

Calendar Reflection

"Try to Remember"

"April Showers"

"December 1963"

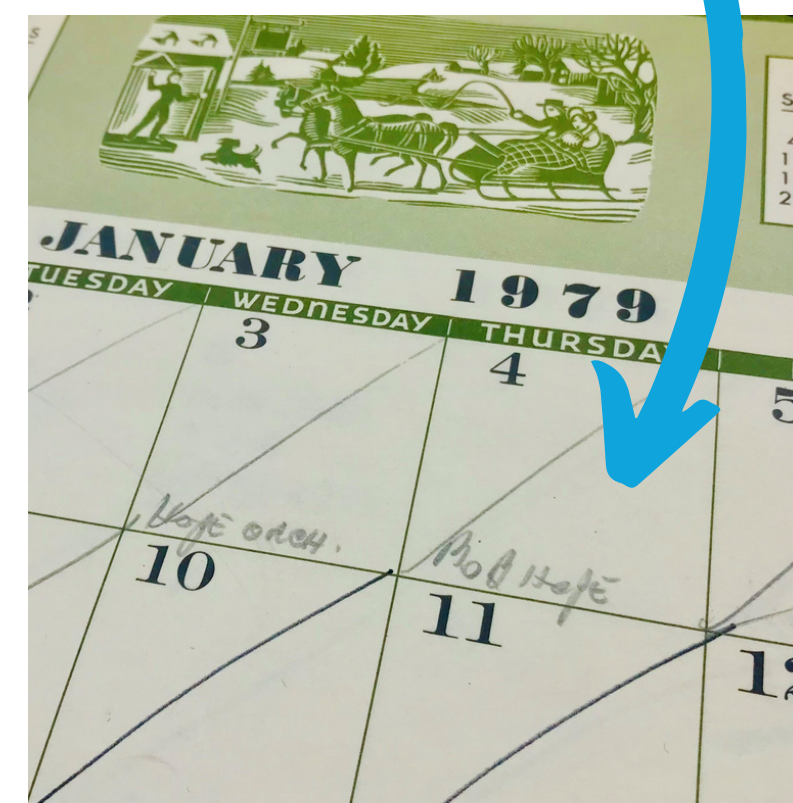
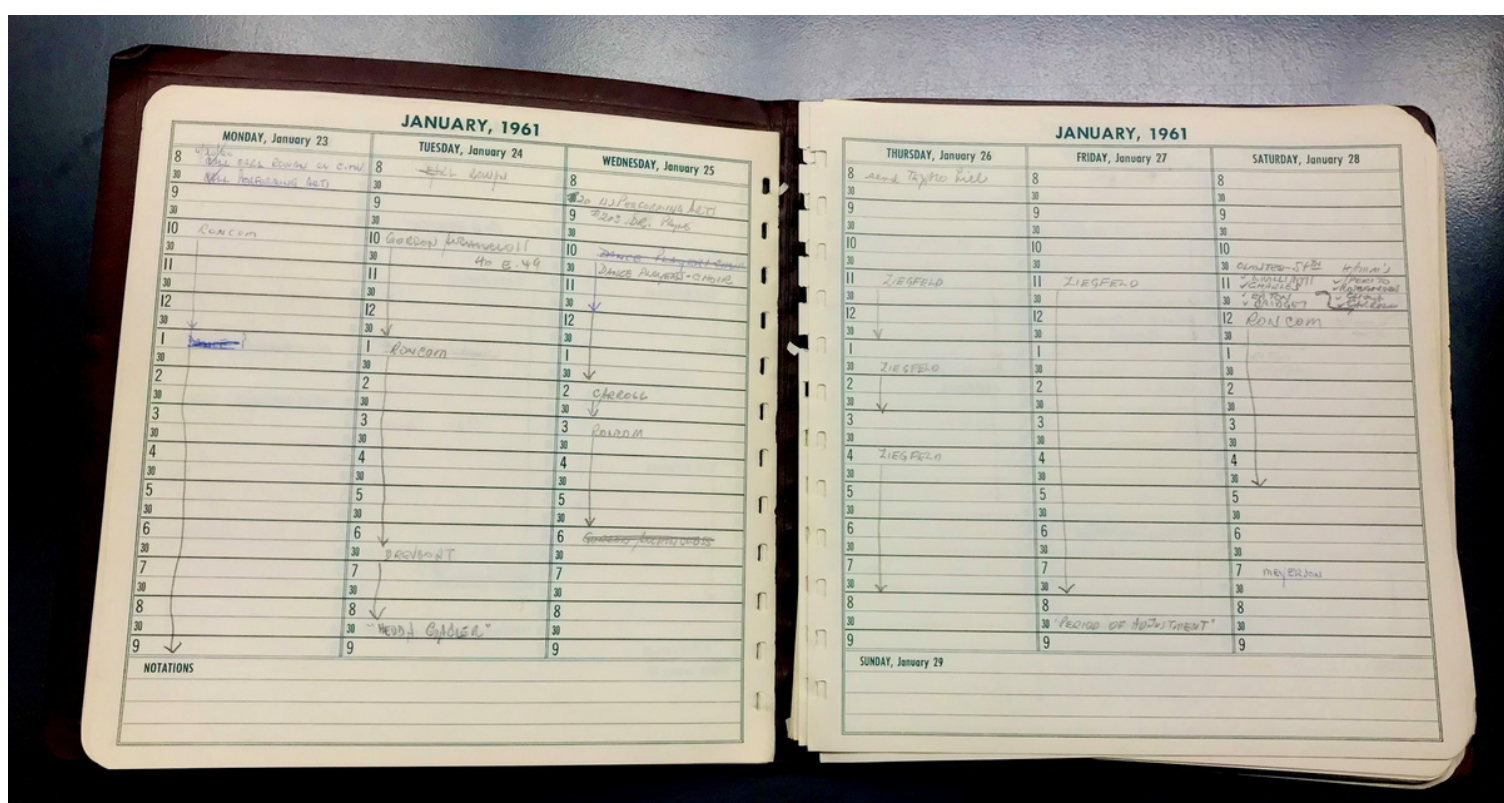
"That's Life"

