

Decades Jukebox

1930s: "In the Mood"

1940s: "Swinging on a Star"

1950s: "Que Sera, Sera"

1960s: "My Man"

1970s: "Can't Help Falling in Love"

A Journey Through Musical Time



Just like the jukeboxes that once stood proudly in diners and dance halls, music has a way of capturing the heart of an era. This November, in honor of National Jukebox Day, we're spinning back the years to celebrate the greatest hits from the 1930s through the 1970s.



Each decade brought its own soundtrack of unforgettable melodies and lyrics that told the stories of their time—and continue to resonate today. From swingin' big band tunes to soulful ballads, from rock 'n' roll anthems to disco beats, these songs have transcended generations to become timeless classics.



Song: "In the Mood" (1939)

Songwriters: Wingy Manone, Andy Razaf, Joe Garland

Brief Context: "In the Mood," arranged by Joe Garland and with lyrics by Andy Razaf, was first recorded by Edgar Hayes & His Orchestra in 1938 before Glenn Miller's iconic version skyrocketed it to fame in 1939. Based on Wingy Manone's "Tar Paper Stomp," this swing era classic features a saxophone theme, lively brass riffs, and a memorable coda. Miller's recording became a best-selling instrumental and a hallmark of the big band era, earning a place in the GRAMMY Hall of Fame and the Library of Congress National Recording Registry. Its infectious rhythm continues to make it a favorite in pop culture and beyond.

***Activity:* Movement**

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "In the Mood" video**

Suggested Seated Movement

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

Use movements like . . .

- **Strike a pose on the beat with jazz hands and arms outstretched**
- **Flick your wrists up to the ceiling and down to the ground**
- **Alternate kicking one leg forward and tapping your heel**



Song: "Swinging on a Star" (1944)

Songwriters: Jimmy Van Heusen and Johnny Burke

Brief Context: "Swinging on a Star," with music by Jimmy Van Heusen and lyrics by Johnny Burke, was introduced by Bing Crosby in the 1944 film *Going My Way*, earning an Academy Award for Best Original Song. Inspired by a quip Crosby made to his son during dinner, the song cleverly contrasts the benefits of education with humorous portrayals of animals. Backed by the Williams Brothers Quartet, Crosby's recording topped the U.S. charts in 1944. Later renditions, including a 1963 duet by Big Dee Irwin and Little Eva, brought the song renewed popularity, and it has since been featured in films, television, and pop culture moments like the sitcom *Out of This World* and the 1991 film *Hudson Hawk*.

Activity: Singing

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "Swinging on a Star" video**
- **Perfect Harmony "Swinging on a Star" lyrics**

Fun fact:

Did you know Jimmy Van Heusen is a member of the Songbook Hall of Fame? Inducted in 2018 with the Legend Award, Jimmy Van Heusen (born Edward Chester Babcock), wrote over 400 songs, won four Oscars and an Emmy, and was Frank Sinatra's go-to songwriter—plus, he was a daring WWII test pilot!

The photo on the following page features Jimmy Van Heusen and Frank Sinatra standing next to a helicopter before taking flight. Also pictured is Jimmy Van Heusen's Airman Certificate. Both artifacts were shared by Jimmy Van Heusen's great nephew, Brook Babcock, a member of the Songbook Foundation's board of directors.



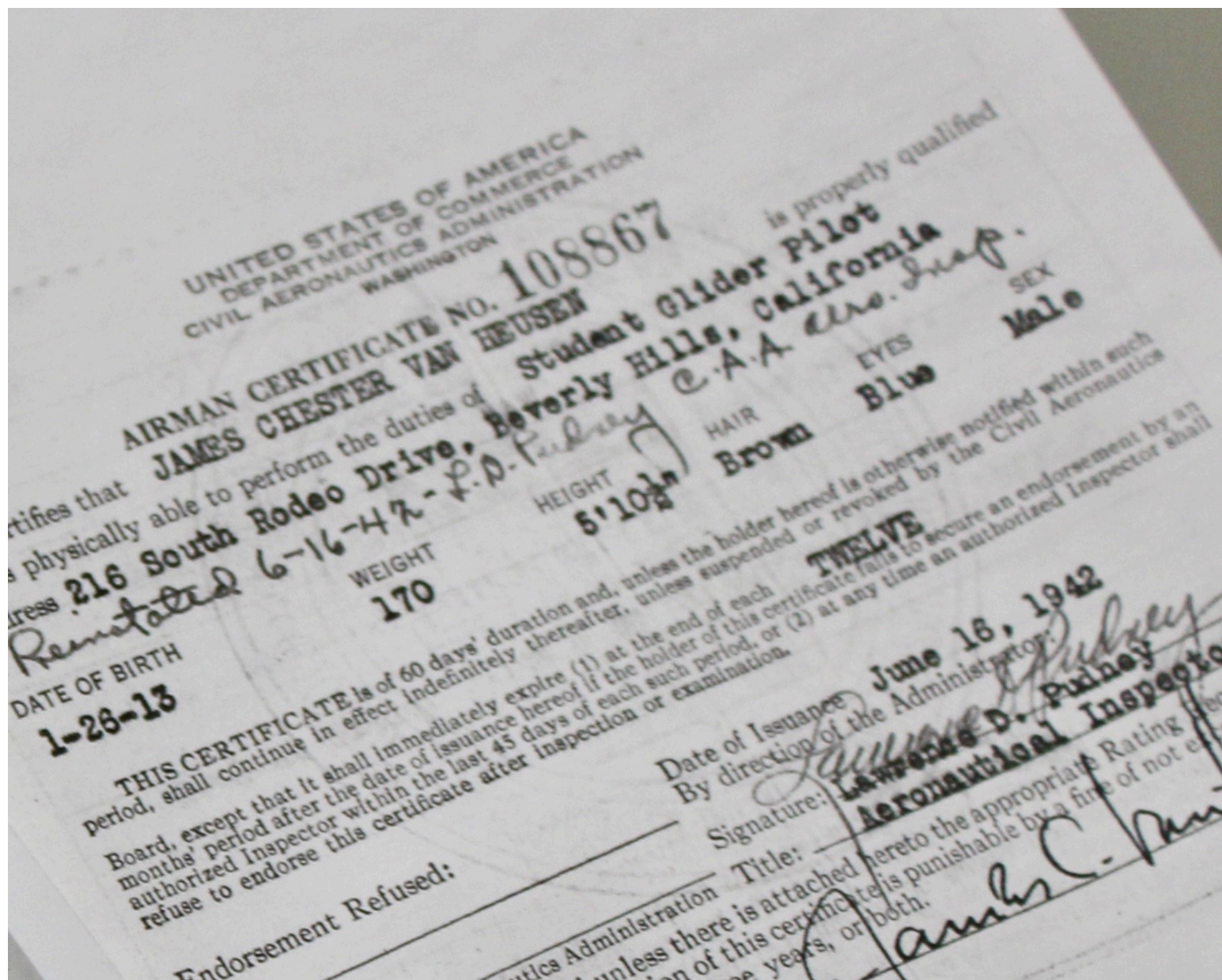
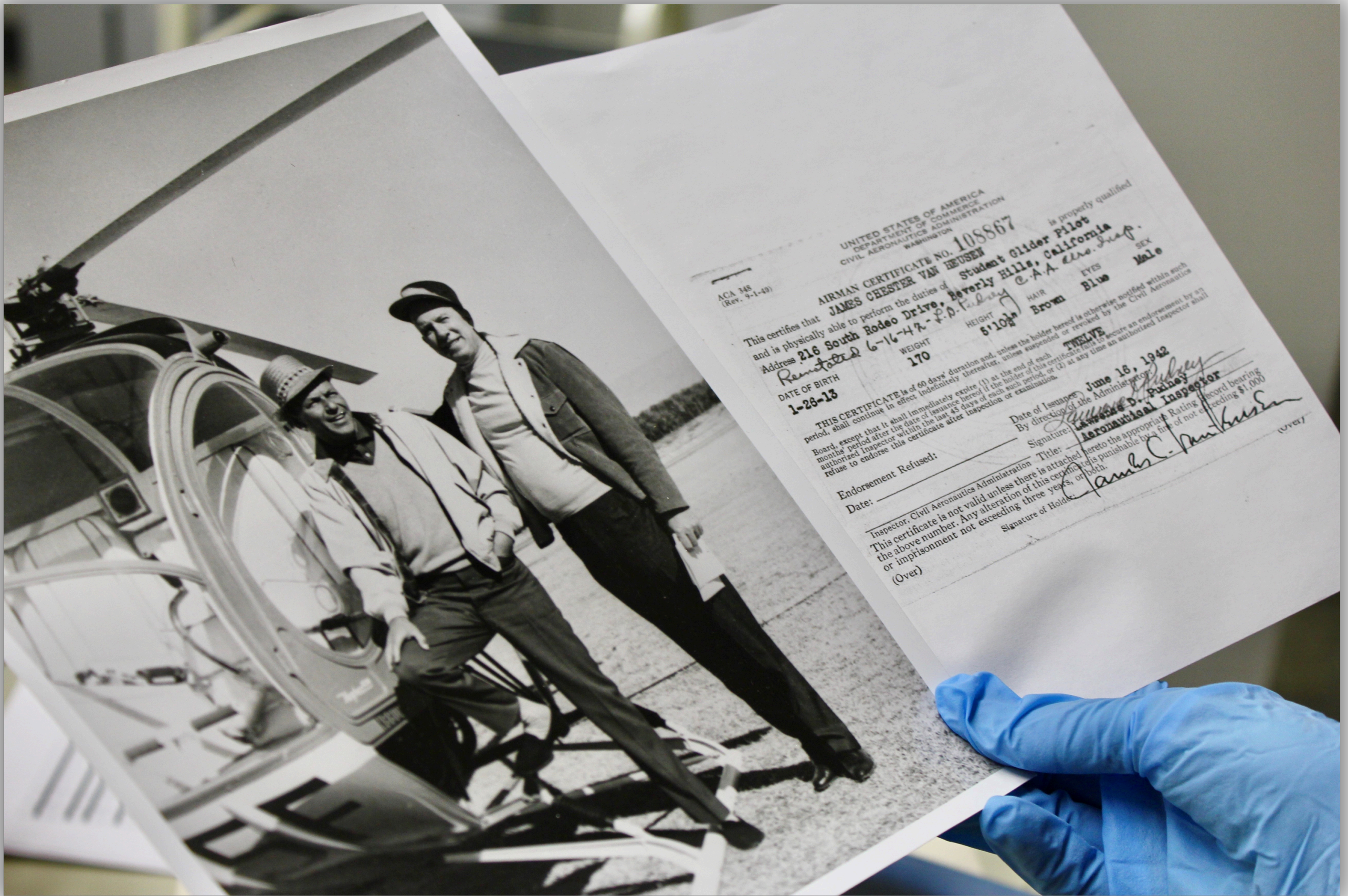


