many entries in the great american songbook

many entries in the great american songbook have defined the foundation of American popular music, influencing generations of musicians, songwriters, and audiences. This article explores the origins, evolution, and enduring legacy of the Great American Songbook, highlighting its most iconic entries and the remarkable artists behind them. Readers will discover the diverse genres encompassed within the Songbook, learn about the characteristics that make a song eligible for inclusion, and examine the cultural impact these timeless classics continue to have today. From unforgettable melodies to poetic lyrics, the Great American Songbook remains a vital part of music history and contemporary performance. Dive into this comprehensive guide to understand why so many entries in the Great American Songbook are celebrated around the world.

- Origins and Definition of the Great American Songbook
- Criteria for Inclusion: What Makes a Song Endure?
- Notable Songwriters and Composers
- Genres Represented within the Songbook
- Iconic Entries: Examples of Timeless Songs
- Cultural Impact and Influence
- Modern Interpretations and Continued Relevance

Origins and Definition of the Great American Songbook

The term "Great American Songbook" refers to a canon of the most significant and influential American popular songs, primarily created from the early 20th century through the 1950s. Many entries in the Great American Songbook originated in Broadway musicals, Hollywood films, and Tin Pan Alley, where composers and lyricists crafted enduring melodies and sophisticated lyrics that resonated with mainstream audiences. This unofficial anthology is not a physical book but a collection of standards recognized for their musical excellence, lyrical depth, and historical importance.

The Great American Songbook includes works by iconic writers such as George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, and Richard Rodgers. These songs represent the golden age of American songwriting, setting benchmarks that continue to inspire contemporary artists. The Songbook's influence stretches beyond its initial era, serving as a touchstone for jazz,

Criteria for Inclusion: What Makes a Song Endure?

While there is no official list of entries in the Great American Songbook, certain criteria help determine what songs are considered a part of this esteemed collection. Songs must demonstrate lasting popularity, musical sophistication, and lyrical quality. Many entries in the Great American Songbook become standards due to their adaptability, emotional resonance, and continued relevance.

Characteristics of Songbook Standards

- Memorable Melodies: Songs often feature tunes that are instantly recognizable and easy to sing.
- Poetic Lyrics: The words typically convey universal themes such as love, longing, hope, and heartbreak.
- Adaptability: Many entries in the Great American Songbook have been interpreted in various styles, from jazz to pop to classical.
- Timelessness: Songs endure across generations, remaining relevant and beloved for decades.
- Influence: Entries often inspire other artists, leading to countless covers and reinterpretations.

Notable Songwriters and Composers

The greatness of the Songbook is attributed to its legendary writers and composers. Many entries in the Great American Songbook bear the signature of artists who redefined American music through their creativity and innovation. Their enduring contributions shaped the fabric of American culture and influenced countless musicians worldwide.

Key Figures in the Songbook

- George Gershwin: Known for "Summertime" and "Someone to Watch Over Me."
- Irving Berlin: Wrote classics like "White Christmas" and "God Bless America."

- Cole Porter: Responsible for "Night and Day" and "I've Got You Under My Skin."
- Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart/Hammerstein: Created "My Funny Valentine" and "Some Enchanted Evening."
- Harold Arlen: Composer of "Over the Rainbow."

These songwriters combined rich harmonies, inventive melodies, and clever lyrics to produce many entries in the Great American Songbook that still captivate listeners today.

Genres Represented within the Songbook

Many entries in the Great American Songbook span a range of genres, reflecting the diversity of American musical traditions. While jazz and pop standards dominate, the Songbook also includes ballads, Broadway tunes, and early rock and roll influences. This genre diversity contributes to the Songbook's broad appeal and adaptability across musical styles.

Common Genres Found in the Songbook

- Jazz Standards: Songs frequently interpreted and improvised by jazz musicians.
- Show Tunes: Numbers originating in Broadway musicals and Hollywood films.
- Traditional Pop: Accessible melodies and relatable lyrics for mainstream audiences.
- Ballads: Emotional, lyrical songs emphasizing storytelling.
- Big Band and Swing: Upbeat numbers popularized in the 1930s and 1940s.

Iconic Entries: Examples of Timeless Songs

Many entries in the Great American Songbook are instantly recognizable and have become cultural touchstones. These songs are frequently performed, recorded, and cherished across generations, embodying the essence of American songwriting excellence.

Famous Songs from the Songbook

1. "Over the Rainbow" by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg

- 2. "Summertime" by George Gershwin and DuBose Heyward
- 3. "My Funny Valentine" by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart
- 4. "Embraceable You" by George and Ira Gershwin
- 5. "Night and Day" by Cole Porter
- 6. "The Way You Look Tonight" by Jerome Kern and Dorothy Fields
- 7. "Someone to Watch Over Me" by George and Ira Gershwin
- 8. "Stardust" by Hoagy Carmichael and Mitchell Parish
- 9. "I've Got You Under My Skin" by Cole Porter
- 10. "All the Things You Are" by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II

Each of these entries in the Great American Songbook possesses qualities that have allowed them to remain popular for decades. Their melodies and lyrics continue to be passed down, ensuring their legacy endures.

Cultural Impact and Influence

The lasting popularity of many entries in the Great American Songbook highlights their profound cultural impact. These songs have shaped the development of American music, influencing genres from jazz to pop, and have become an essential part of the nation's cultural fabric. The Songbook's entries are regularly performed at concerts, in movies, and on television, maintaining their visibility in contemporary culture.

The Songbook has also played a significant role in the careers of legendary performers such as Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Tony Bennett, and Billie Holiday. Their interpretations of Songbook standards have introduced these classics to new audiences and cemented their place in music history.

Modern Interpretations and Continued Relevance

Many entries in the Great American Songbook continue to inspire modern artists, resulting in new arrangements and recordings that bring the classics to contemporary audiences. Musicians across genres reinterpret Songbook standards, ensuring their timeless appeal remains unbroken. These songs are frequently covered in jazz clubs, on Broadway, and in popular music albums.

The enduring nature of these entries illustrates the Songbook's adaptability.

Contemporary artists such as Michael Bublé, Diana Krall, and Lady Gaga have paid tribute to Songbook classics, highlighting their relevance and appeal in the 21st century. The Songbook's influence is evident in music education, where many entries are used to teach songwriting, melody, and lyricism.

Questions and Answers about Many Entries in the Great American Songbook

Q: What is the Great American Songbook?

A: The Great American Songbook is a collection of the most influential and enduring American popular songs, primarily composed between the early 20th century and the 1950s. It includes standards from Broadway, film, and Tin Pan Alley, recognized for their musical and lyrical excellence.

Q: Why are there so many entries in the Great American Songbook?

A: There are many entries because the Songbook encompasses decades of prolific songwriting, including contributions from numerous legendary composers and lyricists. The diversity of genres and the adaptability of these songs have allowed a wide range of classics to be included.

Q: Who are some famous composers featured in the Songbook?

A: Notable composers include George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Richard Rodgers, Harold Arlen, and Jerome Kern. Their work forms the backbone of many entries in the Great American Songbook.

Q: What genres are represented in the Great American Songbook?

A: The Songbook features genres such as jazz standards, traditional pop, Broadway show tunes, ballads, and big band swing, reflecting the diversity of American popular music.

Q: What makes a song eligible for the Songbook?

A: Songs are typically included based on their lasting popularity, memorable melodies, poetic lyrics, adaptability across genres, and continued relevance to audiences.

Q: Can modern songs be added to the Great American Songbook?

A: While the Songbook mainly focuses on early-to-mid 20th-century works, some contemporary songs may be considered if they meet the criteria of enduring popularity and musical excellence.

Q: Why do artists continue to cover Songbook standards?

A: Many entries in the Great American Songbook are covered because of their timeless quality, emotional depth, and adaptability. These songs offer artists opportunities for creative reinterpretation and personal expression.

