

Irving Berlin

"It's a Lovely Day Today"

"I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm"

"Let Yourself Go"

"Blue Skies"

"How Deep is the Ocean?"

Songwriter Irving Berlin

Known for writing more than 800 songs throughout his career, Irving Berlin is a name synonymous with the Great American Songbook. From "Cheek to Cheek," and "I Love a Piano" to "Blue Skies," and "Puttin' on the Ritz," he was a composer and lyricist who has withstood the test of time. His musicals continue to dazzle audiences and he received numerous awards for his work including an Academy Award, a GRAMMY Award, a Tony Award, and even the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Let's explore more about Irving Berlin!



Song: "It's a Lovely Day Today" (1950)

Songwriter: Irving Berlin

Brief Context: "It's a Lovely Day Today" is a song written by Irving Berlin. It was composed in 1950 and featured in the musical *Call Me Madam*. The musical premiered on October 12, 1950, and the song was performed by the character Sally Adams, played by Ethel Merman. "It's a Lovely Day Today" is a cheerful and upbeat tune, expressing joy and contentment with the beautiful weather and the happiness of being in love.

***Activity:* Listening**

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "It's a Lovely Day Today" video

Did you know?

A wonderful fact about Irving Berlin is that he wrote many beloved songs and was also very charitable. He created the "God Bless America" Fund and gave all the earnings from the song to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America. This has added up to millions of dollars over time, helping many young people. Berlin's generosity has created a lasting and heartwarming legacy.



Song: "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm" (1937)

Songwriter: Irving Berlin

Brief Context: Irving Berlin penned the beloved American song 'I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm' in 1937, amidst the challenges of the Great Depression and the impending World War II. Renowned artists such as Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, and Dean Martin have delivered memorable interpretations of this timeless piece. Its enduring popularity can be attributed to its heartwarming message, making it a cherished favorite, especially during the winter holiday season.

Activity: Singing and Discussion

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm" video**
- **Perfect Harmony "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm" lyrics**

Suggested Discussion Prompt

Who is someone or what is something that makes you feel warm inside when you think of them?

- **Spouse**
- **Pet**
- **Child**
- **Favorite holiday**



I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm

The snow is snowing, the wind is blowing

But I can weather the storm!

What do I care how much it may storm?

I've got my love to keep me warm

I can't remember a worse December

Just watch those icicles form!

What do I care if icicles form

I've got my love to keep me warm

Off with my overcoat, off with my glove

I need no overcoat,

I'm burning with love!

My heart's on fire,

the flame grows higher

But I can weather the storm!

What do I care how much it may storm?

I've got my love to keep me warm

Songbook Archives Artifact



Paramount Pictures' classic film "White Christmas" was released on October 14, 1954. This original promotional poster was given to Michael Feinstein by Rosemary Clooney in 1993.



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Song: "Let Yourself Go" (1944)
Songwriter: Irving Berlin

Brief Context: Irving Berlin wrote "Let Yourself Go" for the 1936 musical film *Follow the Fleet*, which starred Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. The film was a big hit, and the song became one of its standout numbers. In the movie, Astaire performed "Let Yourself Go" as a solo dance number. The words of the song tell us to have fun and not worry about what people expect from us. It's like saying, "Just be yourself and enjoy life!"

Activity: Movement

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Let Yourself Go" video

Suggested Seated Movement

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

Use movements like . . .