Photo and certificate belong to Van Heusen Music Corp. under the direction of Brook Babcock. We are grateful to Babcock for sharing these special family items with us to tell the story of Songbook Hall of Fame member, Jimmy Van Heusen!



Swinging on a Star

Would you like to swing on a star

Carry moonbeams home in a jar

And be better off than you are

Or would you rather be a mule

A mule is an animal with long funny ears

Kicks up at anything he hears

His back is brawny but his brain is weak

He's just plain stupid with a stubborn streak

And by the way, if you hate to go to school

You may grow up to be a mule

Or would you like to swing on a star

Carry moonbeams home in a jar

And be better off than you are

Or would you rather be a fish

Swinging on a Star - Continued

**A fish won't do anything, but swim in a brook
He can't write his name or read a book
To fool the people is his only thought
And though he's slippery, he still gets caught
But then if that's the sort of life that you wish
You can grow up to be a fish**

**And all the monkeys aren't in the zoo
Every day you meet quite a few
But you know it's all up to you
You could be better than you are
You could be swingin' on a star**

Song: "Que Sera, Sera" (1955)

Songwriters: Jay Livingston and Ray Evans

Brief Context: "Que Sera, Sera" written by Livingston and Evans, was first introduced by Doris Day in Alfred Hitchcock's *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1956). The song became Day's signature and earned the Academy Award for Best Original Song that year. Her recording topped charts worldwide, reaching #2 on the Billboard Top 100 and #1 in the UK. The phrase "Que Sera, Sera," expressing cheerful fatalism ("whatever will be, will be"), gained global popularity. The song has since been featured in films, TV shows, and even football chants, symbolizing optimism and resilience..