Q: Are Songbook entries used in music education?

A: Yes, many entries are studied and performed in music education programs, serving as examples of outstanding melody, harmony, and lyricism for aspiring musicians and songwriters.

Q: How has the Great American Songbook influenced American culture?

A: The Songbook has shaped the development of American music, contributed to the careers of iconic performers, and remains a central part of the nation's cultural heritage through regular performances and recordings.

Q: What are some of the most iconic entries in the Great American Songbook?

A: Iconic entries include "Over the Rainbow," "Summertime," "My Funny Valentine," "Night and Day," "The Way You Look Tonight," and "Someone to Watch Over Me," among many others.

Many Entries In The Great American Songbook

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Many Entries in the Great American Songbook: A Deep Dive into its Rich Legacy

The Great American Songbook. The very phrase conjures images of smoky jazz clubs, elegant ballrooms, and voices that could melt glaciers. But what exactly is this illustrious collection, and just how many entries does it boast? This isn't a question with a simple answer, as the Songbook's boundaries are fluid and its contents debated amongst music aficionados. This post will delve into the history, the defining characteristics, and the sheer breadth of material encompassed within this monumental body of work, exploring why its legacy continues to resonate today. We'll uncover some lesser-known gems and examine why "many entries" is truly an understatement when considering the rich tapestry of the Great American Songbook.

Defining the Great American Songbook: A Moving Target

Defining the Great American Songbook presents a challenge. There's no definitive list, no official registry. It's more of a cultural phenomenon, a shared understanding of a specific era and style of popular music. Generally, it's considered to encompass the popular songs composed and performed between roughly the 1920s and the 1950s – the era of Tin Pan Alley. These songs are typically characterized by sophisticated melodies, lyrical depth, and arrangements that lend themselves to a variety of interpretations, from intimate ballads to big-band orchestrations. Think George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, and Richard Rodgers – names synonymous with elegance and enduring appeal.

The Characteristics of a Songbook Classic

Several key characteristics typically define a song considered part of the Great American Songbook:

Timeless Appeal:

These songs transcend fleeting trends, continuing to resonate with audiences across generations. Their melodies are memorable, their lyrics insightful, and their emotional impact undeniable.

Sophisticated Composition:

The music is complex yet accessible. The melodies are often intricate, the harmonies rich, and the overall structure polished. These songs aren't simple ditties; they're works of art.

Lyrical Mastery:

The lyrics often explore themes of love, loss, longing, and the complexities of human relationships with wit, poetry, and emotional honesty. They're clever, concise, and evocative.

Versatility in Arrangement:

The songs are adaptable to different instrumental settings and vocal styles, from intimate solo performances to full orchestral arrangements. Their enduring popularity is partly due to their ability to be reinterpreted endlessly.

The Sheer Volume: How Many Entries Truly Exist?

So, how many songs constitute the Great American Songbook? The number is truly vast and open to interpretation. Hundreds, even thousands of songs could justifiably be included. While there's no official count, the sheer volume is staggering. Think of the prolific output of composers like Irving Berlin, who wrote hundreds of enduring standards. Add to that the contributions of countless other talented songwriters, and the total quickly becomes enormous. It's not just about the number of songs, but about the cultural impact and lasting influence they've had.

Beyond the Famous Names: Discovering Hidden Gems

While the big names are often highlighted, exploring the Songbook also means discovering lesser-known gems. Many talented composers and lyricists contributed songs that, while not as widely recognized, possess the same qualities of artistry and timelessness. Digging deeper into the archives reveals a wealth of material waiting to be rediscovered and appreciated.

The Enduring Legacy: Why the Songbook Remains Relevant

The Great American Songbook's enduring relevance stems from its ability to tap into universal

human emotions. The themes explored in these songs – love, loss, hope, despair – remain eternally relevant. Moreover, the sophisticated melodies and lyrical craftsmanship create a listening experience that is both intellectually stimulating and emotionally rewarding. These are songs that invite repeated listening, each time revealing new nuances and depths of meaning. The legacy continues through countless recordings, stage performances, and the ongoing inspiration they provide to contemporary musicians.

