

Iconic Duets in Perfect Harmony

"Happy Days Are Here Again/Get Happy"

"Don't Go Breaking My Heart"

"You've Got a Friend in Me"

"Let's Do It (Let's Fall in Love)"

"Tonight You Belong to Me"

Twice As Timeless

In music — and in life — some of the most meaningful moments are shared. A duet, a song sung by two voices, reflects the connections we build with friends, loved ones, and partners as we move through the world side by side.

As February invites us to reflect on the relationships we cherish, we explore iconic pairings through songs that encourage participation and shared experience — melodies that may call to mind celebration, companionship, or simple joy in singing together. As we share these classics, we celebrate harmony not only in music, but in the connections that make life more meaningful.



Song: "Happy Days Are Here Again/Get Happy" (1963)

Songwriters: Milton Ager, Jack Yellen ("Happy Days")

Harold Arlen, Ted Koehler ("Get Happy")

Brief Context:

"Happy Days Are Here Again/Get Happy" became a memorable duet moment when Barbra Streisand joined Judy Garland on a 1963 broadcast of *The Judy Garland Show*. The medley combined two well-known songs: "Happy Days Are Here Again," written in 1929 by Milton Ager and Jack Yellen and widely associated with film and political history, and "Get Happy," composed by Harold Arlen with lyrics by Ted Koehler and closely tied to Garland's performances in *Summer Stock*. The medley has endured as a landmark example of duet storytelling — celebrating resilience, hope, and musical partnership — and continues to be recognized as one of the defining moments of both artists' careers.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Happy Days/Get Happy" video ([YOUTUBE](#))

Fun Fact

The medley was Judy Garland's idea. Mel Tormé — credited with preparing special musical material for the program — recalled that during rehearsals she invited him into her dressing room, played Barbra Streisand's recording of "Happy Days Are Here Again," and began singing her signature "Get Happy" over it. Realizing how naturally the two songs fit together, Garland developed the concept that would shape their televised duet.



Image Credit: [The Barbra Archives](#)



Song: "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" (1976)

Songwriters: Elton John and Bernie Taupin

Brief Context:

"Don't Go Breaking My Heart" became an iconic pop duet when Elton John teamed up with Kiki Dee in 1976. Written by Elton John and collaborator Bernie Taupin under the pseudonyms "Ann Orson" and "Carte Blanche," the song was inspired by the sound and spirit of classic Motown duets and showcased the singers' lively musical chemistry. It quickly reached No. 1 on both the U.S. and U.K. charts and helped introduce Dee to a wider audience. With its upbeat energy and conversational charm, the recording remains a joyful example of duet storytelling centered on partnership and playfulness.

Activity: Singing and Discussion

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" video ([YOUTUBE](#))
- Perfect Harmony "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" lyrics

Suggested Discussion

From Sonny and Cher to Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong, or even Simon and Garfunkel - there's something special about the chemistry between great duet partners.

Think about your favorite singing duos and tell someone about an iconic pair you love to listen to.



Don't Go Breaking My Heart

Partner 1: **Don't go breaking my heart**

Partner 2: **I couldn't if I tried**

Partner 1: **Oh honey if I get wrestless**

Partner 2: **Baby you're not that kind**

Partner 1: **Don't go breaking my heart**

Partner 2: **You take the weight off of me**

Partner 1: **Oh honey when I knock on the door**

Partner 2: **Ooo I give you my key**

Together: **Ooo, nobody knows it**

Partner 1: **When I was down**

Partner 2: **I was your clown**

Together: **Oo nobody knows it**

Partner 2: **Nobody knows it**

Partner 1: **Right from the start**

Partner 2: **I give you my heart**

Oooo, I give you my heart

Don't Go Breaking My Heart

Partner 1: **So don't go breaking my heart**

Partner 2: **I won't go breaking your heart**

Partner 1: **Don't go breaking my,**

Don't breaking my,

Partner 2: **Don't go breaking my heart**

Partner 1: **Don't go breaking my,**

Don't go breaking my,

Together: **Don't go breaking my heart**

Song: "You've Got a Friend in Me" (1995)

Songwriter: Randy Newman

Brief Context:

"You've Got a Friend in Me," written by Randy Newman, was introduced as the theme song for the 1995 film *Toy Story* and has remained a musical thread throughout its sequels. The song establishes the bond between characters and underscores themes of loyalty and friendship, helping define the emotional tone of the franchise. Nominated for both Academy Award and Golden Globe honors for Best Original Song, it has appeared in multiple forms, including a duet recording by Newman and Lyle Lovett and various reinterpretations within the films themselves. With its warm melody and heartfelt message, the song endures as a modern classic — celebrating companionship, trust, and the reassurance of having someone by your side.

Activity: Movement

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "You've Got a Friend in Me" video ([YOUTUBE](#))

Suggested Seated Movement

Follow Perfect Harmony leader Olive and Louisa or create your own seated movement!

Use movements like . . .

- Hold hands with a partner and swing arms forward and back
- Sway side to side with arm around a partner's shoulder
- Kick alternating heels forward with "Charleston" style jazz hands



Song: "Let's Do It (Let's Fall in Love)" (1928)

Songwriter: Cole Porter

Brief Context:

Cole Porter's iconic "Let's Do It (Let's Fall in Love)" captures the cheeky spirit of a flirty summer romance. The lyrics explore the zoologically romantic habits of a variety of animals, from the birds and the bees to fish in the sea. The "Let's Do It" was featured in the musical *Paris* (1928), where Irene Bordini coyly sang the tune. The song became an immediate hit and set the stage for the future of American music to play with the boundaries of cultural norms.

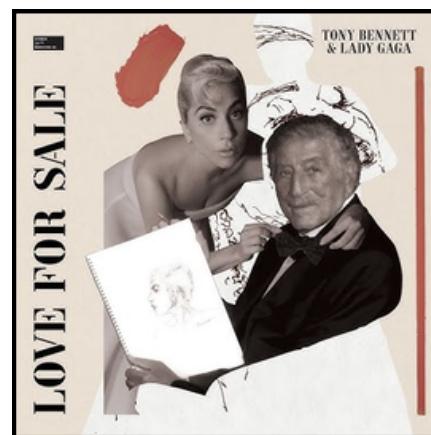
Activity: Singing

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Let's Do It" video ([YOUTUBE](#))
- Perfect Harmony "Let's Do It" lyrics

Additional Listening:

Did you know that Cole Porter was considered one of the most famous composers and lyricists of the 1920s/30s? Flamboyant and bold, Porter relished creating songs like "Let's Do It". His witty and suggestive lyrics caught the eye of censors, and the title was quickly changed to "Let's Do It, Let's Fall in Love." Listen to Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga's rendition of the tune featured in the Songbook Foundation's online exhibit: [TheSongbook.org/20s-exhibit](#).



Let's Do It (Let's Fall in Love)

Birds do it, bees do it

Even educated fleas do it

Let's do it, let's fall in love

Mosquitos, heaven forbid, do it

So does every katydid do it

Let's do it, let's fall in love

**The most refined ladybugs do it When a
gentleman calls**

Moths in your rugs do it

What's the use of moth balls

The locust up in the trees do it

Even sentimental centipedes do it

Let's do it, let's fall in love

Let's Do It (Let's Fall in Love)

**Romantic sponges they say do it
Oysters down in Oyster Bay do it
Let's do it, let's fall in love**

**Cold Cape Cod clams, 'gainst their wish, do it
Even lazy jellyfish do it
Let's do it, let's fall in love**

**Electric eels, I might add, do it
Though it shocks 'em I know
Why ask if shad do it Waiter, bring me shad roe**

**In shallow shoals, English soles do it
Goldfish in the privacy of bowls do it
Let's do it, let's fall in love**

Song: "Tonight You Belong to Me" (1926)

Songwriters: Billy Rose and Lee David

Brief Context:

"Tonight You Belong to Me," written in 1926 by lyricist Billy Rose and composer Lee David, quickly became a popular standard following early recordings by Irving Kaufman and Gene Austin. The song has been revisited across decades by a variety of artists and duos, including a charting 1956 recording by Patience and Prudence and later interpretations in film and popular music. Its gentle melody and intimate lyrics have made it a natural fit for duet performance, perhaps most memorably featured as a lighthearted musical moment between Steve Martin and Bernadette Peters in *The Jerk*. Frequently performed with simple acoustic accompaniment — including ukulele in some well-known renditions — the song continues to invite a relaxed and playful musical exchange.

Activity: Singing and Discussion

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Tonight You Belong to Me" video ([YOUTUBE](#))
- Perfect Harmony "Tonight You Belong to Me" lyrics

Suggested Discussion

Does anyone come to mind when you sing this song?

Tell someone about a special person in your life and about a shared moment you'll always remember.



Tonight You Belong to Me

I know (I know)

You belong to somebody new

But tonight you belong to me

Although (although) we're apart

You're a part of my heart

And tonight you belong to me

Way down by the stream

How sweet it will seem

Once more just to dream

In the moonlight

My honey, I know (I know)

With the dawn that you will be gone

But tonight you belong to me

But tonight you belong to me

Just to little old me