

WHO COULD ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE?

The lives and wonderful songs of Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and Cole Porter.

An illustrated lecture presented by Dulais Rhys, Ph.D

‘Alexander’s Ragtime Band’, ‘Begin The Beguine’, ‘Cheek To Cheek’, ‘I Got Rhythm’, ‘I Love Paris’, ‘Let’s Call The Whole Thing Off’, ‘Nice Work If You Can Get it’, ‘White Christmas’, ‘You’re The Top’

These famous songs that we know and love are a mere fraction of the *Great American Songbook* – ‘great’ not only for the enormous number of titles in the collection but also ‘great’ in the fact that these songs have stood the test of time.

But who wrote which song? And if you have wondered: which composer also wrote his own words? Which songs were originally in a musical? Which composer said: “This is the best song ever written.” and which composer died tragically young yet accomplished so much?

Answers to these questions form part of this audio-visual presentation, which not only outlines the fascinating lives and careers of musical giants Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and Cole Porter but will also show that ‘the best music never grows old’. The music and lives of these composers had much in common, including similar career ups-and-downs and some overlapping of musical styles.

Learn how the *Great American Songbook* evolved from vaudeville songs of the late nineteenth century through early twentieth century showtunes from musicals such as George M. Cohan’s ‘Give My Regards To Broadway’ (*Little Johnnie Jones*, 1904) to the unsurpassed songs of Johnny Mercer (‘That Old Black Magic’), Henry Mancini (‘Moon River’), Burt Bacharach (‘Close To You’) and the equally great song writers such as Frank Loesser (*Guys and Dolls*), Richard Rodgers (*The Sound of Music*) and Frederick Loewe (*My Fair Lady*). What their wonderful songs have in common are memorable melodies, clever lyrics, creative imagery and an undisputable (but hard to define!) quality that remains unrivalled to this day.

The *Great American Songbook* not only formed the core repertoire of phenomenal performers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, Doris Day, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Mel Torme but the singable nature of the beautiful melodies has also made the music accessible to ‘amateur’ singers.

Unlike today’s transient ‘pop’ songs (inescapably accompanied by a self-indulgent flashy video packed with distracting visual effects and gratuitous ‘dancing’), the evergreen songs of Berlin, Gershwin and Porter are stand-alone aural gems of the highest standard of music and lyrics.

With pre-emptive apologies if your favorite song will not be played during this presentation, nevertheless, please sing along 😊

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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