

Hello, Young Lovers

"All the Way"

"Easy to Love"

"L-O-V-E"

"If I Loved You"

"Come Fly with Me"

Love songs of the Great American Songbook

If there is one common theme in the timeless lyrics of the Great American Songbook, it's that crazy little thing called love. Whether it's romantic love, love of country, love of family, friends, animals, food, drink, you name it, there is a song that celebrates the feeling that your lonely days are over and life is like a song.

Meredith Willson's musical *The Music Man* features one of the most enchanting love songs, "Till There Was You." This tune crossed over into the pop music sphere more than once, as it was recorded by numerous artists, including Doris Day who wrote to Meredith that it "must be my favorite song in the whole world." See the letter housed in the Songbook Library & Archives on the next page or enjoy a bonus [Perfect Harmony listening activity](#) featuring this timeless love song.



Shirley Jones (Marian Paroo) and Robert Preston (Harold Hill) in the 1964 film *The Music Man*.



Songbook Archives Artifact

DORIS DAY

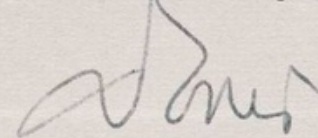
12 January 1966

Mr. Meredith Willson
1750 Westridge Road
Los Angeles, California 90049

Dear Meredith:

"Till There Was You" must be my favorite song in the whole world! I've just been singing it and I'm so filled with admiration that I had to drop you a note. Please don't think I'm nutty - This comes straight from the heart!

Warmly,



DORIS DAY

DD:jmm

P.S. I'm preparing a new album and I happily have the privilege of singing your song. Thank you, Meredith for giving this to the world. I just love it so much.



Song: "All the Way" (1957)
Songwriters: Jimmy Van Heusen & Sammy Cahn

Brief Context: Songbook Hall of Fame member Frank Sinatra introduced "All the Way" in the 1957 film *The Joker is Wild* starring Mitzi Gaynor (also a member of the Songbook Hall of Fame), Jeanne Crane and Eddie Albert. It tells the story of nightclub entertainer Joe E. Lewis who was popular from the 1920s through the 1950s. "All the Way" is introduced by Frank Sinatra playing Joe E. Lewis, who sings the song as part of his act.

Activity: Singing & Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "All the Way" video
- Perfect Harmony "All the Way" lyrics

Suggested Discussion Prompts

Who in your life has shown you unconditional love?

Suggested prompts:

- Parent
- Friend
- Partner



All the Way

When somebody loves you

It's no good unless he loves you all the way

Happy to be near you

When you need someone to cheer you, all the way

Taller than the tallest tree is

That's how it's got to feel

Deeper than the deep blue sea is

That's how deep it goes, if it's real

When somebody needs you

It's no good unless he needs you, all the way

Through the good or lean years

And for all the in-between years, come what may

Who knows where the road will lead us

Only a fool would say

But if you'll let me love you

It's for sure I'm gonna love you

All the way

All the way

So if you'll let me love you

It's for sure I'm gonna love you all the way

All the way

Song: "Easy to Love" (1934)

Songwriter: Cole Porter

Brief Context: "Easy to Love," written by Songbook Hall of Fame member Cole Porter, was originally created for the musical *Anything Goes* but was cut from the production. It was first introduced by Jimmy Stewart in the 1936 film *Born to Dance*. This was Stewart's only song in the film because Porter wasn't confident in the actor's singing ability. Since 1936, "Easy to Love" has been performed by many beloved singers like Ella Fitzgerald, Tony Martin, Billie Holiday and Chet Baker.

***Activity:* Listening**

What do you need?

- "Easy to Love" Perfect Harmony video

About Cole Porter

One of the most famous composers and lyricists of the 1920s/30s, native Hoosier Cole Porter helped to create what we now call the Great American Songbook. Flamboyant and bold, Porter relished creating songs (especially with a focus on love) like "Easy to Love" and "Let's Do It" (1928). On the latter, his witty and suggestive lyrics caught the eye of censors, and the title was quickly changed to "Let's Do It, Let's Fall in Love."



Song: "L-O-V-E" (1964)
As performed by: Nat "King" Cole

Brief Context: Originally an instrumental penned by Milt Gabler for Bert Kaempfert's Blue Midnight album in 1964, "L-O-V-E" was covered with added vocals by Songbook Hall of Fame member Nat King Cole for the title track of the last album released before his death on February 15, 1965. It was recorded with love in 1991 by Nat's daughter, Natalie Cole, on her album *Unforgettable...With Love*.

