

Friendship

"You'll Never Walk Alone"

"Side by Side"

"You've Got a Friend in Me"

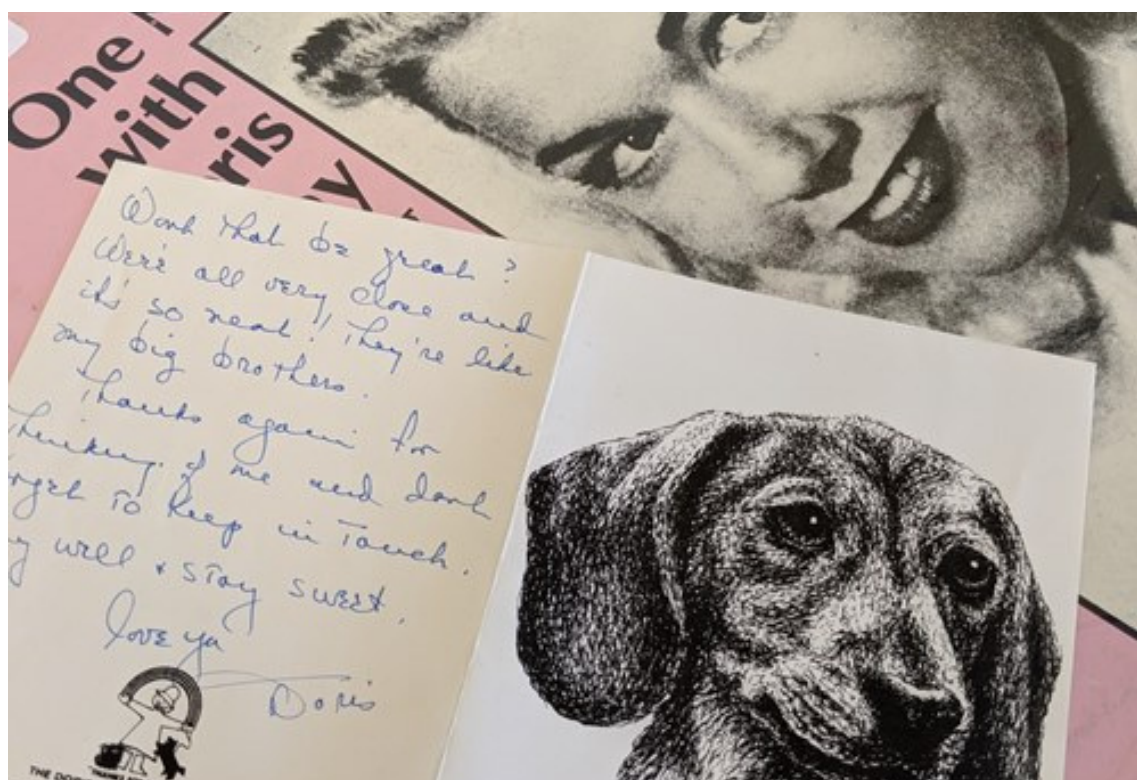
"Lean on Me"

"That's What Friends Are For"

Friends in the Songbook Library & Archives

There are many examples of endearing friendships in the Great American Songbook. George and Ira Gershwin were brothers and friends, and the friendship between members of the rat pack including Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Dean Martin can be seen on film. Did you know that Doris Day made a good friend named Steve Madrick when she toured with the big band Les Brown and His Band in the 1940s? Madrick was the lead alto saxophone player in the band and Day was the "girl singer" for several years. Throughout their lives, the two remained friends and routinely sent birthday letters, Christmas cards and postcards.

See some of their correspondence and learn more about the Steve Madrick collection at [TheSongbook.org/Steve-Madrick](https://thesongbook.org/Steve-Madrick)



Song: You'll Never Walk Alone (1945)
Songwriters: Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Brief Context: "You'll Never Walk Alone" is a show tune from Rodgers and Hammerstein's second musical, *Carousel*. It has gained popularity beyond the musical when Frank Sinatra's version rose to #9 on the Billboard charts in 1945. It has also been recorded by artists like Judy Garland, Elvis Presley and Conway Twitty.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "You'll Never Walk Alone" video**

Fun Fact

- **If you're a soccer fan, you might also know that this song has become the anthem of Liverpool FC. It is sung before kick-off at every match at Anfield Stadium. Sometime around the release of Gerry and the Pacemakers' popular cover of "You'll Never Walk Alone," Liverpool fans adopted the uplifting song as the team's anthem.**

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Song: Side by Side (1927)
Made popular by: Kay Starr

Brief Context: Harry Woods composed "Side by Side" and other popular tunes in the 1920s despite only having fingers on his right hand. "Side by Side" introduces "ragged and funny" friends who share heavy emotional loads and stay with each other even if the sky should fall. The song was made popular in 1953 by Kay Starr with Capitol Records.

Activity: Singing & Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "Side by Side" video**
- **Perfect Harmony lyrics sheet**

Suggested Discussion Prompt

- **Have you had a friend or family member by your side through good times and bad?**
- **What makes that person so great to have by your side? (honest, caring, loyal, funny)**



Side by Side

**Oh, we ain't got a barrel of money,
Maybe we're ragged and funny
But we'll travel along
Singing a song
Side by side.**

**Don't know what's comin' tomorrow
Maybe it's trouble or sorrow
But we'll travel the road
Sharing our load
Side by side.**

**Through all kinds of weather
What if the sky should fall?
Just as long as we're together,
It doesn't matter at all.**

**When they've had their quarrels and parted
We'll be the same as we started
Just traveling along
Singing a song
Side by side.**

**Through all kinds of weather
What if the sky should fall?
Just as long as we're together,
It doesn't matter at all.**

**When they've had their quarrels and parted
We'll be the same as we started
Just traveling along
Singing a song
Side by side.**

Song: You've Got a Friend in Me (1996)
Songwriter: Randy Newman

Brief Context: "You've Got a Friend in Me," written by Randy Newman, is the theme song for the 1996 Pixar and Disney animated film *Toy Story*. The movie focuses on the friendship between children and their toys. The song reminds us how we can always rely on a friend through the toughest times.

Activity: Movement (breathing & upper body)

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "You've Got a Friend in Me" video

Suggested Seated Movement

1. Take a deep breath, reach fingers to the sky and lower to the side
2. Alternate tapping toe and hand on knee for four beats (R, L, R, L)
3. Tap both toes and both hands on knee (10 beats)
4. Take a deep breath, reach fingers to the sky and lower to the side
5. Lift leg up and over to tap toe out to one side (alternate sides)
6. BIG bicycle motion with one leg and opposite arm (alternate sides)
7. Take a deep breath, reach fingers to the sky and lower to the side
8. Snap fingers side to side
9. End with hands on lap



Song: Lean on Me (1972)
Songwriter: Bill Withers

Brief Context: Almost everyone can relate to the lyrics of "Lean on Me" which helped it become such a popular song. It has become a song of solidarity between people who are struggling and need a friend. It has been heard during times of strife including the earthquakes in Haiti in 2010; Hurricanes Irma and Harvey; and the coronavirus pandemic. Withers' words and music continue to touch people every day.

Activity: Singing & Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- "Lean on Me" Perfect Harmony video
- Lyrics sheet

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- Did you like listening and singing along to the song "Lean on Me?"
- What were some of your favorite parts of the song? (singing, words, piano, beat)



Lean on Me

Sometimes in our lives

We all have pain

We all have sorrow

But if we are wise

We know that there's always tomorrow

Lean on me

When you're not strong

And I'll be your friend

I'll help you carry on...

For it won't be long

Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

Please swallow your pride

If I have needs you need to borrow

For no one can fill

Those of your needs that you won't let show

You just call on me brother when you need a hand

We all need somebody to lean on

I just might have a problem that you'll understand

We all need somebody to lean on

Lean on me

When you're not strong

I'll be your friend

I'll help you carry on...

For it won't be long

Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

You just call on me brother

When you need a hand

We all need somebody to lean on

I just might have a problem that you'll understand

We all need somebody to lean on

We all need somebody to lean on

Song: That's What Friends Are For (1982)
Songwriters: Burt Bacharach and Carole Bayer Sager

Brief Context: "That's What Friends Are For" was recorded in 1985 by Dionne Warwick, Elton John, Gladys Knight, and Stevie Wonder. It was a massive hit, becoming the number-one single of 1986 in the United States, and winning the Grammy Awards for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals and Song of the Year. Warwick chose to donate profits from the single to support AIDS research and prevention. It raised over \$3 million for the cause.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- "That's What Friends Are For" video or audio recording

Fun Fact

In 1985, Dionne Warwick ran into Elton John while grocery shopping in Beverly Hills. She asked the British pop star if he would help her record a song alongside Gladys Knight and Stevie Wonder the next day.

