



**Irving Berlin
Music Take-Home
Packet**

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Jewish American Heritage Month

Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM) is an annual recognition and celebration of Jewish American achievements in and contributions to the United States of America during the month of May.

President George W. Bush first proclaimed the month on April 20, 2006, as a result of cooperation with Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA), as well as the Jewish Museum of Florida and the South Florida Jewish Community. Since then, annual proclamations have been made by Presidents Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump.

Irving Berlin

Irving Berlin (May 11, 1888 – September 22, 1989) was an American composer and lyricist, widely considered one of the greatest songwriters in American history. His music forms a great part of the Great American Songbook. Born in Imperial Russia, Berlin arrived in the United States at the age of five. He published his first song, "Marie from Sunny Italy", in 1907, receiving 33 cents for the publishing rights, and had his first major international hit, "Alexander's Ragtime Band" in 1911.

He wrote hundreds of songs, many becoming major hits, which made him famous before he turned thirty. During his 60-year career he wrote an estimated 1,500 songs, including the scores for 20 original Broadway shows and 15 original Hollywood films, with his songs nominated eight times for Academy Awards. Many songs became popular themes and anthems, including "Alexander's Ragtime Band", "Easter Parade", "Puttin' on the Ritz", "Cheek to Cheek", "White Christmas", "Happy Holiday", "Anything You Can Do (I Can Do Better)", and "There's No Business Like Show Business". His Broadway musical and 1943 film *This is the Army*, with Ronald Reagan, had Kate Smith singing Berlin's "God Bless America" which was first performed in 1938.

Berlin's songs have reached the top of the charts 25 times and have been extensively re-recorded by numerous singers including The Andrews Sisters, Perry Como, Eddie Fisher, Al Jolson, Fred Astaire, Ethel Merman, Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Elvis Presley, Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand, Linda Ronstadt, Rosemary Clooney, Cher, Diana Ross, Bing Crosby, Sarah Vaughan, Ruth Etting, Fanny Brice, Marilyn Miller, Rudy Vallée, Nat King Cole, Billie Holiday, Doris Day, Jerry Garcia, Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Ella Fitzgerald, Michael Buble, Lady Gaga, and Christina Aguilera.

Berlin died in 1989 at the age of 101. Composer George Gershwin called him "the greatest songwriter that has ever lived," and composer Jerome Kern concluded that "Irving Berlin has no place in American music—he is American music."

1. Blue Skies

- **The song was composed in 1926 as a last-minute addition to the Rodgers and Hart musical Betsy**
- **Although the show ran for only 39 performances, "Blue Skies" was an instant success, with audiences on opening night demanding 24 encores of the piece from star Belle Baker**
- **During the final repetition, Ms. Baker forgot her lyrics, prompting Berlin to sing them from his seat in the front row**

1. Blue Skies

**Blue skies, smilin' at me
Nothin' but blues skies do I see**

**Bluebirds singing a song
Nothin' but bluebirds all day long**

**Never saw the sun shinin' so bright
Never saw things goin' so right
Noticin' the days hurrying by
When you're in love,
my how they fly**

**Blue days, all of them gone
Nothin' but blue skies from now on**

2. There's No Business Like Show Business

- **"There's No Business Like Show Business" is an Irving Berlin song, written for the 1946 musical Annie Get Your Gun and orchestrated by Ted Royal**
- **The song, a slightly tongue-in-cheek salute to the glamour and excitement of a life in show business, is sung in the musical by members of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in an attempt to persuade Annie Oakley to join the production**
- **The song is also featured in the 1954 movie of the same name, where it is notably sung by Ethel Merman as the main musical number**

2. There's No Business Like Show Business

**There's no business like show business
like no business I know
Everything about it is appealing,
everything that traffic will allow**

**Nowhere could you get that happy feeling when you
are stealing that extra bow
There's no people like show people,
they smile when they are low**

**Even with a turkey that you know will fold, you may
be stranded out in the cold
Still you wouldn't change it for a sack of gold,
let's go on with the show**

**The butcher, the baker, the grocer, the clerk
Are secretly unhappy men because
The butcher, the baker, the grocer, the clerk
Get paid for what they do but no applause.**

**They'd gladly bid their dreary jobs goodbye for
anything theatrical and why?**

**There's no business like show business and I tell
you it's so
Traveling through the country is so thrilling,
standing out in front on opening nights**

**Smiling as you watch the theater filling, and
there's your billing out there in lights
There's no people like show people, they smile when
they are low**

**Angels come from everywhere with lots of jack, and
when you lose it, there's no attack
Where could you get money that you don't give back?
Let's go on with the show**

**You get word before the show has started that your
favorite uncle died at dawn
Top of that, your pa and ma have parted, you're
broken-hearted, but you go on**

**Yesterday they told you you would not go far, that
night you open and there you are
Next day on your dressing room they've hung a star,
let's go on with the show!**

3. It's a Lovely Day Today

- **"It's a Lovely Day Today" is a popular song written by Irving Berlin for his successful musical Call Me Madam (1950) when it was introduced by Russell Nype and Galina Talva**
- **The musical was adapted as a movie in 1953 and the song "It's a Lovely Day Today" was performed by Donald O'Connor and Vera-Ellen (dubbed by Carol Richards)**

3. It's a Lovely Day Today

It's a lovely day today
So whatever you've got to do
You've got a lovely day to do it in, that's true
And I hope whatever you've got to do
Is something that can be done by two
For I'd really like to stay
It's a lovely day today
And whatever you've got to do
I'd be so happy to be doing it with you
But if you've got something that must be done
And it can only be done by one
There is nothing more to say
Except it's a lovely day for saying
It's a lovely day
It's a lovely day today
And whatever I've got to do
I've got a lovely day to do it in, that's true
But perhaps whatever I've got to do
Is something that can be done by two
If it is then you could stay
It's a lovely day today
But you're probably busy too
So I suppose there's nothing we can do
For if you've got something that must be done
And it can only be done by one
There is nothing more to say
Except it's a lovely day for saying
It's a lovely day
It's a lovely day today
If you've got something that must get done
Now don't forget two heads are better than just one
And besides I'm certain if you knew me
You'd find I'm very good company
Won't you kindly let me stay?
It's a lovely day today
And whatever we've got to do
We've got a lovely day to do it in, that's true
And I know whatever we've got to do
Is something that can be done by two
I'll say it's a lovely day for saying
It's a lovely day

4. Steppin' Out with My Baby

- **"Steppin' Out with My Baby" is a popular song written by Irving Berlin and introduced in the 1948 musical film Easter Parade**
- **There it was sung by Fred Astaire as part of a dance number involving Astaire on stairs and three different dance partners**
- **Since then the song has been recorded and performed by several artists, most notably Tony Bennett, in whose treatment it has become a jazz standard**

4. Steppin' Out With My Baby

Steppin' out with my baby
Can't go wrong 'cause I'm in right
It's for sure, not for maybe
That I'm all dressed up tonight
Steppin' out with my honey
Can't be bad to feel so good
Never felt quite so sunny
And I keep on knockin' wood
There'll be smooth sailin'
'Cause I'm trimmin' my sails
With my top hat and my white tie and my tails
Steppin' out with my baby
Can't go wrong 'cause I'm in right
Ask me when will the day be
The big day may be tonight
If I seem to scintillate
It's because I've got a date
A date with a package of
The good things that come with love
You don't have to ask me
I won't waste your time
But if you should ask me
Why I feel sublime, yes
There'll be smooth sailin'
'Cause I'm trimmin' my sails
In my top hat and my white tie and my tails
I am steppin' out with my baby
Can't go wrong 'cause I'm in right
Ask me when will the day be
The big day may be tonight, what a night

Music and Movement

5. Puttin' on the Ritz

- **Irving Berlin wrote "Puttin' on the Ritz" in May 1927 and first published it on December 2, 1929. It was registered as an unpublished song August 24, 1927 and again on July 27, 1928**
- **It was introduced by Harry Richman and chorus in the musical film Puttin' On the Ritz (1930)**
- **The song was featured in the 1974 Mel Brooks horror/comedy Young Frankenstein. The song is performed by Frederick Frankenstein (Gene Wilder) and his monster (Peter Boyle)**

Music and Movement

5. Puttin' on the Ritz

SUGGESTED SEATED MOVEMENTS:

Stomp

Kick

Sway

Arms Above Head

Shoulders

***Try making up a fun move to use each time the song says "putting on the ritz"!**

6. I Got the Sun in the Morning

- **"I Got the Sun in the Mornin' (and the Moon at Night)" is a song from the 1946 musical Annie Get Your Gun, written by Irving Berlin and originally performed by Ethel Merman**
- **Hit recordings in 1946 were by Les Brown (vocal by Doris Day) (No. 10 in the Billboard charts) and by Artie Shaw (vocal by Mel Torme) (No. 17)**
- **Other singers to have recorded the song include Betty Hutton (in the 1950 movie version of Annie Get Your Gun), Bernadette Peters, Judy Garland, Dean Martin and June Christy with the Stan Kenton Orchestra**

