

# The Music of Cole Porter

**"I Get a Kick Out of You"**

**"Anything Goes"**

**"You're the Top"**

**"Night and Day"**

**"It's De-Lovely"**

## Cole Porter

One of the most famous composers and lyricists of the 1920s/30s, native Hoosier Cole Porter helped to create what we now call the Great American Songbook. His decades-long string of Broadway successes introduced songs that were musically complex with witty, urbane lyrics that audiences loved. Songs such as "You Do Something to Me," "Love for Sale," "Night and Day," "Anything Goes," "In the Still of the Night," "Begin the Beguine," "You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To," and "I Get a Kick Out of You" remain popular standards today and have been recorded by well-known artists from around the globe. [Listen to more of Porter's music on Spotify!](#)



## **Song: "I Get a Kick Out of You" (1934)**

**Songwriter: Cole Porter**

***Brief Context:*** "I Get a Kick Out of You" composed by Cole Porter, made its debut in 1934 as part of the Broadway musical *Anything Goes*, preceding its appearance in the 1936 film adaptation. Initially performed by Ethel Merman, the song has been interpreted by numerous renowned artists such as Frank Sinatra, Dolly Parton, and Ella Fitzgerald. It has received multiple GRAMMY Award nominations, clinching the 1996 GRAMMY for Best Instrumental Arrangement with Accompanying Vocals by Mel Tormé.

### **Activity: Singing and Discussion**

#### ***What do you need?***

- **Perfect Harmony "I Get a Kick Out of You" video**
- **Perfect Harmony "I Get a Kick Out of You" lyrics**



#### **Suggested Discussion Prompt:**

**When I sing this song, I think of my (partner, friend, children, sibling, etc.) who brings so much excitement to my life. I would rather spend time with them than any other one-time thrill.**

**Tell me about someone in your life who makes you feel excited or energized when you are with them.**



# **I Get a Kick Out of You**

**My story is much too sad to be told**

**'Cause practically everything leaves me totally cold**

**The only exception I know is the case**

**When I'm out on a quiet spree**

**Fighting vainly the old ennui**

**Then I suddenly turn and see your fabulous face**

**I get no kick from champagne**

**Mere alcohol doesn't thrill me at all**

**So tell me why should it be true**

**That I get a kick out of you**

**Some get a kick from cocaine**

**I know that if I took even one sniff**

**It would bore me terrifically too**

**Yet I get a kick out of you**

**I get a kick every time I see**

**You standing there before me**

**I get a kick though it's clear to me**

**You obviously don't adore me**

**Some get a kick from a plane**

**Flying too high with some guy in the sky**

**Is my idea of nothing to do.**

**Yet I get a kick out of you**



## **Song: "Anything Goes" (1934)**

**Songwriter: Cole Porter**

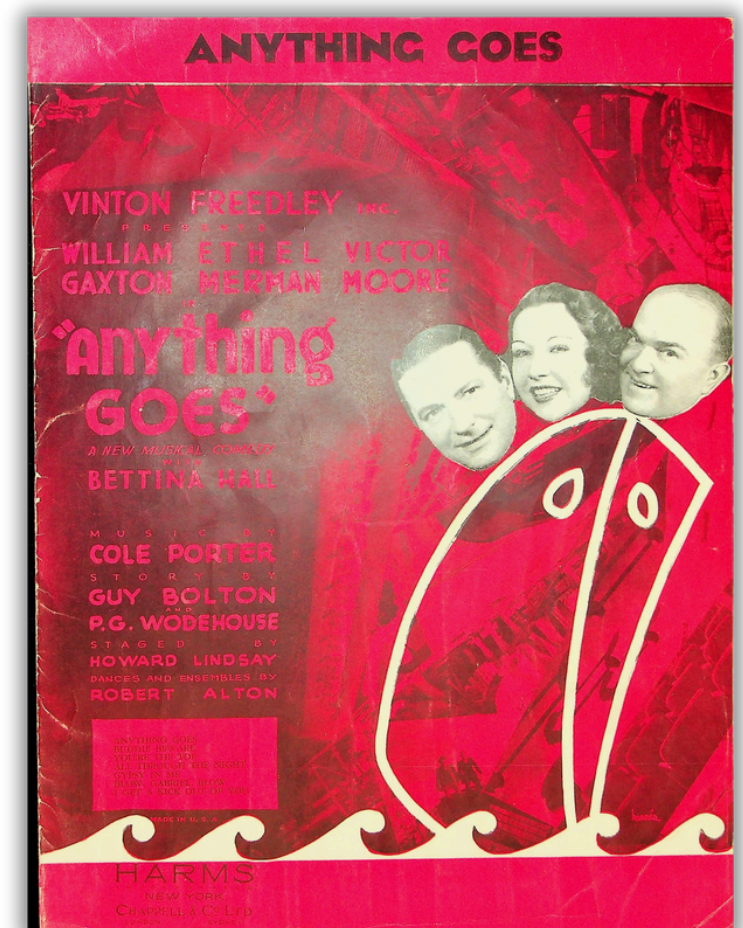
**Brief Context: "Anything Goes" by Cole Porter is a timeless classic that encapsulates the spirit of the roaring twenties. With its catchy melody and witty lyrics, the song celebrates a carefree attitude towards life, where societal norms are tossed aside in favor of spontaneity and fun. Originally featured in the musical of the same name, "Anything Goes" has remained a beloved standard, its playful charm resonating through generations, inviting listeners to embrace the joy of living without constraints.**