- Stretch your arms over your head
- Slowly roll your torso
- March in place



Song: "Blue Skies" (1926)
Songwriter: Irving Berlin

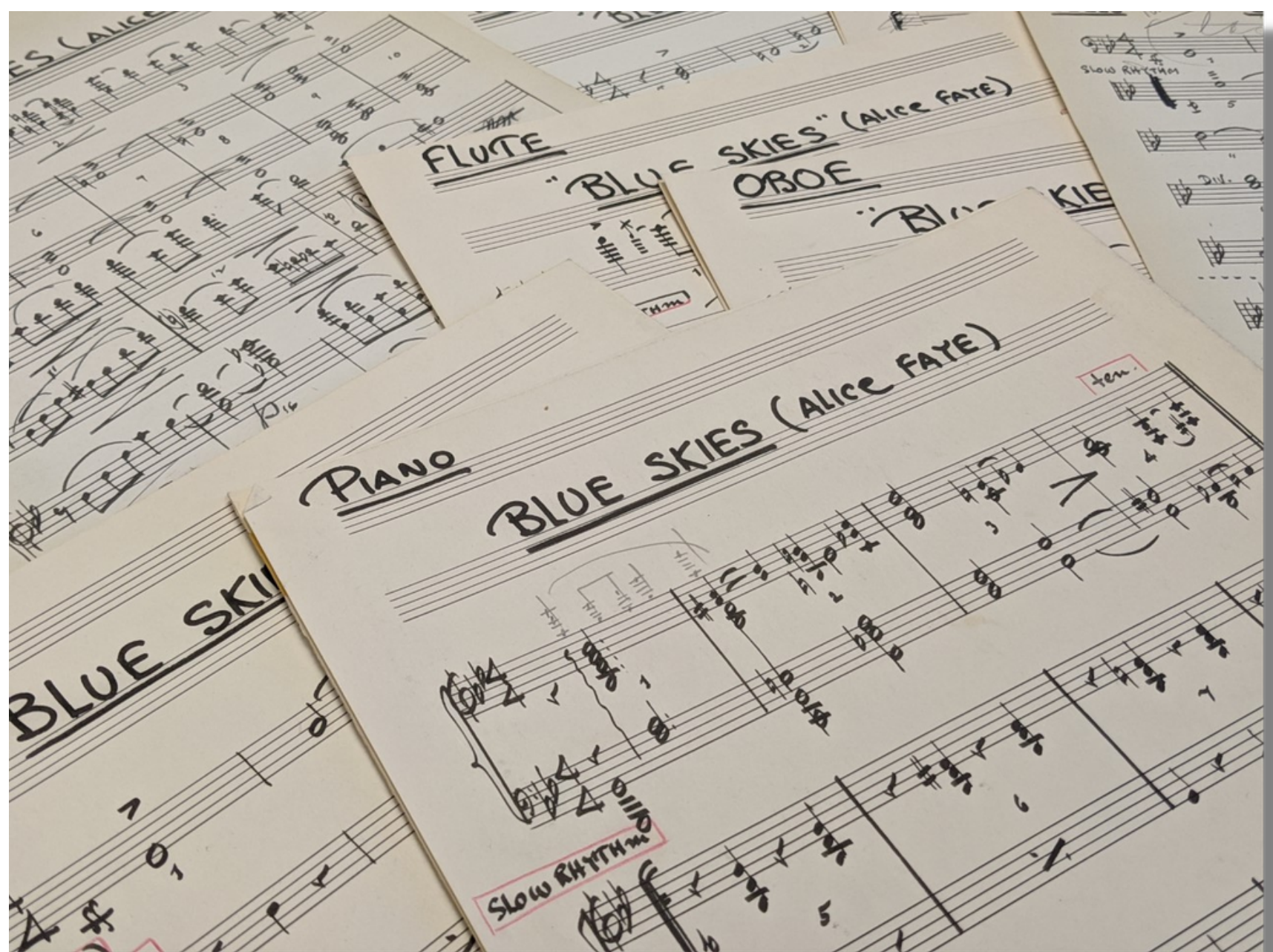
Brief Context: Irving Berlin's "Blue Skies" was a last-minute addition to the Rodgers and Hart musical *Betsy*. It was so popular that audiences on opening night allegedly demanded 24 encores from Belle Baker. Since 1926, the song has been interpreted by many artists including Artie Shaw, Frank Sinatra and a country version recorded by Willie Nelson in 1978.

Activity: Singing

Songbook Library & Archives Artifact

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Blue Skies" video
- Perfect Harmony "Blue Skies" lyrics sheet



An arrangement of "Blue Skies" used for the The Phil Harris-Alice Faye Show. Housed in the Songbook Library & Archives

Blue Skies

Blue skies

Smiling at me

Nothing but blue skies

Do I see

Bluebirds

Singing a song

Nothing but bluebirds

All day long

Never saw the sun shining so bright

Never saw things going so right

Noticing the days hurrying by

When you're in love, my how they fly

Blue days

All of them gone

Nothing but blue skies

From now on

Song: "How Deep is the Ocean?" (1932)
Songwriter: Irving Berlin

Brief Context: Written in 1932, "How Deep Is the Ocean?" was a popular song written by Berlin. He composed this song from an earlier work titled "To My Mammy" which was sung by Al Jolson in the 1930 film "Mammy." The song would go on to be covered by Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Perry Como, Norah Jones, and numerous others. Using the imagery of the ocean's depth and the sky's height, it beautifully portrays the depth of love.

***Activity:* Listening**

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "How Deep is the Ocean" video

Did you know?

The song "How Deep Is the Ocean?" wasn't written for anyone or anything in particular. However, Paul Whiteman and His Orchestra, with singer Jack Fulton, were the first to make it a hit on the charts. This was a new approach for Berlin, as it was one of his first songs introduced on the radio rather than on stage or screen.