"September of My Years"

Music History Moment

It's time to start a fresh calendar or day planner for the New Year! Do you enjoy keeping an organized schedule? If so, you are not alone. Ray Charles, a notable arranger who worked with Perry Como, John Denver and The Kennedy Center Honors, was a meticulous planner. Check out a few of his calendars housed in The Songbook Library & Archives (pictured below) and learn more about Ray Charles with one of our Perfect Harmony singers at: bit.ly/RayCharlesHighlight

Fun fact: Ray Charles was recording with Bob Hope on Jan. 4 1979!



Song: Try to Remember (1960)
Musical: The Fantasticks

Brief Context: "Try to Remember" is a song that was written for the 1960 musical *The Fantasticks*. The song mentions memories that happened during the months of September and December. When asked why lyricist Tom Jones chose September he said, "I guess I felt that September is a time of passage from the romanticism of youth to realism."

Activity: Singing and Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "Try to Remember" video**
- **Perfect Harmony lyrics sheet**

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- **What is your favorite month?**
- **What makes that month special? (i.e. Birthday, holiday, anniversary, etc.)**



Try to Remember

**Try to remember the kind of September
When life was slow and oh, so mellow.
Try to remember the kind of September
When grass was green and grain was yellow.
Try to remember the kind of September
When you were a tender and callow fellow.
Try to remember, and if you remember,
Then follow.**

**Deep in December, it's nice to remember,
Although you know the snow will follow.
Deep in December, it's nice to remember,
Without a hurt the heart is hollow.
Deep in December, it's nice to remember,
The fire of September that made us mellow.
Deep in December, our hearts should remember
And follow, follow, follow, follow, follow,
follow, follow, follow, follow, follow**

Song: April Showers (1921)
Made popular by: Al Jolson

Brief Context: "April Showers" is a popular song from the 1920s written by Louis Silvers and B.G. De Sylva. It was made famous by entertainer Al Jolson, and has been recorded by artists like Judy Garland, Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra. Listen for mentions of things seen in Spring like rain, flowers and bluebirds.

Activity: Singing and Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "April Showers" video**
- **Perfect Harmony lyrics sheet**
- **Perfect Harmony visual prompts**

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- **What is your favorite flower that you like to see in bloom? What color is it?**
- **When you think of a garden, what do you see / smell / hear?**



April Showers

**Though April showers may come your way
They bring the flowers that bloom in May
So if it's raining have no regrets
Because it isn't raining rain you know,
it's raining violets
And where you see clouds upon the hills
You soon will see crowds of daffodils
So keep on looking for a bluebird
And listening for his song
Whenever April showers come along**

**Though April showers may come your way
They bring the flowers that bloom in May
So if it's raining have no regrets
Because it isn't raining rain you know,
it's raining violets
And where you see clouds upon the hills
You soon will see crowds of daffodils
So keep on looking for a bluebird
And listening for his song
Whenever April showers come along**



Perfect Harmony



Song: December, 1963 (Oh, What a Night) (1975)

Artist: Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons

Brief Context: Frankie Valli & The Four Season's 1975 hit song "December, 1963 (Oh, What a Night)" is about a young man remembering his first affair with a woman. It hit No. 1 on the *Billboard Hot 100* on March 13, 1976 and remained at the top spot for three weeks.

Activity: Movement (Upper body)

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "December, 1963 (Oh, What a Night" video

Suggested Seated Movement

- Pat lap and clap hands
- Brush palm of hand back and forth
- Make big circle with both arms and wave motions to side (alternate)
- Roll arms and sway side to side
- Pat your heart and head
- Alternate rolling arms low and high



Song: That's Life (1963)
Songwriters: Dean Kay and Kelly Gordon

Brief Context: "That's Life" is a popular song from 1963 with an uplifting message about staying positive through the ups and downs of life as there is always a chance to be "back on top." The most famous version of "That's Life" was recorded by Frank Sinatra in 1966 for his album of the same name.

Activity: Singing & Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "That's Life" video**
- **Perfect Harmony lyrics sheet**

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- **Has there ever been a time in your life where everything was going right?**
- **What makes you feel successful?**



That's Life

**That's life, that's what people say
You're ridin' high in April, shot down in May
But I know I'm gonna change that tune
When I'm back on top in June**

**That's life and as funny as it seems
Some people get their kicks steppin' on dreams
But I don't let it get me down
'cause this old world, keeps spinnin' around**

**I've been a puppet, a pauper, a pirate, a poet, a pawn and a king
I've been up, down and over and out and I know one thing
Each time I find myself flat on my face
I pick myself up and get back in the race**

**That's life and I can't deny it
I thought of quitting but my heart just won't buy it
And if I didn't think it was worth a try
I'd roll myself up in a big ball and die**

**I've been a puppet, a pauper, a pirate, a poet, a pawn and a king
I've been up, down and over and out and I know one thing
Each time I find myself flat on my face
I pick myself up and get back in the race**

**That's life and I can't deny it
I thought of quittin' but my heart just won't buy it
But if I didn't think it was worth a try
I'd roll myself up in a big ball and die**

Song: The September of My Years (1965)
Songwriters: Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn

Brief Context: Composer and lyricist duo Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn wrote "The September of My Years" in 1965 and Frank Sinatra introduced it on his forty-fifth studio album, *September of My Years*. The song and album are reflective of a person's life and legacy. *September of My Years* won the Grammy Award for Album of the Year in 1965.

Activity: Listening & Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- Frank Sinatra "The September of My Years" recording
- Perfect Harmony visual prompt

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- Do you recognize the voice of the singer who sings this song? Hint: His nicknames included "Chairman of the Board," "The Voice," and "Ol' Blue Eyes."
- Do you enjoy listening to Frank Sinatra? What do you like (or dislike) about his music?

