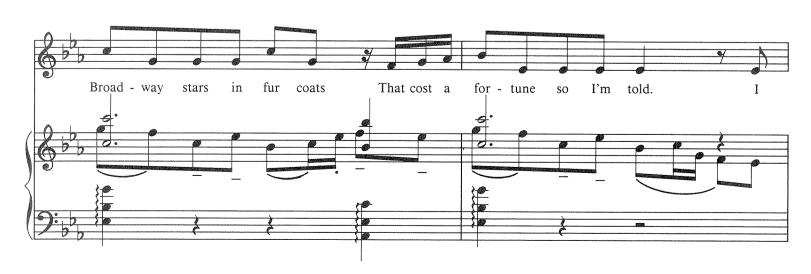
WHAT GOOD WOULD THE MOON BE?

from Street Scene

Words by LANGSTON HUGHES Music by KURT WEILL











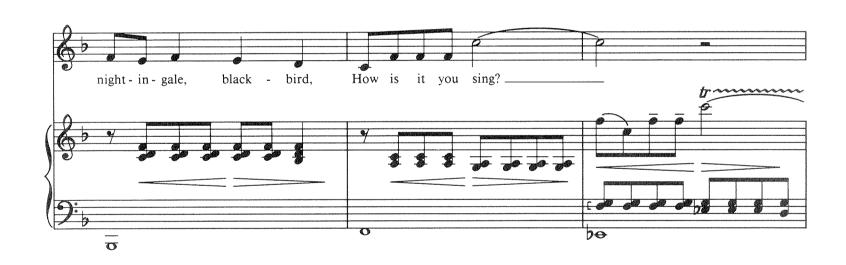


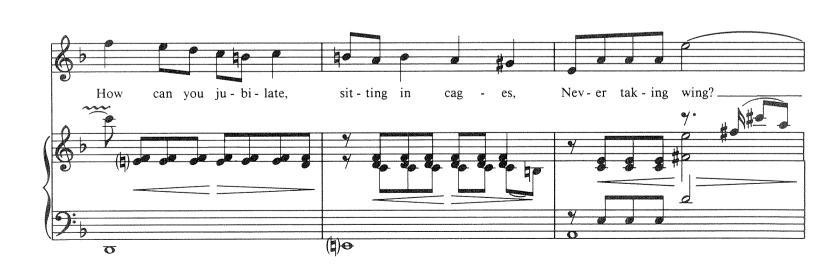
GREEN FINCH AND LINNET BIRD

from Sweeney Todd

Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM



















BARBARA SONG

from The Threepenny Opera

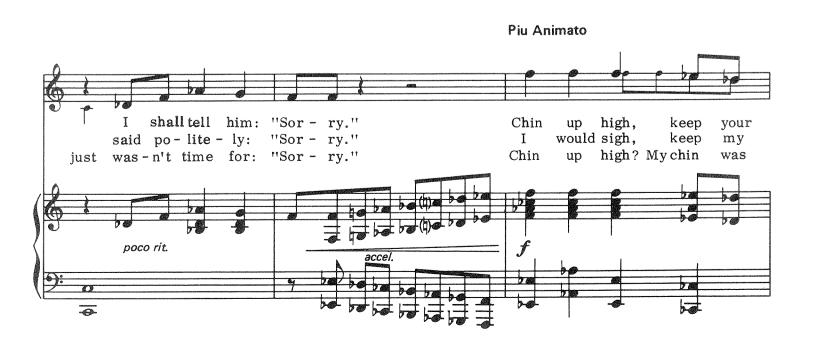
English Words by MARC BLITZSTEIN Original German Words by BERT BRECHT Music by KURT WEILL

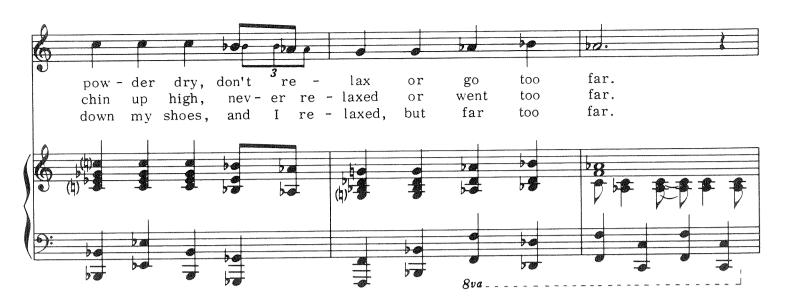
Very Freely Moderato Assai (= 63)



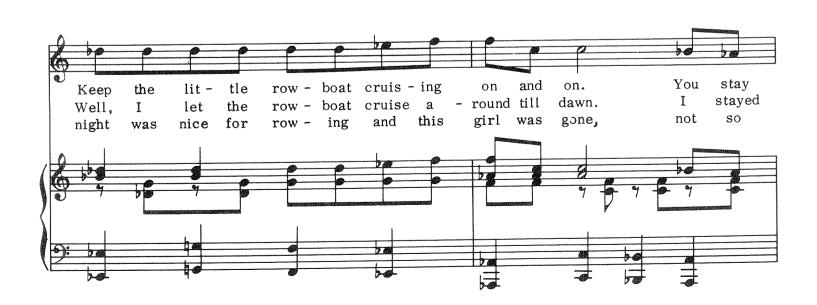


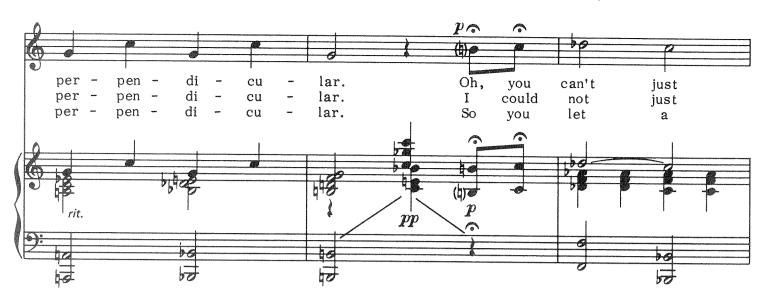


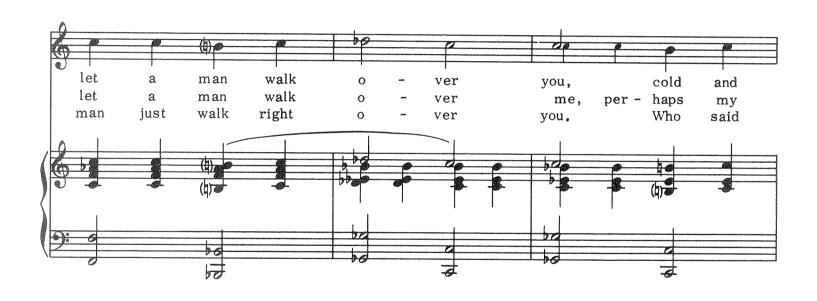


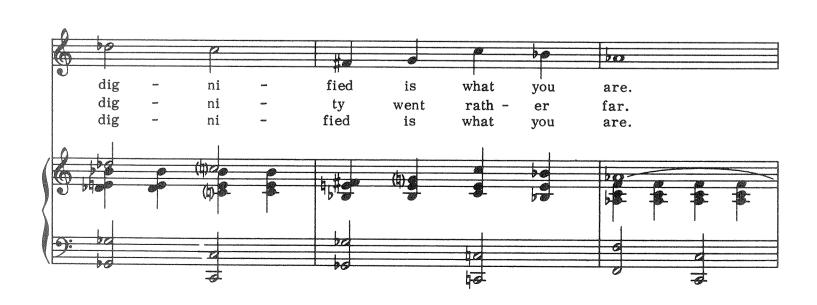










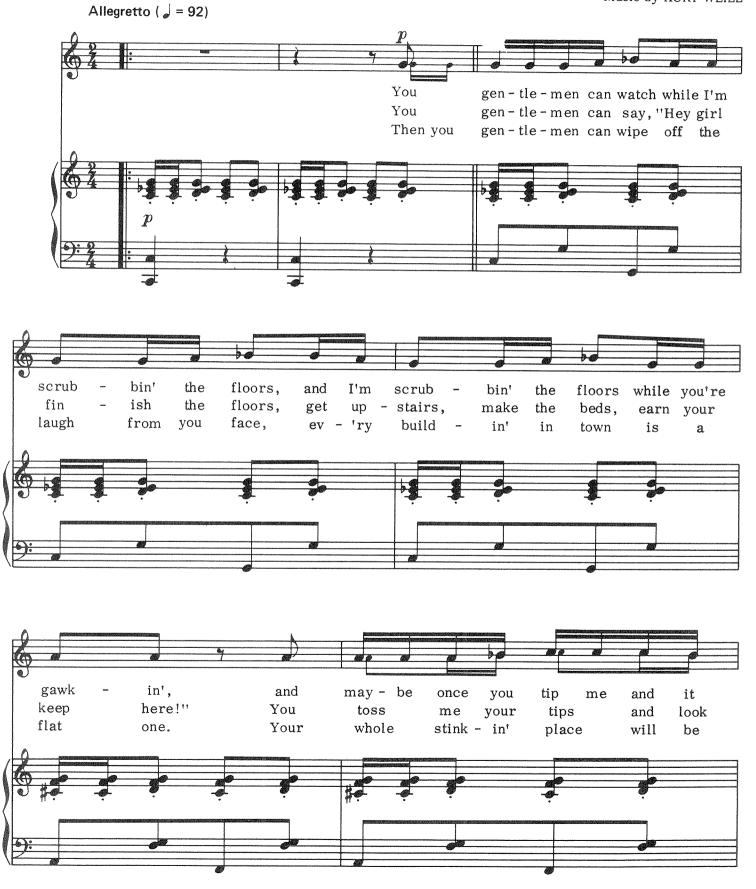


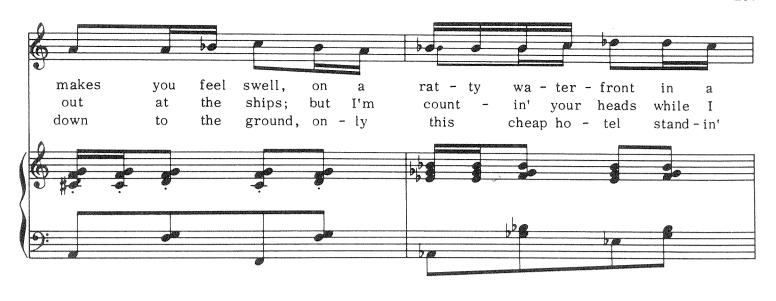


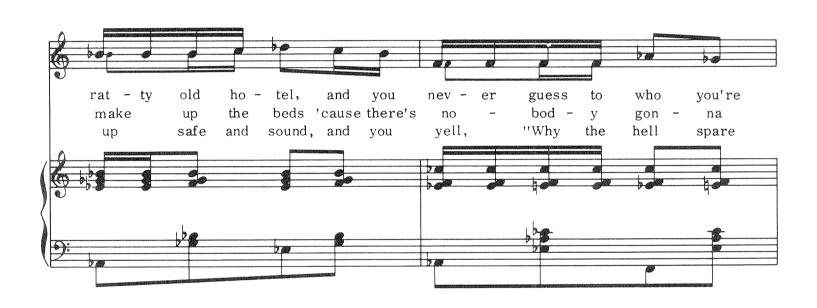
PIRATE JENNY

from The Threepenny Opera

English Words by MARC BLITZSTEIN Original German Words by BERT BRECHT Music by KURT WEILL



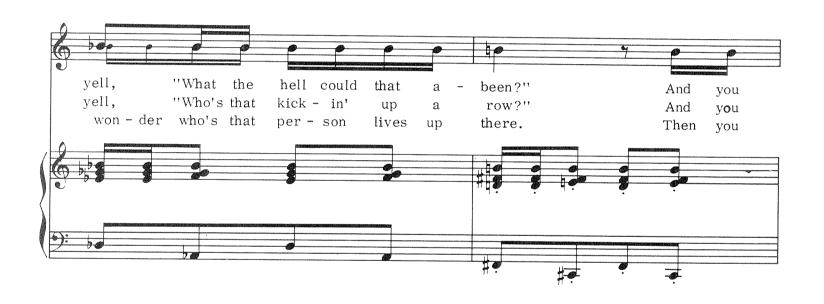


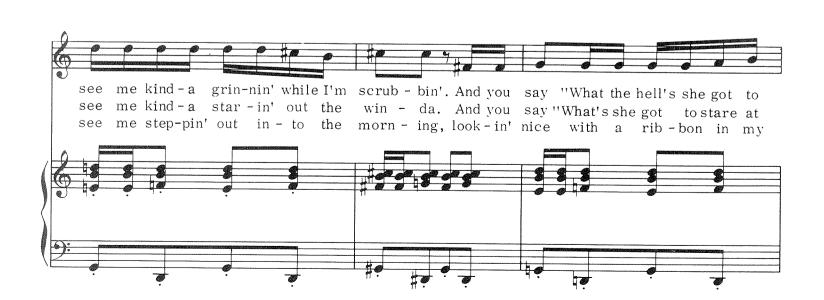




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SOLOMON SONG from *The Threepenny Opera*

English Words by MARC BLITZSTEIN Original German Words by BERT BRECHT Music by KURT WEILL











THE GOLDEN RAM

from Two by Two

Words by MARTIN CHARNIN Music by RICHARD RODGERS



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SOMEBODY, SOMEWHERE from The Most Happy Fella

By FRANK LOESSER