Conclusion

The Great American Songbook isn't simply a collection of songs; it's a reflection of a specific era, a testament to artistic talent, and a repository of enduring human emotions. While pinning down an exact number of entries is impossible, the sheer volume and lasting impact are undeniable. The exploration of this rich musical heritage is a journey of discovery, revealing both familiar classics and hidden gems that continue to enrich our lives.

FAQs

- 1. Are there any official lists of songs in the Great American Songbook? No, there's no definitive, officially sanctioned list. The Songbook is more of a cultural designation than a formally defined collection.
- 2. What are some resources for discovering lesser-known songs from the era? Exploring archives like the Library of Congress, searching for compilations of "lost" or "forgotten" songs from the era, and looking into the catalogs of smaller record labels from the time can lead to exciting discoveries.
- 3. How does the Great American Songbook differ from other musical canons? While other musical canons exist, the Great American Songbook is uniquely tied to a specific era of American popular culture, characterized by its focus on sophisticated melody, lyrical depth, and its enduring appeal across generations.
- 4. Are there contemporary artists who are continuing the legacy of the Great American Songbook? Yes, many contemporary artists draw inspiration from the Songbook, either by performing classic songs or by creating new works that echo the style and sophistication of the era.
- 5. Where can I find recordings of Great American Songbook songs? Recordings are widely available through streaming services, physical media (CDs, vinyl), and online retailers. Many compilations exist focusing on specific artists or themes within the Songbook.

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history of the great American songwriting era.

many entries in the great american songbook: A Biographical Guide to the Great Jazz and Pop Singers Will Friedwald, 2010-11-02 Will Friedwald's illuminating, opinionated essays—provocative, funny, and personal—on the lives and careers of more than three hundred singers anatomize the work of the most important jazz and popular performers of the twentieth century. From giants like Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, and Judy Garland to lesser-known artists like Jeri Southern and Joe Mooney, they have created a body of work that continues to please and inspire. Here is the most extensive biographical and critical survey of these singers ever written, as well as an essential guide to the Great American Songbook and those who shaped the way it has been sung. The music crosses from jazz to pop and back again, from the songs of Irving Berlin and W. C. Handy through Stephen Sondheim and beyond, bringing together straightforward jazz and pop singers (Billie Holiday, Perry Como); hybrid artists who moved among genres and combined them (Peggy Lee, Mel Tormé); the leading men and women of Broadway and Hollywood (Ethel Merman, Al Jolson); yesterday's vaudeville and radio stars (Sophie Tucker, Eddie Cantor); and today's cabaret artists and hit-makers (Diana Krall, Michael Bublé). Friedwald has also written extended pieces on the most representative artists of five significant genres that lie outside the songbook: Bessie Smith (blues), Mahalia Jackson (gospel), Hank Williams (country and western), Elvis Presley (rock 'n' roll), and Bob Dylan (folk-rock). Friedwald reconsiders the personal stories and professional successes and failures of all these artists, their songs, and their performances, appraising both the singers and their music by balancing his opinions with those of fellow musicians, listeners, and critics. This magisterial reference book—ten years in the making—will delight and inform anyone with a passion for the iconic music of America, which continues to resonate throughout our popular culture.