***Activity:* Movement**

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "L-O-V-E" video

Suggested Seated Movement

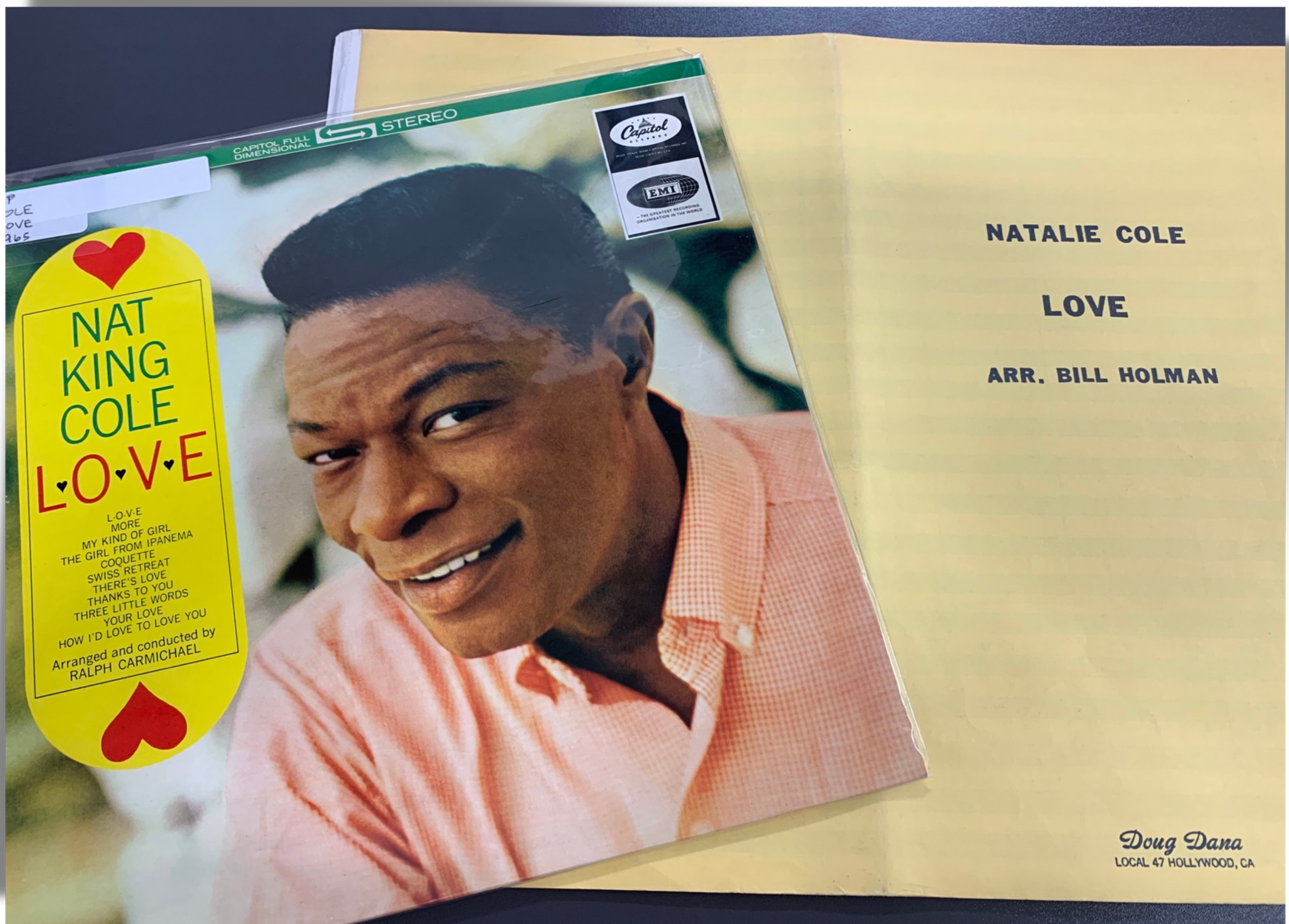
Follow Perfect Harmony leader Aleksa or create your own seated movement!

Use movements like . . .

- Move arms side to side
- Raise arms up and down
- Pat legs to the beat



Songbook Archives Artifact



Originally released as an instrumental track, the timeless song “L-O-V-E” was recorded in 1965 by Nat King Cole. He recorded the song in English, Japanese, Italian, German, Spanish, and French. The Songbook Library & Archives houses an arrangement of the song that was performed by his daughter, Natalie Cole in 1991.



Song: "If I Loved You" (1945)
Songwriters: Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II

Brief Context: "If I Loved You" is from Rodgers & Hammerstein's 1945 musical *Carousel*. The song is performed at the end of the first act by the romantic leads—carousel barker Billy Bigelow and humble millworker Julie Jordan. They are too shy to tell each other how they feel until they finally find the words in this romantic song.

***Activity:* Listening**

What do you need?

- "If I Loved You" Perfect Harmony video

Fun Fact

The year *Carousel* premiered, four different recordings of "If I Loved You" climbed the popular music charts: Perry Como at No. 3 in March, Frank Sinatra at No. 7 in July, and Bing Crosby and Harry James, both at No. 8 that same August.



Songbook Archives Artifact



Cover art on the published sheet music of "If I Loved You" from Rodgers & Hammerstein's Carousel.

Song: "Come Fly with Me" (1957)
Songwriters: Jimmy Van Heusen & Sammy Cahn

Brief Context: "Come Fly with Me" was written in 1957 for Frank Sinatra by his collaborative songwriting team Jimmy Van Heusen (music) and Sammy Cahn (lyrics), both Songbook Hall of Fame members. Charles Pignone, Vice President of Frank Sinatra Enterprises, said in an interview: "I think that [the song] epitomized . . . having a good time. America was just picking up the pieces from World War II, and the decade before that they were in a war, and things were changing in America. That song caught on and that was one of [Sinatra's] most popular albums."

***Activity:* Singing & Engaged Discussion**

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Come Fly with Me" video
- Perfect Harmony "Come Fly with Me" lyrics sheet

Suggested Discussion Prompt

Is there a friend or loved one who you enjoy traveling with?

What makes them a good travel partner?

- Organized
- Adventurous
- Patient
- Speaks another language



Come Fly with Me

Come fly with me, let's fly, let's fly away

If you can use some exotic booze

There's a bar in far Bombay

Come fly with me, let's fly, let's fly away

Come fly with me, let's float down to Peru

In Llama land, there's a one man band

And he'll toot his flute for you

Come fly with me, let's take off in the blue

Once I get you up there, where the air is rarefied

We'll just fly, starry-eyed

Once I get you up there, I'll be holding you so near

You may hear the angels cheer because we're together

Weather-wise it's such a lovely day

Just say the words and we'll beat the birds down to

Acapulco Bay

It's perfect for a flying honeymoon, they say

Come fly with me, let's fly, let's fly away