

On the Sunny Side of the Street

"On the Sunny Side of the Street"

"You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile"

"Build Me Up Buttercup"

"I Got the Sun in the Morning"

"When You're Smiling"

Look on the bright side with the Great American Songbook

A smile is one of the most powerful things in the world. These optimistic songs from the Great American Songbook were created to lift your spirit! The times in which much of the music of the Great American Songbook was written were tumultuous ones for a rapidly growing and changing America. The music helped people during the Great Depression, built morale during two world wars, helped build social bridges within our culture, and offered hope for better days.



Song: "On the Sunny Side of the Street" (1930)
Songwriters: Jimmy McHugh and Dorothy Fields

Brief Context: "On the Sunny Side Of The Street" was written by Jimmy McHugh in 1930 with lyrics by Dorothy Fields. This well-loved standard has its roots in the Depression. A year after the Wall Street Crash Dorothy provided songs for Lew Leslie's International Revue, including this optimistic number, introduced by Harry Richman. It has been performed by many great artists including Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Jo Stafford, Keely Smith and Willie Nelson.

Activity: Singing

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "On the Sunny Side of the Street" video
- Perfect Harmony "On the Sunny Side of the Street" lyrics

About the lyricist

Dorothy Fields was a popular lyricist whose career expanded 50 years. She wrote lyrics for "The Way You Look Tonight," "A Fine Romance," "On the Sunny Side of the Street," "I'm in the Mood for Love," "I Won't Dance," "I Feel a Song Comin' On," and "Hey, Big Spender." She collaborated with various influential figures in the American musical theater, including Jerome Kern, Cy Coleman, Irving Berlin, and Jimmy McHugh.



On the Sunny Side of the Street

**Grab your coat and get your hat.
Leave your worry on the doorstep.
Just direct your feet
To the sunny side of the street.**

**Can't you hear a pitter-pat?
And that happy tune is your step.
Life can be so sweet
On the sunny side of the street.**

**I used to walk in the shade
With those blues on parade,
But now I'm not afraid.
This rover crossed over.**

**If I never have a cent,
I'll be rich as Rockefeller.
Gonna set my feet
On the sunny side of the street.**

Songbook Archives Artifact



"On The Sunny Side of the Street" sheet music, Robert Grimes Collection, from the Songbook Library & Archives.

**Song: "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile" (1976)
from the musical *Annie***

Brief Context: "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile" is a song from the Broadway musical *Annie*, written by Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin. The little red-headed orphan, Annie, sings this song to the other girls in a New York orphanage to remind them to smile, stay optimistic, and think of better days ahead.

Activity: Singing & Movement

What do you need?

- "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile" Perfect Harmony video

Suggested Seated Movement

Follow Perfect Harmony leader, Renée, or create your own seated movement!

Use movements like . . .

- Move arms side to side
- Raise arms up and down
- Point to your smile



Song: "Build Me Up Buttercup" (1968)
As performed by: The Foundations

Brief Context: "Build Me Up Buttercup" is an optimistic song written by Mike d'Abo and Tony Macaulay, and released by British soul band the Foundations in 1968 with Colin Young singing lead vocals. It hit No. 1 on the Cash Box Top 100 and No. 3 on the US Billboard Hot 100 in early 1969. It was quickly certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America for sales of over a million US copies.

Activity: Movement

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "Build Me Up Buttercup" video**

Suggested Seated Movement

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

Use movements like . . .

- **Sway side to side**
- **Slowly circle your shoulders**
- **Walk in place**



Song: "I Got the Sun in the Morning" (1946)
Songwriter: Irving Berlin

Brief Context: Irving Berlin's "I Got the Sun in the Morning (and the Moon at Night)" is from the musical *Annie Get Your Gun*, originally performed by Broadway star Ethel Merman. The musical follows the life of the sharp-shooting woman Annie Oakley. Annie sings this song when she decides to sell off all her medals and expensive jewelry. She rejoices in the simple things in life, like the sun in the morning and the moon at night.

Activity: Singing & Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- "I Got the Sun in the Morning" Perfect Harmony video

Suggested Discussion Prompts

This song was originally popularized and sung by Doris Day, an American singer and actress.

Do you have a favorite Doris Day song?

Examples below, if needed:

- "Sentimental Journey"
- "Secret Love"
- "Ain't We Got Fun"
- "Que Sera, Sera"



Songbook Archives Artifact



“Annie Get Your Gun” LP records from the Songbook Library & Archives.

Song: "When You're Smiling" (1928)

Made popular by: Louis Armstrong

Brief Context: "When You're Smiling" was written by Mark Fisher, Larry Shay and Joe Goodwin. Trumpeter and singer Louis Armstrong made the tune a popular standard when he recorded it in 1929. It has been featured in television series including *The Flintstones*, *The Crown*, and *Seinfeld*. The lyric reminds us to have a cheerful attitude because "when you're smilin', the whole world smiles with you."

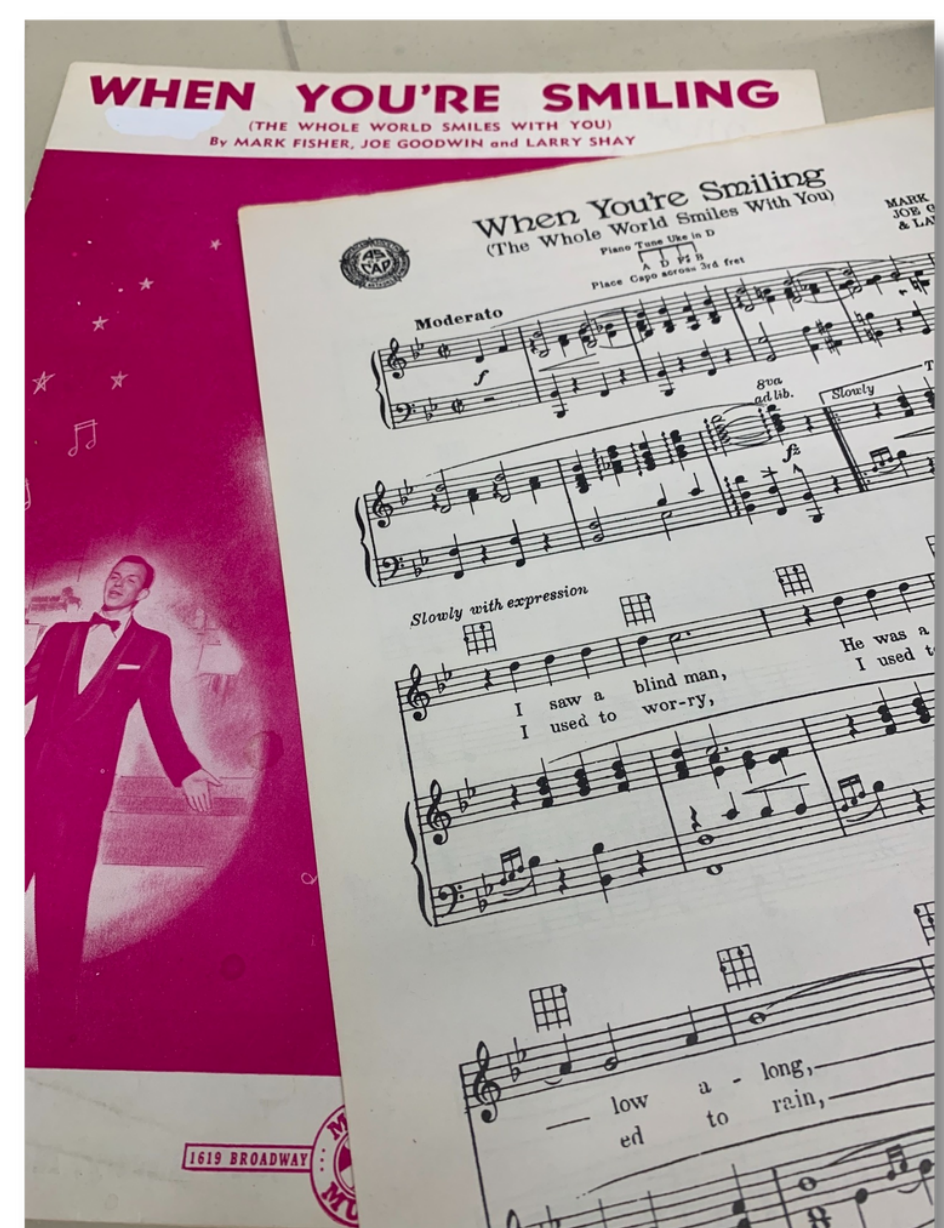
Activity: Singing

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "When You're Smiling" video**
- **Perfect Harmony "When You're Smiling" lyrics sheet**

Archives Artifact

**"When You're Smiling" sheet music,
Robert Grimes Collection,
from the Songbook Library & Archives**



When You're Smiling

**When you're smiling,
When you're smiling,
The whole world smiles with you,
When you're laughing,
When you're laughing,
The sun comes shining through,
But when you're crying you bring on the rain,
So stop your sighing, be happy again,
Keep on smiling 'cause when you're smiling,
The whole world smiles with you.**

**When you're smiling,
When you're smiling,
The whole world smiles with you,
When you're laughing,
When you're laughing,
The sun comes shining through,
But when you're crying you bring on the rain,
So stop your sighing, be happy again,
Keep on smiling 'cause when you're smiling,
The whole world smiles with you.**