

Love is Here to Stay

"Misty"

"(Our) Love is Here to Stay"

"My Girl"

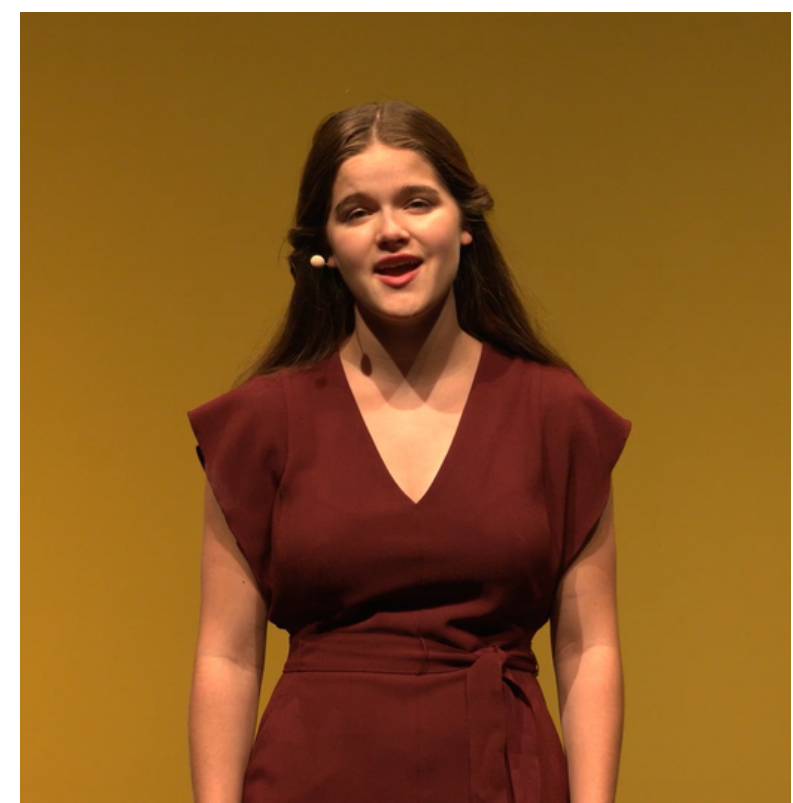
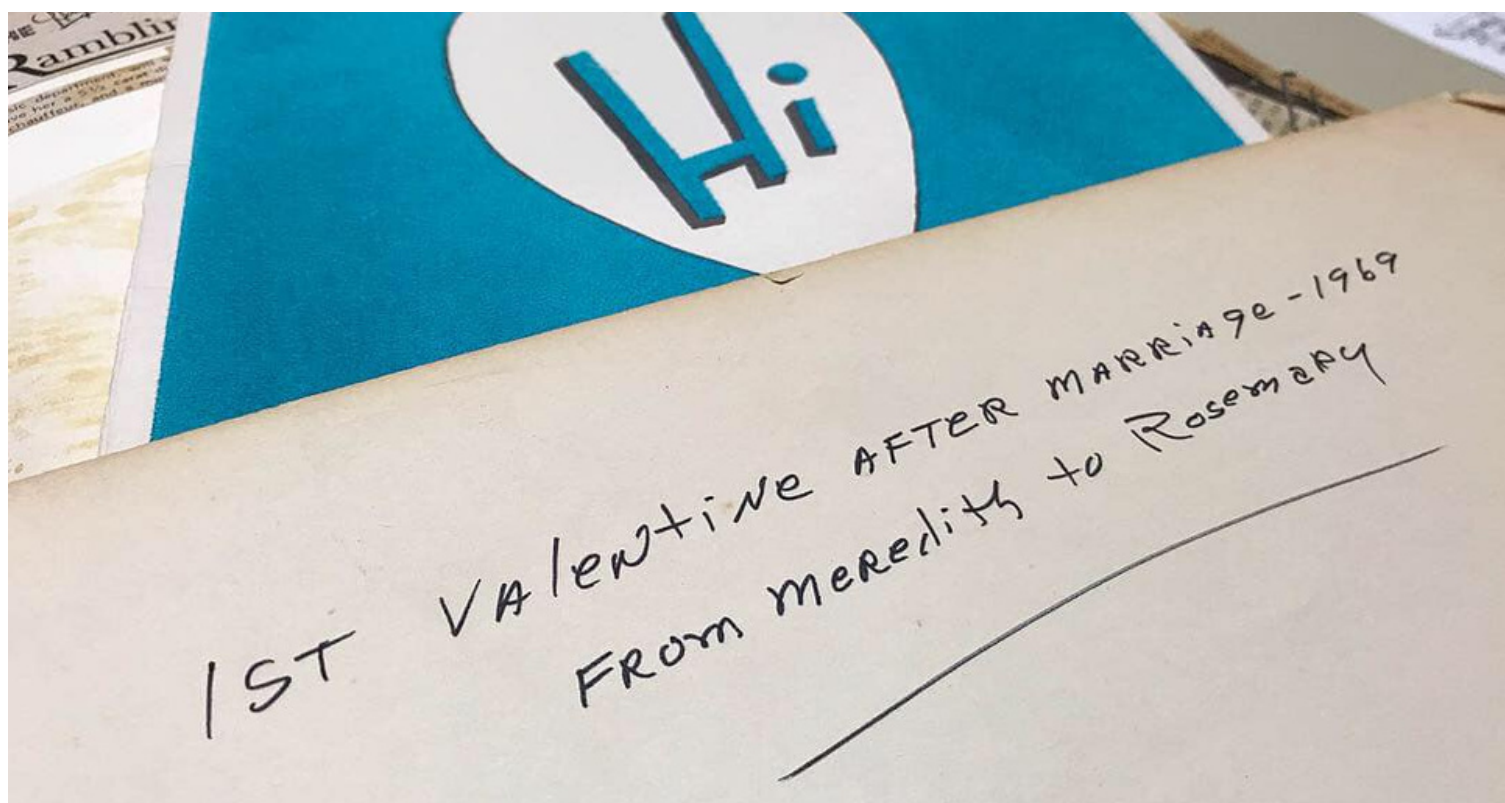
"I Want to Hold Your Hand"

"Can't Help Falling in Love"

Songbook Valentines

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, or you name it, there is a song that celebrates that feeling that your lonely days are over and life is like a song.

