

• *The Songbook Academy presents* •



6 GREAT AMERICAN SONGS

THAT EVERY STUDENT SHOULD KNOW

FLY ME TO THE MOON

"FILL MY HEART WITH SONG, LET ME SING FOR EVER MORE."

FUN FACT: A publisher tried to change the lyrics to "Take Me to the Moon" but the songwriter Bart Howard refused to accept the change.

Accentuate the Positive

"You've got to spread joy to the maximum"

FUN FACT: Johnny Mercer attended a sermon by Father Divine about focusing on the positive and eliminating the negative. He was so struck by the message that he wrote this song about it.

BLUE SKIES

"BLUE SKIES SMILIN' AT ME!"

FUN FACT: Blue skies was a last-minute addition to the 1926 Rodgers & Hart Musical Betsy. On opening night, the audience loved Belle Baker's singing of the song so much that they demanded 24 encores!

ANYTHING GOES

"NOW HEAVEN KNOWS, ANYTHING GOES."

FUN FACT: The original "Anything Goes" by Cole Porter showed the listener how to avoid scandal and gossip in Depression-era high society. In 2014, Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga collaborated to re-record the song as it applied to modern society.

Summertime

*"You're going to spread your wings
and take to the sky."*

FUN FACT: This song has been covered by more than 25,000 singers including Billie Holiday and Janis Joplin.

somewhere over the Rainbow

"There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby."

FUN FACT: While Judy Garland sang her signature song in the 1939 Wizard of Oz, her recording of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" wasn't available to the public until the movie soundtrack was released in 1956.

The Songbook
ACADEMY

Carmel, Indiana | July 15-22, 2017

TO THE HARD-WORKING, MUSIC-LOVING, SONG-SINGING EDUCATORS IN AMERICA:



WE would like to invite your students to celebrate the great American songs by applying for The Songbook Academy®.

The Songbook Academy® celebrates great American music by offering high school singers the life-changing opportunity to work with Broadway stars and grammy-award winning singers. Students who submit the winning auditions will earn the opportunity to attend a week-long intensive that includes amazing workshops and master classes with world-class mentors and to perform on the stage of the Palladium Concert Hall. Plus, they get to connect with other young artists who are passionate about music and earn recognition and performance opportunities. Plus, every student who applies gets written feedback from our panel of experts.

Head to www.thesongbook.org to start learning more about the great American songs that are included in The Great American Songbook and then encourage your students to audition for the opportunity of a lifetime.

Sincerely,

The Great American Songbook Foundation
www.thesongbook.org

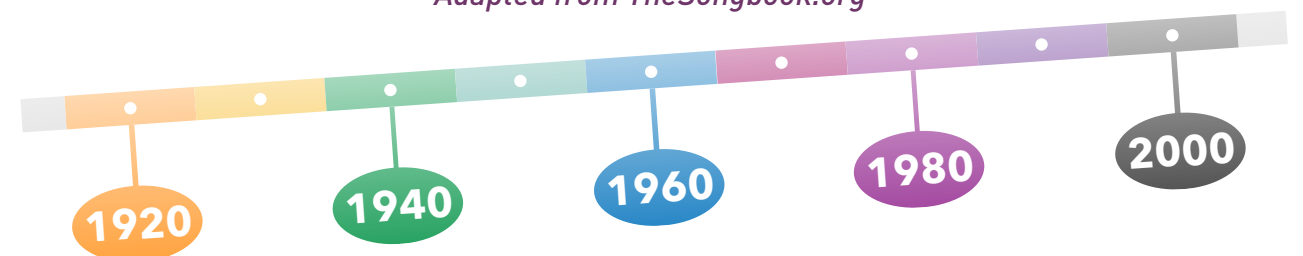
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The Great American Songbook

TIMELINE Activity

Adapted from *TheSongbook.org*



GRADES 9-12

Choir, Show Choir,
Theater or History
classes

MATERIALS:

Printed lyrics from 5-6
songs from The Great
American Songbook
(www.thesongbook.org)

Printed lists of top
American songs from
the 1950's-2000's.

A large piece of
butcher paper

Colored pencils
or markers

WHAT TO DO:

- 1 Have your students work in groups to draw a timeline from 1920 to present date on their butcher paper. Add major 20th century events such as the stock market crash, the dust bowl, The Great Depression, