

Songs with Rhythm ... in the Title!

Of the dozen or so of these songs, 'I Got Rhythm' and 'Fascinating Rhythm' are among the most well-known. Both of these, along with other equally great 'rhythm' songs, will be featured with additional background of the songs, composers, lyricists and original performers.

An illustrated lecture presented by Dulais Rhys, Ph.D

All music has rhythm – but what does this mean? Besides being a lucrative Scrabble word and music-associated term, 'rhythm' is not easily explained – but this presentation will give it a go!

Following a 'beginner's guide to rhythm in music', the presentation will continue chronologically with a varied selection of 'songs with rhythm', ranging from Gershwin's 'I Got Rhythm' of 1930 to 'Rhythm of Life' – the foot-tapping number from the 1966 musical *Sweet Charity*, with music by Cy Coleman and lyrics by Dorothy Fields.

Whereas Gershwin and Coleman only wrote the music, composer and forerunner Irving Berlin also wrote the lyrics to the dozens of titles (such as 'Alexander's Ragtime Band' and 'Cheek to Cheek') that he contributed to the collection of wonderful music known as the 'Great American Songbook'. His 1937 song 'He Ain't Got Rhythm' is less well-known but has equally great music and typical clever lyrics.

1935 saw the creation of three great 'rhythm' songs. Though composer and lyricist Sammy Cahn's most famous song is 'Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!', his collaboration with composer Saul Chaplin resulted in 'Rhythm is our Business' which became a signature song for the Jimmie Lunceford Orchestra. Jimmy McHugh (composer of 'I Can't Give You Anything But Love' and 'On the Sunny Side of the Street') collaborated with Ted Koehler to write 'Spreading Rhythm Around' which became an early hit for the inimitable Fats Waller, and in the same year, the great Ella Fitzgerald recorded 'Rhythm and Romance', with music by J.C. Johnson and lyrics of George Whiting.

Also included in this medley of 'rhythm' songs will be 'That's How Rhythm Was Born', first recorded in 1933 by the Casa Loma Orchestra, Benny Goodman's 'Lullaby in Rhythm' of 1938 and Johnny Cash's 'Get Rhythm' which was the B-side of his 1956 hit 'I Walk the Line'.

Sit back and enjoy this eclectic collection of songs with a one-word common 'theme' ... and remember: "if you ain't tapping your foot, you ain't got no pulse"!

DURATION: c1 hour

FEE: \$295.00

EXPENSES: a contribution toward travel costs is appreciated.

Thank you for considering my proposal and please contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

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REFERENCES, RECOMMENDATIONS & REVIEWS

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