**Activity: Singing**

**What do you need?**

- **Perfect Harmony "Anything Goes" video**
- **Perfect Harmony "Anything Goes" lyrics**

**Cole Porter Playlist**



**Cole Porter was inducted into the Songbook Hall of Fame in 2012 as a Legend Award recipient. The Great American Songbook Hall of Fame celebrates lyricists, composers, and performers who helped to create "the soundtrack of our lives" with their contribution to American Popular song.**

**To listen to more of Cole Porter's hits, [visit our Cole Porter Spotify playlist](#).**



# **Anything Goes**

**In olden days, a glimpse of stocking  
Was looked on as something shocking  
Now heaven knows  
Anything goes  
Good authors, too, who once knew better words  
Now only use four-letter words  
Writing prose  
Anything goes**

**The world has gone mad today  
And good's bad today  
And black's white today  
And day's night today  
When most guys today  
The women prize today  
Are just silly gigolos**

**So though I'm not a great romancer  
I know that you're bound to answer  
When I propose  
Anything goes**

# **Anything Goes (page 2)**

**The world has gone mad today**

**And good's bad today**

**And black's white today**

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**When most guys today**

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**So though I'm not a great romancer**

**I know that you're bound to answer**

**When I propose**

**Anything goes**

## **Song: "You're the Top" (1934)**

**Songwriter: Cole Porter**

**Brief Context:** "You're the Top" by Cole Porter is a dazzling showcase of wit and affection, hailed as one of his most iconic compositions. With its rapid-fire lyrics and clever wordplay, the song serves as a humorous tribute to the incomparable qualities of a loved one. Originally written for the musical *Anything Goes*, "You're the Top" exudes charm and sophistication, celebrating the pinnacle of excellence in various facets of life, from art and literature to romance and adventure. Its infectious melody and sparkling lyrics have made it a timeless favorite, evoking smiles and admiration with each playful verse.

### **Activity: Movement**

#### ***What do you need?***

- Perfect Harmony "You're the Top" video

#### ***Suggested Seated Movement***

**Follow Perfect Harmony leader Keegan or create your own seated movement!**

**Use movements like . . .**

- Heel kicks and taps
- Arm movements
- Shoulder shimmy





## **Song: "Night and Day" (1932)**

**Songwriter: Cole Porter**

**Brief Context:** "Night and Day" by Cole Porter is a mesmerizing jazz standard renowned for its evocative lyrics and lush melodies. Composed in 1932 for the musical *Gay Divorce*, the song captures the all-encompassing nature of love, portraying the relentless longing and passion that persist both day and night. With its hauntingly beautiful melody and poetic lyrics, "Night and Day" has become synonymous with romance, its timeless appeal transcending generations. Porter's masterful composition paints a vivid picture of love's enduring power, weaving a spellbinding tale of desire and devotion that resonates deeply with listeners worldwide.

### **Activity: Singing and Discussion**

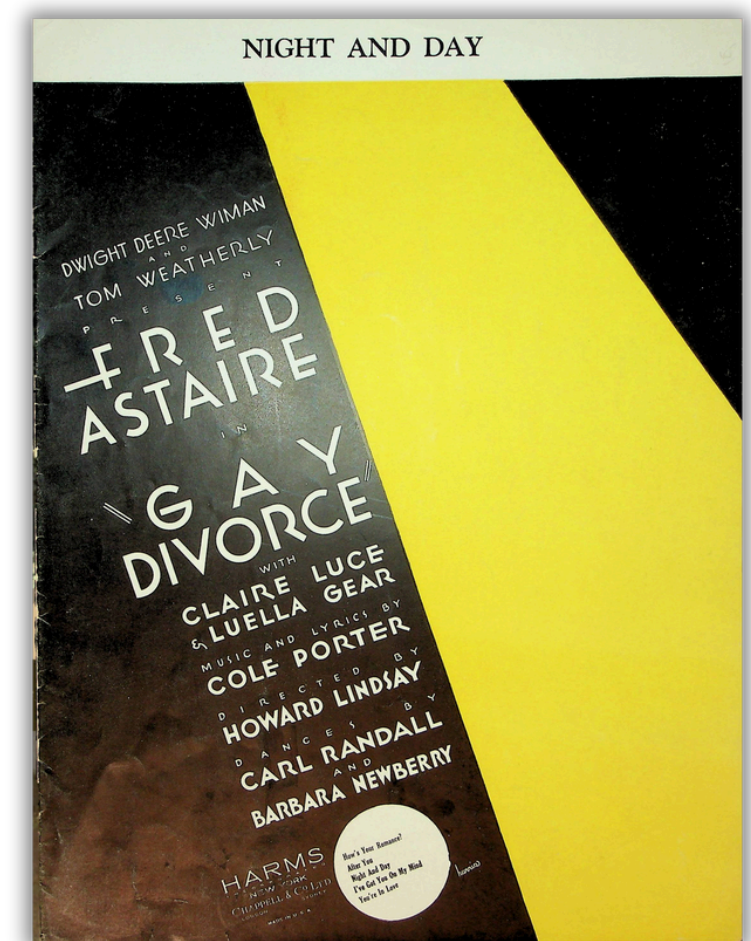
#### ***What do you need?***

- Perfect Harmony "Night and Day" video
- Perfect Harmony "Night and Day" lyrics

#### ***Suggested Discussion Prompt:***

**Cole Porter is one of my favorite songwriters. I enjoy his witty lyrics and unforgettable melodies.**

**Tell someone about a music artist that you like to listen to every day.**





# **Night and Day**

**Night and day, you are the one**

**Only you beneath the moon**

**And under the sun**

**Whether near to me or far**

**It's no matter, darlin', where you are**

**I think of you night and day**

**Day and night, why is it so**

**That this longing for you**

**Follows wherever I go**

**In the roaring traffic's boom**

**In the silence of my lonely room**

**I think of you night and day**

**Night and day, under the hide of me**

**There's an, oh, such a humble yearning**

**Burning inside of me**

**And this torment won't be through**

**Till you let me spend my life making love to you**

**Day and night, night and day**

## **Song: "It's De-Lovely" (1936)**

**Songwriter: Cole Porter**

**Brief Context:** "It's De-Lovely" by Cole Porter is a delightful testament to the intoxicating allure of romance. Featured in the musical *Red, Hot and Blue* in 1936, the song radiates with Porter's signature wit and charm, celebrating the enchanting sensation of falling in love. With its catchy melody and clever wordplay, "It's De-Lovely" exudes a sense of joy and whimsy, capturing the magic of newfound affection. Porter's playful lyrics and infectious rhythm evoke a sense of euphoria, transporting listeners to a world where love is enchanting and irresistible. As a timeless classic, "It's De-Lovely" continues to captivate audiences with its effervescent energy and timeless appeal.

**Activity: Singing**

**What do you need?**

- Perfect Harmony "It's De-Lovely" video



**June is Pride Month**

Cole Porter, a legendary composer and songwriter, was a prominent member of the LGBTQ+ community during a time when such identities were often closeted or stigmatized. Despite societal pressures, Porter embraced his identity with remarkable courage and resilience. His music often subtly reflected his experiences and relationships, offering glimpses into his personal life through veiled lyrics and coded messages. Porter's contributions to American popular music are immense, with classics like "Night and Day" and "I've Got You Under My Skin" enduring as timeless standards. His impact on both music and LGBTQ+ visibility remains significant, inspiring countless artists and individuals to embrace their true selves with pride and authenticity.



# **It's De-Lovely**

**The night is young, the skies are clear  
And if you want to go walking, dear  
It's delightful, it's delicious, it's de-lovely  
I understand the reason why  
You're sentimental, 'cause so am I  
It's delightful, it's delicious, it's de-lovely**

**You can tell at a glance  
What a swell night this is for romance  
You can hear dear Mother Nature murmuring low  
"Let yourself go!"  
So please be sweet, my chickadee  
And when I kiss you, just say to me  
"It's delightful, it's delicious  
It's delectable, it's delirious  
It's dilemma, it's delimit, it's deluxe  
It's de-lovely"**

**You can tell at a glance  
What a swell night this is for romance  
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