many entries in the great american songbook: Same Old Song John Paul Meyers, 2024-04-15 Popular music and its listeners are strongly associated with newness and youth. Young people can stay up late dancing to the latest hits and use cutting-edge technology for listening to and sharing fresh music. Many young people incorporate their devotion to new artists and styles into their own developing personalities. However, if popular music is a genre meant for the youthful, what are listeners to make of the widespread sampling of music from decades-old R&B tracks, sold-out anniversary tours by aging musicians, retrospective box sets of vintage recordings, museum exhibits, and performances by current pop stars invoking music and images of the past? In Same Old Song: The Enduring Past in Popular Music, John Paul Meyers argues that these phenomena are part of what he calls "historical consciousness in popular music." These deep relationships with the past are an important but underexamined aspect of how musicians and listeners engage with this key cultural form. In chapters ranging across the landscape of twentieth- and twenty-first-century music, Meyers finds indications of historical consciousness at work in multiple genres. Rock music canonizes its history in tribute performances and museums. Jazz and pop musicians cover tunes from the "Great American Songbook." Hip-hop and contemporary R&B singers invoke Black popular music from the 1960s and 1970s. Examining the work of influential artists like Ella Fitzgerald, Bob Dylan, Miles Davis, Kanye West, Prince, D'Angelo, and Janelle Monáe, Meyers argues that contemporary artists' homage to the past is key for understanding how music-lovers make meaning of popular music in the present.

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2011-06-21 In this richly detailed and prodigiously researched book, jazz scholar and musician Ricky Riccardi reveals for the first time the genius and remarkable achievements of the last 25 years of Louis Armstrong's life, providing along the way a comprehensive study of one of the best-known and most accomplished jazz stars of our time. Much has been written about Armstrong, but the majority of it focuses on the early and middle stages of his career. During the last third of his career, Armstrong was often dismissed as a buffoonish if popular entertainer. Riccardi shows us instead the inventiveness and depth of his music during this time. These are the years of his highest-charting hits, including "Mack the Knife" and "Hello, Dolly; the famed collaborations with Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington; and his legendary recordings with the All Stars. An eminently readable and insightful book, What a Wonderful World completes and enlarges our understanding of one of America's greatest and most beloved musical icons.

many entries in the great american songbook: The Great American Songbook Steven Suskin, 2023-04-01 In an age of ubiquitous music and countless new songs releasing every minute, the Great American Songbook endures. After all, the Songbook—that sprawling canon of popular songs, standards, and show tunes from roughly the 1920s through the 1950s—is a foundational text of American pop music. Rare indeed is the song that doesn't in some way draw on this magnificent corpus, and rare is the person who hasn't heard at least a few of its most enduring melodies. Nonetheless, the Songbook is broader and deeper than most listeners can imagine, and on the margins, the question of whether this or that song should be included is the source of regular arguments among scholars and buffs alike. Attempting to plumb its depths can be a daunting prospect. Enter Steven Suskin, who has been writing about music since the days that Rodgers, Arlen, and Berlin still roamed the streets of Manhattan. In this carefully curated and cheerfully opinionated guidebook, Suskin surveys 201 of the most significant selections from the Songbook, ranging from celebrated masterpieces to forgotten gems. Year by year, he puts songwriters and their contributions in their context, and explains what makes each song such a distinctive treat—whether felicitous melody, colorful harmony, compositional originality, or merely the sheer, irreducible joy of listening to it. Old and new favorites await all readers of this painstakingly compiled, enthusiastically written catalog.

many entries in the great american songbook: The American Songbook Ann van der Merwe, 2016-12-22 With their unforgettable melodies, timeless messages, and stylistic indebtedness to both jazz and Broadway, American popular standards have proven to be among the most widely performed and enjoyed songs of the past century. Shaped in many ways by the technological and cultural developments of the early twentieth century, they have also managed to transcend these origins and become an enduring part of the American musical landscape. Ann van der Merwe explores how and why American songbook standards developed in the early twentieth century and how these standards have shaped American—and even global—musical culture ever since. The American Songbook explores key aspects of individual songs, including the musical and lyrical reasons for their broad appeal and applicability over the years. The American songbook continues to permeate the fabric of our daily lives. It is a repertoire that spans generations, from Fred Astaire to Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga. As a result, music lovers both young and old will enjoy discovering how these beloved songs emerged and why they remain relevant a century later.

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America discovered its identity through the epochal transformations of the twentieth century.