6. I Got the Sun in the Morning

**Taking stock of what I have and what I haven't
What do I find?**

**The things I got will keep me satisfied
Checking up on what I have and what I haven't
What do I find?**

A healthy balance on the credit side

Got no diamond, got no pearl

Still I think I'm a lucky girl

I got the sun in the morning and the moon at night

Got no mansion, got no yacht

Still I'm happy with what I've got

I got the sun in the morning and the moon at night

Sunshine gives me a lovely day

Moonlight gives me the Milky Way

Got no checkbooks, got no banks

Still I'd like to express my thanks

I got the sun in the morning and the moon at night

And with the sun in the morning

And the moon in the evening

I'm all right

Got no butler, got no maid

Still I think I've been overpaid

I got the sun in the morning and the moon at night

I got the sun in the morning and the moon at night

Got no silver, got no gold

What I got can't be bought or sold

I got the sun in the morning and the moon at night

I got the sun in the morning and the moon at night

Sunshine gives me a lovely day

Moonlight gives me the Milky Way

Got no heirlooms for my kin

Made no will but when I cash in

I leave the sun in the morning and the moon at night

And with the sun in the morning

And the moon in the evening they're all right

Got no mansion, got no yacht

Still I'm happy with what I've got

I got the sun in the morning and the moon at night

Got no silver, got no gold

What I got can't be bought or sold

I got the sun in the morning and the moon at night

Sunshine gives me a lovely day

Moonlight gives me the Milky Way

Got no checkbooks, got no banks

Still I'd like to express my thanks

I got the sun in the morning and the moon at night

And with the sun in the morning

And the moon in the evening

I'm all right

7. Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better

- **"Anything You Can Do (I Can Do Better)" is a song composed by Irving Berlin for the 1946 Broadway musical Annie Get Your Gun**
- **The song is a duet, with one male singer and one female singer attempting to outdo each other in increasingly complex tasks**
- **In the musical, the song sets the scene for the climactic sharpshooting contest between Annie Oakley and Frank Butler. Its most memorable lines are, "Anything you can do I can do better; I can do anything better than you"**

7. Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better (1)

**Anything you can do, I can do better.
I can do anything better than you.**

**No you can't. Yes, I can. No, you can't.
Yes, I can.
No, you can't.
Yes, I can, Yes, I can!**

**Anything you can be, I can be greater.
Sooner or later I'm greater than you.**

**No, you're not. Yes, I am. No, you're not.
Yes, I am. No, you're not!
Yes, I am, Yes, I am!**

**I can shoot a partridge, with a single cartridge.
I can get a sparrow, with a bow and arrow.
I can live on bread and cheese.
And only on that? Yes. So can a rat!**

**Any note you can reach, I can go higher.
I can sing anything higher than you.
No, you can't. Yes, I can. No, you can't. Yes, I can.
No, you can't.
Yes, I can. No, you can't. Yes, I can. No, you
can't. Yes, I CAN!**

**Anything you can buy, I can buy cheaper.
I can buy anything cheaper than you.**

**Fifty cents? Forty cents! Thirty cents? Twenty cents!
No, you can't! Yes, I can, Yes, I can!**

**Anything you can say, I can say softer.
I can say anything softer than you.
No, you can't. Yes, I can. No, you can't.
Yes, I can.
No, you can't. Yes, I can. YES, I CAN!**

7. Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better (2)

I can drink my liquor faster than a flicker.
I can drink it quicker and get even sicker!
I can open any safe.
Without bein' caught? Yes.
That's what I thought you crook!

Any note you can hold, I can hold longer.
I can hold any note longer than you.
No, you can't. Yes, I can. No, you can't. Yes, I can
No, you can't. Yes, I can.
Yes, I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I CA-A-A-A-N!
Yes, you ca-a-a-an!

Anything you can wear, I can wear better.
In what you wear I'd look better than you.

In my coat? In your vest! In my shoes? In your hat!
No, you can't! Yes, I can. Yes, I can!

Anything you can say, I can say faster. I can say
anything faster than you. No, you can't. Yes, I can.
No, you can't. Yes, I can.
No, you can't.
Yes I can!

I can jump a hurdle. I can wear a girdle.
I can knit a sweater.
I can fill it better! I can do most anything!
Can you bake a pie?
No. Neither can I.

Anything you can sing, I can sing sweeter.
I can sing anything sweeter than you.
No, you can't. Yes, I can. No, you can't.
Yes, I can. No, you can't. Yes, I can.
No, you can't, can't, can't.
Yes, I can, can, can.

Yes, I can! No, you can't!

8. Cheek to Cheek

- **"Cheek to Cheek" is a song written by Irving Berlin in 1935, for the Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers movie Top Hat (1935). In the movie, Astaire sings the song to Rogers as they dance**
- **The song was nominated for the Best Song Oscar for 1936, which it lost to "Lullaby of Broadway"**
- **Astaire's 1935 recording with the Leo Reisman Orchestra was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2000. In 2004, Astaire's version finished at No. 15 on AFI's 100 Years...100 Songs survey of top tunes in American cinema**

8. Cheek to Cheek

Heaven, I'm in heaven,
And my heart beats so that I can hardly speak
And I seem to find the happiness I seek
When we're out together dancing, cheek to cheek
Heaven, I'm in heaven,
And the cares that hang around me through the week
Seem to vanish like a gambler's lucky streak
When we're out together dancing, cheek to cheek
Oh! I love to climb a mountain,
And to reach the highest peak,
But it doesn't thrill me half as much
As dancing cheek to cheek
Oh! I love to go out fishing
In a river or a creek,
But I don't enjoy it half as much
As dancing cheek to cheek
Dance with me
I want my arm about you
The charm about you
Will carry me through to heaven
I'm in heaven
And my heart beats so that I can hardly speak
And I seem to find the happiness I seek
When we're out together dancing cheek to cheek

Irving Berlin: An American Song

**Interested in more information
about this great American icon?
Enjoy watching this A&E Biography,
about his life and music.**



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