

JAM for Jazz Appreciation Month!

"Someone to Watch Over Me"

"Fly Me to the Moon"

"Sing, Sing, Sing"

"Take the 'A' Train"

"All of Me"

Let's kick off Jazz Appreciation Month with Louis Armstrong!

Instantly recognizable as one of the most famous figures in jazz, Louis Armstrong was an innovator, changing the game for decades of musicians who followed him. Breaking with the formal stylings of vocalists in prior decades, Armstrong created improv scat singing with a swing rhythm; his trumpet technique led to a trend of soloists becoming the focus of jazz band performances. Louis Armstrong is arguably one of the most influential people in the history of American music.

Louis Armstrong's legacy lives on at the [Louis Armstrong House Museum](#). Watch a video featuring Director of Research Collections, Ricky Riccardi, featured in the Great American Songbook Foundation's [Songbook 101 series](#).



Song: Someone to Watch Over Me (1926)
Songwriters: George and Ira Gershwin

Brief Context: In 1926, George and Ira Gershwin were working on a musical called *Oh, Kay!* which starred British actress, Gertrude Lawrence. It has become a popular jazz standard performed by artists like Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra and Barbra Streisand.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "Someone to Watch Over Me" video featuring jazz pianist Christopher Pitts**

Fun Fact

- **"Someone to Watch Over Me" was originally an uptempo dance number, but became a ballad when George became distracted at the piano and started playing a slower tempo. His brother, Ira, suggested to keep it as a ballad.**



Song: Fly Me to the Moon (1954)
Made popular by: Frank Sinatra

Brief Context: "Fly Me to the Moon" is a popular song written by Bart Howard and was introduced by Kaye Ballard. One of the most popular recordings is of Frank Sinatra with the Count Basie Orchestra, arranged by Quincy Jones. This version was played on a cassette tape during the Apollo 10's lunar mission, making it one of the first songs played in outer space.

Activity: Singing and Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "Fly Me to the Moon" video**
- **Perfect Harmony lyrics sheet**

Suggested Discussion Prompt

Who is someone in your life who "loved you to the moon and back?" (friend, family member, sweetheart, child, grandchild) What do they love about you? What do you love about them?



Fly Me to the Moon

Fly me to the moon

And let me play among the stars

Let me see what spring is like

On Jupiter and Mars

In other words, hold my hand

In other words, baby, kiss me

Fill my heart with song

And let me sing forevermore

You are all I long for

All I worship and adore

In other words, please be true

In other words, I love you

Fill my heart with song

And let me sing forevermore

You are all I long for

All I worship and adore

In other words, please be true

In other words,

In other words,

I love you

Song: Sing, Sing, Sing (1936)

Made popular by: The Benny Goodman Orchestra

Brief Context: "Sing, Sing, Sing" is a classic swing song that has been covered by artists like Louis Prima, The Andrews Sisters and The Benny Goodman Orchestra. Goodman famously played a version of the song in 1938 at Carnegie Hall. It was filled with impromptu solos by band members including the well-known opening drum solo by Gene Krupa.

See Gene's drumsticks at [TheSongbook.org/jim-young](https://thesongbook.org/jim-young).

Activity: Movement (breathing & upper body)

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Sing, Sing, Sing" video

Suggested Seated Movement

1. Breathe in for four beats and out for four beats
2. Roll shoulders one at a time
3. Squeeze down then up the left arm
4. Cross your arm across your chest to tap the opposite shoulders, alternate sides
5. Squeeze down then up the right arms
6. Grab your "drumsticks"
7. Stretch arms out and up
8. Tap your "drumsticks" up above your head
9. Stretch your arms out straight in front of you and tap your "drumsticks"
10. Reach down and tap your "drumsticks"
11. Reach across your body and to the left, tap your "drumsticks"
12. Reach across your body and to the right, tap your "drumsticks"
13. Tap upwards at a diagonal to the left then the right
14. Tap your "drumsticks" faster!
15. Set your "drumsticks" aside
16. Pat your lap
17. Dance, swaying arms side to side reaching up then down
18. Tap your face, up to your head, and back down to your chest
19. Cross your arms across your chest and tap your opposite shoulders
20. End with your hands in your lap

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Song: Take the 'A' Train (1939)

Songwriters: Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn

Brief Context: Duke Ellington's arranger and "right hand man" Billy Strayhorn composed "Take the 'A' Train" in 1941. It became a signature song for the Duke Ellington band. "Take the 'A' Train" not only gave directions for taking the train best suited to get you to Harlem, but also helped to define the culture and lifestyle that Harlem represented as a place where African Americans experienced success.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- "Take the 'A' Train" video or audio
- Songbook Academy masterclass video

Watch a Masterclass

- La Tanya Hall is a music educator, jazz artist and mentor for the Songbook Foundation's program for high school singers, The Songbook Academy.
- [Watch her work with a student](#) singing "Take the 'A' Train."





Take the A Train sheet music from the Songbook Library & Archives and photo of Songbook Hall of Fame honorees Billy Strayhorn (left) and Duke Ellington (right).



Perfect
Harmony

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Song: All of Me (1931)
Songwriters: Gerald Marks and Seymour Simons

Brief Context: "All of Me" was written by the Tin Pan Alley team of Gerald Marks and Seymour Simons. It became a popular jazz standard since its first recording in 1931 by "America's sweetheart of song," Ruth Etting. After making its radio debut, "All of Me" became a popular song for artists like Count Basie, Bing Crosby and Billie Holiday.

Activity: Singing and engaged discussion

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "All of Me" video**
- **Perfect Harmony lyrics sheet**

Suggested Discussion Prompt

Have you ever sung "All of Me" to someone you love? If not, what is another song you have sung to a loved one before? ("You are My Sunshine," "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," "Love Me Tender")



All of Me

All of me

Why not take all of me?

Can't you see?

I'm no good without you

Take my lips

I want to lose them

Take my arms

I'll never use them

Your goodbye

Left me with eyes that cry

How can I go on, dear, without you?

You took the part

That once was my heart

So why not take all of me?