

Ella Fitzgerald JAMs

"Blue Skies"

"Love for Sale"

"A-Tisket, A-Tasket"

"Dream a Little Dream of Me"

"Misty"

Celebrating The First Lady of Song

Ella Fitzgerald, known as the "First Lady of Song," was a legendary American jazz vocalist whose talent and velvety voice captivated audiences for decades. Renowned for her vocal range, phrasing, and improvisational skills, she became one of the greatest jazz singers of all time. With a career spanning over fifty years, Fitzgerald recorded numerous albums and collaborated with renowned musicians, leaving a lasting mark on the jazz world.



Song: "Blue Skies" (1926)

Songwriter: Irving Berlin

Brief Context: "Blue Skies" by Irving Berlin, penned in 1926 for the musical revue "Betsy," gained immense popularity in the 1946 film musical of the same name, starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. Irving Berlin's classic tune "Blue Skies" found its perfect match in the velvety tones of Ella Fitzgerald. With her smooth, soulful rendition, Fitzgerald took listeners on a gentle journey through the comfort of sunny days and clear skies.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Blue Skies" video

Ella Fitzgerald's Irving Berlin Song Book

The Ella Fitzgerald *Irving Berlin Song Book* is a renowned collection featuring Fitzgerald's interpretations of some of Irving Berlin's most iconic compositions. This collaboration between Fitzgerald, one of the greatest jazz vocalists of all time, and Berlin, one of America's most prolific songwriters, resulted in a timeless showcase of musical artistry. Released in 1958, this album remains a landmark in both Fitzgerald's career and the Great American Songbook.



Song: "Love for Sale" (1930)

Songwriter: Cole Porter

Brief Context: Cole Porter's "Love for Sale" is a bold song that shows his talent for mixing humor and elegance. He wrote it at a time when people didn't talk openly about the themes it explores, like selling love. The song describes a world where love is treated like a product, and relationships are shallow. Even though some people were shocked by it at first, the song has become a classic, showing how Porter's music still matters in American culture.

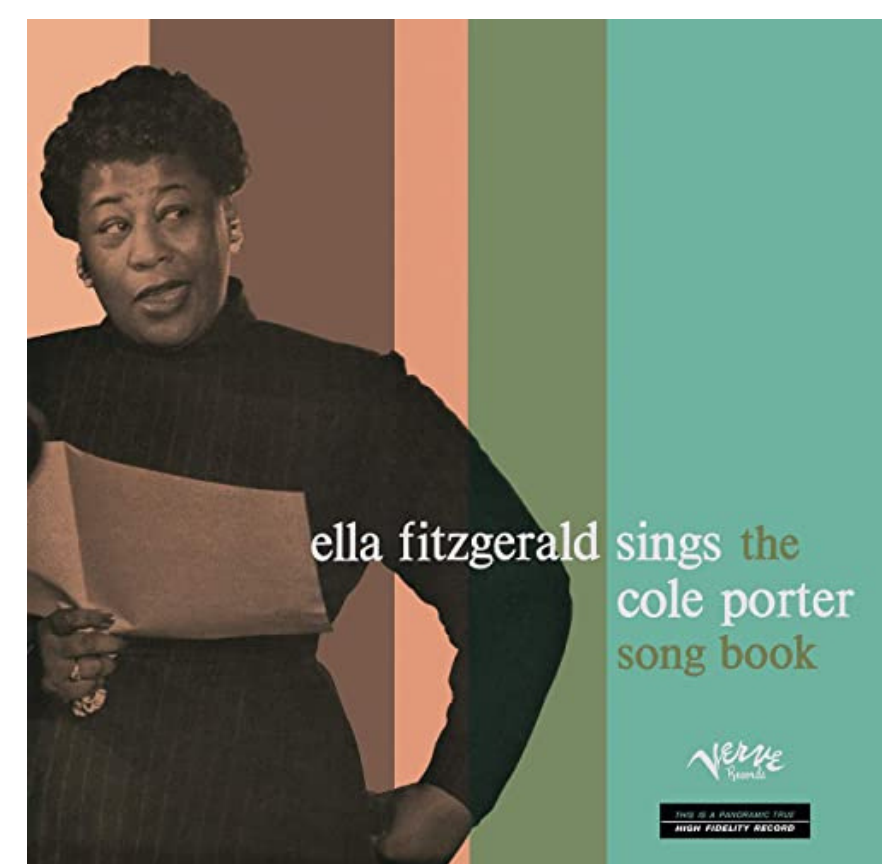
Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "Love for Sale" video**

Cole Porter Song Book

The first entry in the Song Book series (and Verve Records' opening album) celebrates the songs of Indiana's own Cole Porter. Recorded in the spring of 1956, The Cole Porter Song Book features a whopping 32 songs including "Too Darn Hot," "I Get a Kick out of You," and "Don't Fence Me In." Its double-album format and extensive liner notes, though common for classical music, were unheard-of for jazz records at the time.