***Activity:* Listening**

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Que Sera, Sera" video
- Perfect Harmony "Que Sera, Sera" lyrics

Suggested discussion prompt:

Que Sera, Sera reminds us that life doesn't always go as planned, and sometimes we have to adapt and make the best of unexpected situations. Can you think of a time when something didn't go the way you hoped but turned out okay anyway? Share your story with someone.

Suggestions, if needed:

- A time when a planned outdoor event got rained out but you found a fun indoor activity instead
- An occasion where a vacation didn't go as planned but you discovered a new place or experience
- A moment when you wanted one outcome but ended up with a surprising or even better result



Que Sera, Sera

When I was just a little girl

I asked my mother what will I be?

Will I be pretty? Will I be rich?

Here's what she said to me

Que sera, sera

Whatever will be, will be

The future's not ours to see

Que sera, sera

What will be, will be

When I was just a child in school

I asked my teacher what should I try?

Should I make pictures? Should I sing songs?

This was her wise reply

Que sera, sera

Whatever will be, will be

The future's not ours to see

Que sera, sera

What will be, will be

Que Sera, Sera - Continued

Now I have children of my own

They ask their mother what will I be?

Will I be handsome? Will I be rich?

I tell them tenderly

Que sera, sera

Whatever will be, will be

The future's not ours to see

Que sera, sera

What will be, will be

Que sera, sera

Song: "My Man" (originally "Mon Homme," 1920)

Re-popularized by Barbra Streisand in the film *Funny Girl* in 1968

Songwriters: Maurice Yvain, English lyrics by Channing Pollock

***Brief Context:* "My Man," originally composed by Maurice Yvain with French lyrics by Jacques-Charles and Albert Willemetz, debuted in 1920 as "Mon Homme" in Paris before being popularized in the English-speaking world by Fanny Brice in the 1920s. The song's enduring legacy took on new life in 1968 when Barbra Streisand performed it as the emotional finale of *Funny Girl*, a film loosely based on Brice's life. Streisand's powerful rendition highlighted her character's heartbreak and resilience, earning widespread critical acclaim and contributing to her Oscar win for Best Actress. In the 1960s, the song resonated with audiences for its timeless themes of love and devotion, elevated by Streisand's soaring vocal delivery.**

***Activity:* Listening**

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "My Man" video**

Did you know?

Funny Girl was Barbra Streisand's breakout role in film! Though she had already wowed audiences in her portrayal of the same role in the Broadway musical *Funny Girl*, the film was a turning point in her career. After this film, Streisand primarily continued work in film rather than the stage.

"I just fell in love with film, I fell in love with doing a scene once or five times or whatever it was in a day or two, and it's over. You don't have to do the same show, say the same words, night after night. It became boring. I was ready to move on." - Barbra Streisand



CBS Television, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Song: "Can't Help Falling in Love" (1961)

Carried widespread significance in the 1970s due to Elvis' touring career

Songwriters: Hugo Peretti, Luigi Creatore, George David Weiss

Brief Context: "Can't Help Falling in Love," was first performed by Elvis Presley in the 1961 film *Blue Hawaii*. Inspired by the 18th-century French melody "Plaisir d'amour," the ballad became a timeless hit, peaking at #2 on the Billboard Hot 100 and topping the UK charts. In the late 1960s and 1970s, Elvis elevated the song to iconic status by closing nearly every live performance with it, including his historic *Aloha from Hawaii* concert in 1973. Celebrated as one of the most romantic songs of all time, "Can't Help Falling in Love" remains a beloved anthem of devotion, earning its place as our pick for the top song of the 1970s.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Can't Help Falling in Love" video

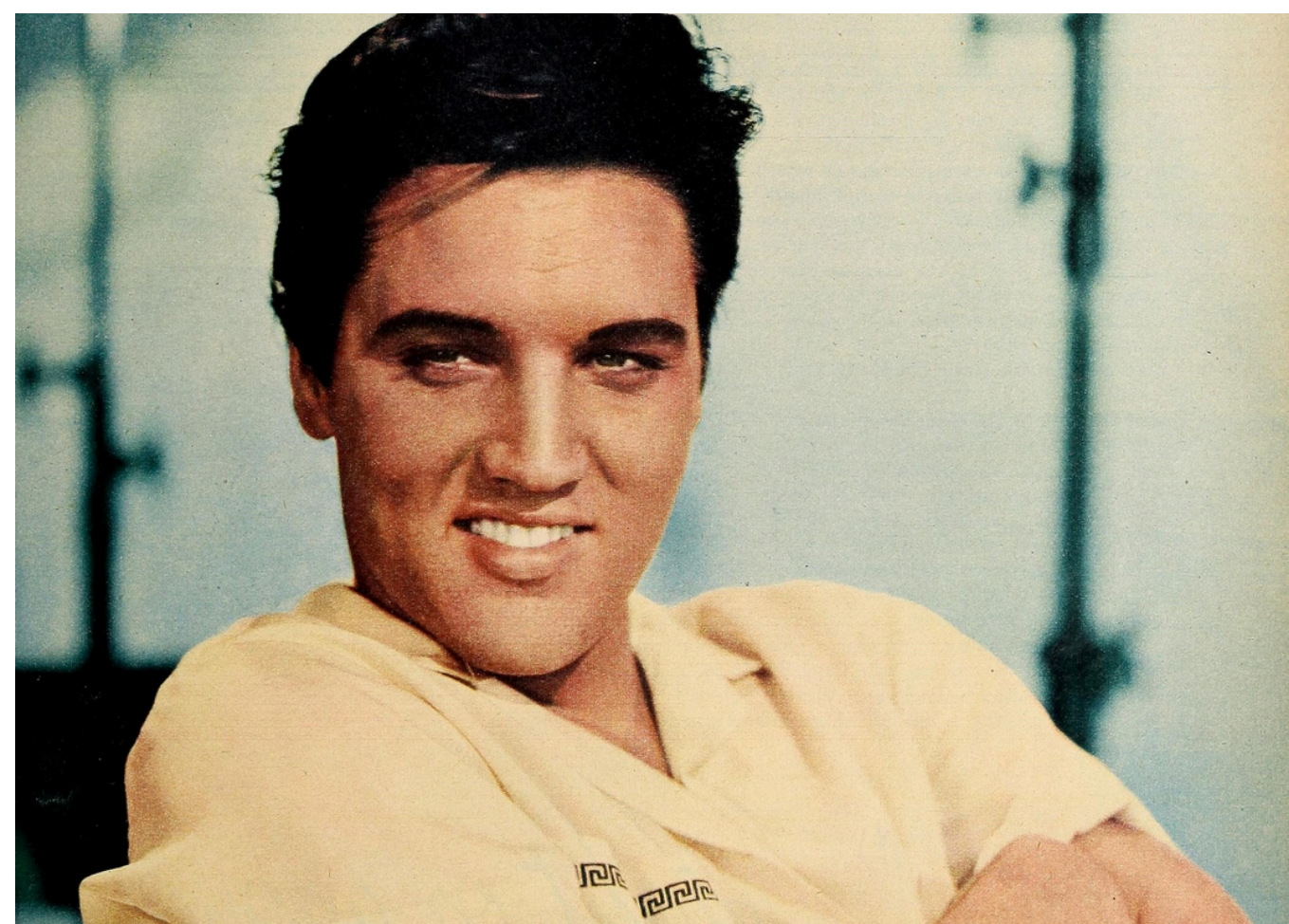
Additional Listening

After listening to Lou's instrumental version of this song, we encourage you to listen to Elvis Presley's iconic rendition for a chance to hear the poignant lyrics of this timeless tune.

Did you know that "Can't Help Falling in Love" was the last song he performed live at his concert in Indianapolis at Market Square Arena on June 26, 1977?

Listen at:

https://youtu.be/vGJTaP6anOU?si=JXS3IA_fwCN07wvM



Elvis Presley - Modern Screen, June 1958 Public domain via Wikimedia Commons

