

# **Songbook in Bloom**

**"On a Clear Day (You Can See Forever)"**

**"Edelweiss"**

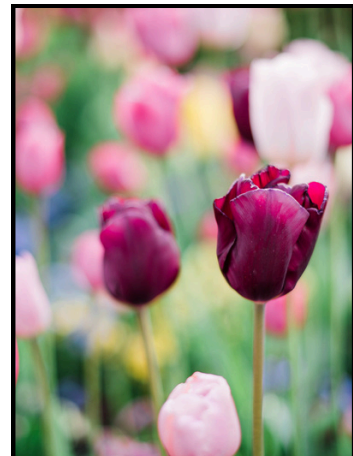
**"You Are the Sunshine of My Life"**

**"Come Rain or Come Shine"**

**"What a Wonderful World"**

## **Sounds of Spring in Perfect Harmony**

***Songbook in Bloom* is a celebration of the season through music that reflects the signs of life blossoming all around us. Just as flowers stretch toward the light and trees awaken with new leaves, these songs help us notice the beauty of change, growth, and possibility. This month, we sing with hearts open to hope, joy, and the sense of renewal that springtime—and music—can bring.**



**Song: "On a Clear Day (You Can See Forever)" (1965)**

**Songwriters: Burton Lane and Alan Jay Lerner**

**Brief Context:**

"On a Clear Day" is a song composed by Burton Lane with lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner, originally written for the 1965 Broadway musical *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*. Barbra Streisand's rendition in the 1970 film adaptation remains the most iconic. Over the years, the song has been recorded by a wide range of artists and reimagined by jazz combos, big bands and vocal groups. Lyrically, it captures a sense of hope, clarity, and personal insight—moments when one sees beyond individual limits and feels a deeper connection to the universe. It speaks to the discovery of inner truth, understanding, and the harmony found in nature.

**Activity: Listening**

**What do you need?**

- **Perfect Harmony "On a Clear Day" video**  
([YOUTUBE](#))

**Suggested Discussion Prompt**

After listening to Perfect Harmony leader Diane play this song on the piano, listen to a recording by Barbra Streisand with lyrics.

**[LISTEN TO BARBRA'S RECORDING](#)**

How do the lyrics change how you feel about the song? What do the words help you understand or picture that you didn't notice before?



Publicity still of Barbra Streisand in *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever* (1970). Paramount Pictures, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



## ***Song: "Edelweiss" (1959)***

***Songwriters: Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II***

### ***Brief Context:***

"Edelweiss" is a song from the 1959 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *The Sound of Music*, written for the character of Captain von Trapp. Named after the delicate white Alpine flower, it symbolizes his love and loyalty to Austria. In the film, he sings it first while reconnecting with his children, and later in a concert as a quiet act of defiance. Though it sounds like a traditional folk tune, it was written for the show and was the final song Oscar Hammerstein II completed before his death. Its simple melody and heartfelt lyrics have made it one of the most beloved songs from the musical.

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

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

- ***Perfect Harmony "Edelweiss" video ([YOUTUBE](#))***
- ***Perfect Harmony "Edelweiss" lyrics***

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

"Edelweiss" is a little flower that grows high in the Swiss Alps. It grows against some very difficult conditions, and yet, there it is.

Flowers often have symbols. Tell someone about the flower that reminds of you of something special in your life.



Sheet music housed in the Songbook Library & Archives



# **Edelweiss**

**Edelweiss, edelweiss**

**Every morning you greet me**

**Small and white, clean and bright**

**You look happy to meet me**

**Blossom of snow, may you bloom and grow**

**Bloom and grow forever**

**Edelweiss, edelweiss**

**Bless my homeland forever**

**Edelweiss, edelweiss**

**Every morning you greet me**

**Small and white, clean and bright**

**You look happy to meet me**

**Blossom of snow, may you bloom and grow**

**Bloom and grow forever**

**Edelweiss, edelweiss**

**Bless my homeland forever**

## ***Song: "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" (1973)***

***Recorded by Stevie Wonder***

### ***Brief Context:***

"You Are the Sunshine of My Life" is a song by Stevie Wonder from his 1972 album *Talking Book*. Released as a single in 1973, it became his third number-one hit on the Billboard Hot 100 and earned him a GRAMMY Award for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance. Interestingly, the first two lines of the song are not sung by Wonder, but by Jim Gilstrap, followed by Lani Groves, with Gloria Barley joining them for background vocals. Wonder's version blends smooth harmonies with a simple, heartfelt melody, making the song one of the most iconic and enduring love songs of the 1970s.

### ***Activity: Movement***

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

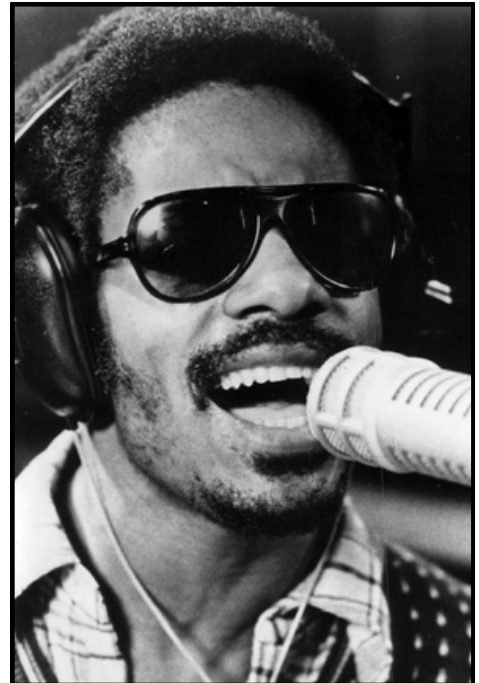
- Perfect Harmony "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" video ([YOUTUBE](#))

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

Follow Perfect Harmony leader Renée or create your own seated movement!

#### ***Use movements like . . .***

- Alternating shoulder rolls
- Reach up and open arms to the sky
- Rhythmic sways from side-to-side
- Look side-to-side followed by head roll
- Disco arm rolls in front of body



Stevie Wonder (1973). Motown Records, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



***Song: "Come Rain or Come Shine" (1946)***  
***Songwriters: Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer***

***Brief Context:***

"Come Rain or Come Shine" is a classic song by composer Harold Arlen and lyricist Johnny Mercer, written for the 1946 Broadway musical *St. Louis Woman*. Known for its emotional depth and unusual opening—built around a single repeated note—the song quickly became a jazz standard. Over time, it's been embraced by countless artists for its soulful message of unconditional love and its bold, memorable melody.

***Activity: Singing***

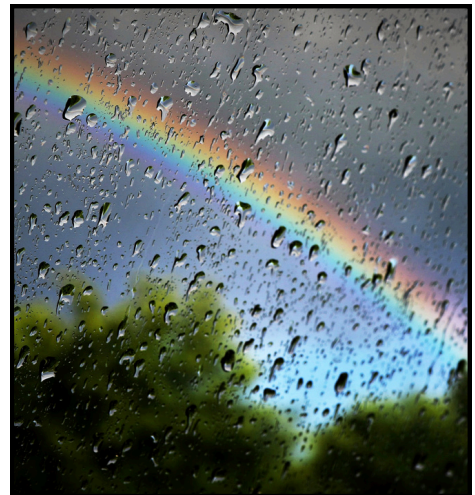
***What do you need?***

- Perfect Harmony "Come Rain or Come Shine" video ([YOUTUBE](#))
- Perfect Harmony "Come Rain or Come Shine" lyrics

***Fun Fact***

Did you know that "Come Rain or Come Shine" is just one in a series of enduring songs with reference to the weather that Arlen composed throughout the course of his career.

Other weather-related tunes written by Arlen include "Stormy Weather," "Ill Wind," "Over the Rainbow," "When the Sun Comes Out," and "I Never Has Seen Snow."



# **Come Rain or Come Shine**

**I'm gonna love you like nobody's loved you**

**Come rain or come shine**

**High as a mountain and deep as a river**

**Come rain or come shine**

**I guess when you met me**

**It was just one of those things**

**But don't ever bet me**

**Cause I'm gonna be true if you let me**

**You're gonna love me**

**Like nobody's loved me**

**Come rain or come shine**

**Happy together, unhappy together**

**And won't it be fine**

**Days may be cloudy or sunny**

**We're in, or we're out of the money**

**But I'm with you always**

**I'm with you rain or shine**

***Song: "What a Wonderful World" (1967)***  
***Songwriters: Bob Thiele (as George Douglas)***  
***and George David Weiss***

***Brief Context:***

"What a Wonderful World" was written by Bob Thiele (as George Douglas) and George David Weiss for Louis Armstrong, who first recorded it in 1967. The writers felt Armstrong's warm, soulful voice could best convey their hopeful message—that even in difficult times, the world is full of beauty, love, and kindness. Inspired by the unrest of the late 1960s, including war, civil rights struggles, and political tension, the song aimed to bring a sense of calm and optimism. Initially, it received little promotion in the U.S. due to resistance from the record label, but it found success in the U.K. and became a worldwide favorite after its re-release in 1988, following its appearance in the film *Good Morning, Vietnam*. Today, the song continues to inspire listeners of all ages and remains one of Louis Armstrong's most beloved recordings.

***Activity: Singing and Discussion***

***What do you need?***

- ***Perfect Harmony "What a Wonderful World" video ([YOUTUBE](#))***
- ***Perfect Harmony "What a Wonderful World" lyrics***

***Suggested Discussion Prompt***

**This song encourages us to see the good in the world. Tell someone about the simple joys that brighten your day.**





# **What a Wonderful World**

**I see trees of green, red roses too**

**I see them bloom for me and for you**

**And I think to myself**

**What a wonderful world**

**I see skies of blue and clouds of white**

**The bright blessed days, dark sacred nights**

**And I think to myself**

**What a wonderful world**

**The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky**

**Are also on the faces of people going by**

**I see friends shaking hands, saying, "How do you do?"**

**They're really sayin', "I love you"**

**I hear babies cry, I watch them grow**

**They'll learn much more than I'll never know**

**And I think to myself**

**What a wonderful world**

**Yes, I think to myself**

**What a wonderful world**