Explore our Virtual Valentine to learn about the music history of some of the Songbook's most notable love songs and access additional musical content for the month of February: [TheSongbook.org/valentine](https://thesongbook.org/valentine).



Song: Misty (1954)
Songwriters: Erroll Garner and Johnny Burke

Brief Context: "Misty" was composed in 1954 by Erroll Garner. He said he developed the melody on a long flight, inspired by the view of clouds and thoughts of his wife. He committed the melody to memory until he could get home and record it for transcription. "Misty" quickly became a popular jazz standard, and hundreds of instrumental and vocal covers have been recorded.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Misty" video
- Perfect Harmony visual of Johnny Mathis and Erroll Garner

Fun Fact

- Did you know that "Misty" is considered singer Johnny Mathis' signature song? He won a 2002 Grammy Hall of Fame Award for his 1959 recording of "Misty" with Columbia Records.





Learn more about Erroll Garner, Johnny Mathis and "Misty" by visiting [TheSongbook.org/misty](https://thesongbook.org/misty).



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Song: (Our) Love is Here to Stay (1938)
Songwriters: George and Ira Gershwin

Brief Context: Over twenty years, George Gershwin composed more than five hundred songs. Many of them he created with his brother, the lyricist Ira Gershwin. "(Our) Love is Here to Stay" is one of the last songs they wrote before George passed away at the age of 38. As singer Michael Feinstein notes the song is, "An eloquent memorial to the brothers and their life and work together."

Activity: Singing and Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "(Our) Love is Here to Stay" video**
- **Perfect Harmony lyrics sheet**

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- **Tell someone about a friend or family member you love.**
 - **What is their name?**
 - **What do you love about them?**



(Our) Love is Here to Stay

**It's very clear our love is here to stay
Not for a year, but ever and a day
The radio and the telephone
and the movies that we know
May just be passing fancies
And in time will go.**

**But, oh my dear,
Our love is here to stay
Together we're going a long long way
In time the Rockies may crumble,
Gebralter may tumble,
They're only made of clay
But our love is here to stay.**

Song: My Girl (1964)
Artist: The Temptations

Brief Context: The Temptations signature song "My Girl" was written by Smokey Robinson as a response to another song he wrote "My Guy," which had been a smash for Mary Wells in 1964. The lyrics to "My Girl" were inspired by Robinson's wife, Claudette Rogers Robinson, who sang The Miracles alongside Mary Wells.

Activity: Movement (upper body)

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "My Girl"

Suggested Seated Movement

- Press palm of one hand out to side (alternate)
- Point in towards chest and out straight ahead (alternate)
- Tap shoulders, cross arms to tap shoulders, tap hips, shake hips
- Repeat sequence above starting with pressing both palms to side
- Swing arms to side and snap (alternate)
- Swing arms to side and clap (alternate)
- Reach one arm up and flick wrist while lowering (alternate)
- Repeat initial sequence starting with pointing in towards chest
- Swing arms to side and snap (alternate)
- Swing arms to side and clap (alternate)
- Press palm of both hands out to side (alternate)



Song: I Want to Hold Your Hand (1964)
Artist: The Beatles

Brief Context: Originally written after manager Brian Epstein urged The Beatles to aspire for an American sound, “I Want to Hold Your Hand” blended the sounds of African American rhythm and blues, West Coast surf music, and rock ‘n’ roll. It was the first song that captured an American audience for The Beatles. By March 1964, “I Want to Hold Your Hand” had sold an astounding 3.4 million copies in the U.S. and Beatlemania had begun.

Activity: Listening & Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- **The Beatles' recording of "I Want to Hold Your Hand"**

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- **Think about the first time you held hands with someone you care about.**
 - **Did you make the first move, or did they?**
 - **What are some other gestures of affection you can do for someone you care about? (hugs, kisses, sending flowers, small gift or thoughtful card)**



Song: Can't Help Falling In Love (1961)
Made popular by: Elvis

Brief Context: Written by Hugo Peretti, Luigi Creatore, and George David Weiss, "Can't Help Falling in Love" tells the tale of a person who is powerless to resist falling in love. The tender ballad is one of Elvis' most popular love songs. The melody is simple and memorable. The tender lyrics are raw and relatable.

Activity: Singing

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "Can't Help Falling in Love"**
- **Perfect Harmony visual prompt**

Fun Fact

"Can't Help Falling in Love" was the last song Elvis sang in public. It was the closer of his final concert at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis on June 26, 1977.



Can't Help Falling in Love

Wise men say

Only fools rush in

But I can't help falling in love with you

Shall I stay?

Would it be a sin

If I can't help falling in love with you?

Like a river flows

Surely to the sea

Darling, so it goes

Some things are meant to be

Take my hand

Take my whole life too

For I can't help falling in love with you

Like a river flows

Surely to the sea

Darling, so it goes

Some things are meant to be

Take my hand

Take my whole life too

For I can't help falling in love with you

For I can't help falling in love with you



Perfect 
Harmony

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