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<u>Standards</u> Max Morath, 2002-02-05 Every major singer from Frank Sinatra to Christina Aguilera. Every major composer from Irving Berlin to Stephen Sondheim. Every major song from a century of favorites. Every major musician and lyricist. Every major styling from blues, jazz, and country to folk, big band, and rock and roll The most recorded songs of all time. A guide to understanding the standard lingo. The evolution of popular music from Tin Pan Alley to contemporary musical theater, and more.

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the Deep (Adele) * Tears in Heaven (Eric Clapton) * With or Without You (U2)* You Raise Me Up (Josh Groban) * and more.

many entries in the great american songbook: Land of Hope Wilfred M. McClay, 2020-09-22 For too long we've lacked a compact, inexpensive, authoritative, and compulsively readable book that offers American readers a clear, informative, and inspiring narrative account of their country. Such a fresh retelling of the American story is especially needed today, to shape and deepen young Americans' sense of the land they inhabit, help them to understand its roots and share in its memories, all the while equipping them for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship in American society The existing texts simply fail to tell that story with energy and conviction. Too often they reflect a fragmented outlook that fails to convey to American readers the grand trajectory of their own history. This state of affairs cannot continue for long without producing serious consequences. A great nation needs and deserves a great and coherent narrative, as an expression of its own self-understanding and its aspirations; and it needs to be able to convey that narrative to its young effectively. Of course, it goes without saying that such a narrative cannot be a fairy tale of the past. It will not be convincing if it is not truthful. But as Land of Hope brilliantly shows, there is no contradiction between a truthful account of the American past and an inspiring one. Readers of Land of Hope will find both in its pages.

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Singers Hal Leonard Corp., 2007-07-01 (Piano/Vocal/Guitar Songbook). Crooners, wailers, shouters, balladeers some of our greatest pop vocalists have poured their hearts and souls into the musical gems of the Great American Songbook. They sang in nightclubs and concert halls, on television and in films, and left us a legacy of recordings still in play today. Their interpretations entertained us, moved us to tears, and wove lyrics and music into the fabric of our lives, making us see ourselves in these quintessentially American songs. This folio features 100 of these classics by Louis Armstrong (Hello Dolly * What a Wonderful World), Tony Bennett (I Left My Heart in San Francisco), Rosemary Clooney (Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep), Nat King Cole (Route 66), Bing Crosby (True Love), Doris Day (Bewitched), Ella Fitzgerald (How High the Moon), Judy Garland (Rock-a-Bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody), Dean Martin (Everybody Loves Somebody), Frank Sinatra (Young at Heart), Barbra Streisand (People), Mel Torme (Heart and Soul), and many, many more.

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entertainment worlds, noted jazz journalist Gene Rizzo summarized the chosen and presents a concise bio on the essence of these jazz giants. Choices were made on the basis of chops, originality, creativity, and degree of influence. This book will either confirm some readers' opinions or open debate with others, but ultimately the book provides an impressive summary of the greatest jazz piano players of all time. A photo accompanies each listing * Landmark recordings are listed * Extra lists include the next twenty to be selected, the top women players and an alphabetical list of all the other players considered

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approached these formats as safe havens wherein they could re-imagine and redefine key issues of identity. A fresh and accessible exercise in audience interpretation, Early '70s Radio is organized according to the era's five prominent formats and analyzes each of these in relation to their targeted demographics, including Top 40, soft rock, album-oriented rock, soul and country. The book closes by making a case for the significance of early '70s formatting in light of commercial radio today.

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headliners. Corbett was uniquely instrumental in making boxing and popular theater both justifiable commercial enterprises, to be enjoyed by all classes of people. He became America's first national sports hero and went on to formulate the theater world's star system. This is the first definitive biography of the man who knocked out heavyweight champion John L. Sullivan, and who also knocked out audiences who flocked to see him in vaudeville and silent pictures. The focus herein is on the real man, the influences on his life, and the social and commercial environment within which he functioned. The author reveals that Corbett was a complex, driven, enigmatic man whose dedicated participation in popular entertainment changed American social values and mores, and at the same time reinvented the notion of a national hero.

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