

The Songbook Academy®

"Thank You for Being a Friend"

"High Hopes"

"Orange Colored Sky"

"My Foolish Heart"

"Till There Was You"

"You're a Grand Old Flag"

Youth Singing the Great American Songbook

The Songbook Academy® is a national summer music intensive that provides pre-professional training for high school students who love to sing classic Broadway hits or jazz standards.

Alumni of the life-changing program have shared their voices and love of the Great American Songbook with the Perfect Harmony program. This month is dedicated to songs they have performed for the program!



Song: "Thank You for Being a Friend" (1978)
From the television show *The Golden Girls*

Brief Context: "Thank You for Being a Friend" is best known as the theme song for the NBC sitcom *The Golden Girls*, which follows the lives of four friends, Rose (Betty White), Dorothy (Bea Arthur), Sophia (Estelle Getty) and Blanche (Rue McClanahan) navigating relationships at an older age. It was written by singer-songwriter Andrew Gold in 1978 and according to Gold was "just this little throwaway thing" that took him "about an hour to write."

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Thank You for Being a Friend" video

Fun Fact

Musician Andrew Gold, who wrote "Thank You for Being a Friend", also had success working with other musicians on their songs. Gold is credited with making Songbook Hall of Fame member Linda Ronstadt a household name. Gold played on five of her albums, contributing the iconic instrumental breakdown on Ronstadt's 1975 song, "You're No Good."



Song: "High Hopes" (1959)
Songwriters: Jimmy Van Heusen & Sammy Cahn

Brief Context: "High Hopes" was written by Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn for the 1959 movie *A Hole In The Head*, which starred fellow Songbook Hall of Fame member Frank Sinatra and was directed by Frank Capra. This popular aspirational song was repurposed for John F. Kennedy's presidential run in 1960. Sinatra sang a new set of lyrics written by Cahn for the campaign.

Activity: Singing & Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- "High Hopes" Perfect Harmony video
- "High Hopes" lyrics sheet

Suggested Discussion Prompt

This song shares a hopeful message. Tell someone about a time you felt hopeful.



High Hopes

**Just what makes that little old ant
Think he'll move that rubber tree plant
Anyone knows an ant, can't
Move a rubber tree plant
But he's got high hopes, he's got high hopes
He's got high apple pie, in the sky hopes**

**So any time you're gettin' low
'Stead of lettin' go
Just remember that ant
Oops, there goes another rubber tree plant
Oops, there goes another rubber tree plant**

**Once there was a silly old ram
Thought he'd punch a hole in a dam
No one could make that ram, scam
He kept buttin' that dam
'Cause he had high hopes, he had high hopes
He had high apple pie, in the sky hopes**

**All problem's just a toy balloon
They'll be bursting soon
They're just bound to go pop
Oops, there goes another problem kerplop
Oops, there goes another problem kerplop, kerlpop**

Song: "Orange Colored Sky" (1950)
Songwriters: Milton Delugg and Willie Stein

Brief Context: "Orange Colored Sky" is a song written by Milton DeLugg and Willie Stein in 1950. The best known version of the song was recorded by Nat King Cole for his album *The Nat King Cole Story* in 1961. It has been recorded by other popular artists like Danny Kaye and Patty Andrews, Songbook Hall of Fame member Doris Day and even Lady Gaga.

Activity: Movement (upper and lower body)

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Orange Colored Sky" video

Suggested Seated Movement

Follow Perfect Harmony leader Olivia or create your own seated movement!

Use movements like . . .

- Alternating toe taps to the side
- Slow marches
- Pat lap on the beat



Song: "My Foolish Heart" (1950)
Songwriters: Victor Young and Ned Washington

Brief Context: The music to the jazz standard "My Foolish Heart" was composed by Victor Young and Ned Washington wrote the lyrics. The song was introduced by the singer Martha Mears in the 1949 film of the same name. It was nominated for an Oscar, losing to "Baby, It's Cold Outside" by Frank Loesser. Billy Eckstine's version sold over a million copies and spent 19 weeks on the charts and peaking at number six.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "My Foolish" video**

About Victor Young

American composer Victor Young gave up a successful career as a concert violinist for popular music, becoming a major musical figure from the 1930s through the mid-'50s, writing many popular songs and scores for over 300 Hollywood films. Young worked with many lyricists over the course of his career, including Ned Washington, Ed Heyman, and Joe Young. Some of his best-known songs include "Love Me Tonight" (1932), "My Foolish Heart" (1950), "When I Fall in Love" (1952), and "Around the World" (1956).



Song: "Till There Was You" (1957)
Songwriter: Meredith Willson

Brief Context: "Till There Was You" is a show tune from Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*. In the song, Professor Harold Hill and Marian Paroo meet at the footbridge, where she sings about how certain things have changed since he came into her life. Even though they have fallen in love, Marian knows Harold will have to move on to other towns but is grateful for what he has brought to River City.

***Activity:* Singing and Engaged Discussion**

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Till There Was You" video
- Perfect Harmony lyric sheet

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- How did you and your partner/spouse meet?
- Did they change your life?



Till There Was You

**There were bells on the hill,
But I never heard them ringing.
No, I never heard them at all,
'Til there was you.**

**There were birds in the sky,
But I never saw them winging.
No, I never saw them at all,
'Til there was you.**

**And there was music,
And there were wonderful roses, they tell me,
In sweet fragrant meadows of dawn and dew.**

**There was love, all around,
But I never heard it singing.
No, I never heard it at all,
'Til there was you.**

**And there was music,
And there were wonderful roses, they tell me,
In sweet fragrant meadows of dawn and dew.**

**There was love, all around,
But I never heard it singing.
No, I never heard it at all,
'Til there was you.**

Song: "You're a Grand Old Flag" (1906)

Songwriter: George M. Cohan

Brief Context: American composer and entertainer George M. Cohan wrote "You're a Grand Old Flag" for his 1906 stage musical *George Washington, Jr.* Cohan was inspired by a chance meeting he had with a Civil War veteran who fought at Gettysburg. The veteran was holding a carefully folded but ragged flag and said to Cohan, "She's a grand old rag." Cohan liked that line a lot, but changed the word "rag" to "flag."

Activity: Movement (upper body)

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "You're a Grand Old Flag" video
- Flag (or scarf as an alternative)

Seated Movement Suggestions

1. Wave flag above head
2. Paint a BIG rainbow with flag
3. Raise flag straight up and down

