

Favorite Broadway Showtunes

"If I Loved You" | LISTENING

"Tomorrow" | SINGING & DISCUSSION

"Honey Bun" | MOVEMENT

"I Could Have Danced All Night" | SINGING & DISCUSSION

"Till There Was You" | LISTENING

The Songs That Take Center Stage

A favorite Broadway song can transport us in an instant back to a memorable performance, a beloved character, or a special moment shared with family and friends. For generations, showtunes have helped audiences laugh, dream, fall in love, and look toward brighter days.

This month's Perfect Harmony theme celebrates five songs from classic Broadway musicals. From the tender longing of *Carousel's* "If I Loved You" to the joyful optimism of *Annie's* "Tomorrow," each selection invites us to sing, move, reflect, and celebrate the magic of musical theatre.

Let's raise the curtain and enjoy the show!



Song: "If I Loved You" (1945)

Show: Carousel

Songwriters: Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Brief Context:

Written by composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II for the 1945 musical *Carousel*, "If I Loved You" unfolds during one of the show's most notable scenes between the two primary characters. Julie Jordan and Billy Bigelow are drawn to one another but struggle to speak openly about their feelings, so they imagine what they might say if they were in love. The song's sweeping melody turns an uncertain conversation into one of musical theatre's most enduring expressions of longing and vulnerability.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "If I Loved You" video ([YOUTUBE](#))

"If I Loved You" Reflection Activity:

Julie and Billy find it difficult to say exactly how they feel, so music helps them express what ordinary conversation cannot.

Has a song ever helped you understand or communicate a feeling? Listen to that song again, then share the life experience or emotion you connect with it with a loved one or friend. Or if you prefer, take a moment to write about it in a journal.



Song: "Tomorrow" (1977)

Show: Annie

Songwriters: Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin

Brief Context:

"Tomorrow" was written by composer Charles Strouse and lyricist Martin Charnin for the musical *Annie*, which opened on Broadway in 1977. Annie sings the song to remind herself that even when today feels difficult, a new day can bring fresh hope. Its bright melody and optimistic message helped make it one of Broadway's most recognizable songs and a lasting anthem of resilience.

Activity: Singing and Discussion

What do you need?

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

Suggested Discussion

This song is all about hope and brighter days ahead.

Tell someone about something you are looking forward to or feeling hopeful about.



Tomorrow

The sun'll come out

Tomorrow

Bet your bottom dollar

That tomorrow

There'll be sun!

Just thinkin' about

Tomorrow

Clears away the cobwebs,

And the sorrow

'Til there's none!

When I'm stuck with a day

That's gray,

And lonely,

I just stick out my chin

And Grin,

And Say,

Oh!

Tomorrow

**The sun'll come out
Tomorrow
So ya gotta hang on
'Til tomorrow
Come what may
Tomorrow! Tomorrow!
I love ya Tomorrow!
You're always
A day away!**

**When I'm stuck with a day
That's gray,
And lonely,
I just stick out my chin
And Grin,
And Say,
Oh!**

Tomorrow

**The sun'll come out
Tomorrow
So ya gotta hang on
'Til tomorrow
Come what may
Tomorrow! Tomorrow!
I love ya Tomorrow!
You're always
A day away!**

**Tomorrow! Tomorrow!
I love ya Tomorrow!
You're always
A day away!**

Song: "Honey Bun" (1949)

Show: South Pacific

Songwriters: Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Brief Context:

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II wrote "Honey Bun" for their 1949 musical South Pacific. In the show, the number is performed during a playful Thanksgiving performance staged by the Seabees and Navy nurses. Nellie Forbush dresses as a sailor while Luther Billis appears as the much-praised "Honey Bun," creating a comic change of pace. With its bouncy rhythm and theatrical humor, the song remains one of the show's liveliest moments.

Activity: Movement

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Honey Bun" video ([YOUTUBE](#))

Suggested Seated Movement

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

Use movements like . . .

- Marching (alternate swinging arms and stepping)
- Bursting arms up toward the sky and down to the side
- Dancing "The Charleston"
- Rolling shoulders and pressing hands out to the side



Song: "I Could Have Danced All Night" (1956)

Show: *My Fair Lady*

Songwriters: Frederick Loewe and Alan Jay Lerner

Brief Context:

Composer Frederick Loewe and lyricist Alan Jay Lerner wrote "I Could Have Danced All Night" for *My Fair Lady*, which opened on Broadway in 1956. Eliza Doolittle sings it after an exhilarating evening of dancing with Professor Higgins. Too excited to sleep, she relives the joy of the night through one of the musical's most beloved melodies. The song captures the feeling of being so happy that we wish a wonderful moment could continue forever.

Activity: Singing

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "I Could Have Danced All Night" video ([YOUTUBE](#))
- Perfect Harmony "I Could Have Danced All Night" lyrics

Suggested Discussion

This song is full of excitement and joy.

Tell someone about a Broadway show or show tune that makes you feel like you could dance all night.



I Could Have Danced All Night

Bed, bed I couldn't go to bed

My head's too light to try to set it down

Sleep, sleep I couldn't sleep tonight

Not for all the jewels in the crown

I could have danced all night

I could have danced all night

And still have begged for more

I could have spread my wings and done a thousand things

I've never done before

I'll never know what made it so exciting

Why all at once my heart took flight

I only know when he began to dance with me

I could have danced, danced, danced all night

I'll never know what made it so exciting

Why all at once my heart took flight

I only know when he began to dance with me

I could have danced, danced, danced all night

Song: "Till There Was You" (1957)

Show: *The Music Man*

Songwriter: Meredith Willson

Brief Context:

Written by Meredith Willson for *The Music Man*, "Till There Was You" was introduced on Broadway in 1957. Near the end of the show, Marian Paroo tells Harold Hill how knowing him has changed the way she experiences the world around her. The gentle ballad became popular far beyond the theatre and was later recorded by many artists, including the Beatles. Its message reminds us that meaningful relationships can help us notice beauty that may have been there all along.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Till There Was You" video ([YOUTUBE](#))

Did You Know?

"Till There Was You" is not only one of the most iconic love ballads in musical theatre history, but it crossed over into the pop music sphere more than once. It was recorded by numerous artists, including Doris Day who wrote to Meredith Willson in the letter on the next page of this packet that it "must be my favorite song in the whole world". It was also rumored to have been one of the songs that got the Beatles their first record deal when they were attempting to make their break into the American music scene.



Letter from Doris Day

DORIS DAY

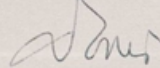
12 January 1966

Mr. Meredith Willson
1750 Westridge Road
Los Angeles, California 90049

Dear Meredith:

"Till There Was You" must be my favorite song in the whole world! I've just been singing it and I'm so filled with admiration that I had to drop you a note. Please don't think I'm nutty - This comes straight from the heart!

Warmly,



DORIS DAY

DD:jmm

P.S. I'm preparing a new album and I happily have the privilege of singing your song. Thank you, Meredith for giving this to the world. I just love it so much.

***Housed in the Meredith Willson Papers in the
Songbook Library & Archives***