Song: "A-Ticket, A-Tasket"
Traditional Children's Song

Brief Context: Ella Fitzgerald's unparalleled talent extended beyond jazz and into the hearts of children with her interpretations of classic nursery rhymes and songs. Among these, "A-Ticket, A-Tasket" stands as an example of her ability to infuse childhood favorites with her distinctive style and energy. Released in 1938 with the Chick Webb Orchestra, Fitzgerald's rendition captivated audiences of all ages with her infectious swing and joyful spirit.

Activity: Movement

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "A-Ticket, A-Tasket" video

Suggested Seated Movement

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

Use movements like . . .

- Mime picking up a basket
- Wave arms side to side
- Alternate putting one arm and leg out



Song: "Dream a Little Dream of Me" (1931)

Songwriters: Fabian Andre, Wilbur Schwandt and Gus Kahn

Brief Context: "Dream a Little Dream of Me," penned in 1931 by Fabian Andre, Wilbur Schwandt, and lyricist Gus Kahn, is beloved across generations. Its dreamy melody has been reimagined by countless artists, but it was Ozzie Nelson's rendition in 1931 that gained widespread recognition. It was the iconic interpretation by Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong in 1950 that solidified its place in musical history.

Activity: Singing and Discussion

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Dream a Little Dream of Me" video
- Perfect Harmony "Dream a Little Dream of Me" lyrics

Suggested Discussion Prompt

Ella Fitzgerald is an artist whom many singers and musicians aspire to resemble. Her innovations with the voice's capabilities, creating new arrangements of classic songs and the joy she brought to singing are examples of her timeless contributions to music that leave many people wanting to listen to Ella every day!

Tell someone about a music artist you like to listen to every day.



Dream a Little Dream of Me

Stars shining bright above you

Night breezes seem to whisper "I love you"

Birds singin' in the sycamore trees

Dream a little dream of me

Say "Night-ie night" and kiss me

Just hold me tight and tell me you'll miss me

While I'm alone and blue as can be

Dream a little dream of me

Stars fading but I linger on, dear

Still craving your kiss

I'm longing to linger 'til dawn, dear

Just saying this

Sweet dreams 'til sunbeams find you

Sweet dreams that leave all worries behind you

But in your dreams, whatever they be

Dream a little dream of me

Stars fading but I linger on, dear

Still craving your kiss

I'm longing to linger 'til dawn, dear

Just saying this

Sweet dreams 'til sunbeams find you

Sweet dreams that leave all worries behind you

But in your dreams, whatever they be

Dream a little dream of me

Song: "Misty" (1954)
Songwriter: Erroll Garner

Brief Context: "Misty" is a timeless jazz standard composed by Erroll Garner in 1954. Garner, a virtuoso pianist, reportedly wrote the melody while on a bus journey. The song gained widespread popularity after Johnny Mathis recorded a vocal version in 1959, which became a chart-topping hit. Ella Fitzgerald's version of "Misty" remains a standout in her vast repertoire, solidifying her legacy as one of the greatest vocalists of all time.

Activity: Singing

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Misty" video

Archives Artifact

Ella Fitzgerald's seafoam green jumpsuit. This piece contains hundreds of shiny jewels and outlines of lace. It also has floor-length fringe that starts at the waist and is also included on the arms. This is a piece for a more eccentric audience and one of the more eye-catching treasures you'll find in the Songbook Library & Archives.



Misty

Look at me, I'm as helpless as a kitten up a tree

And I feel like I'm clingin' to a cloud

I can't understand

I get misty, just holding your hand

Walk my way

And a thousand violins begin to play

Or it might be the sound of your hello

That music I hear

I get misty, the moment you're near

Can't you see that you're leading me on?

And it's just what I want you to do

Don't you notice how hopelessly I'm lost

That's why I'm following you

On my own

Would I wander through this wonderland alone

Never knowing my right foot from my left

My hat from my glove

I'm too misty, and too much in love

Too misty

And too much

In love

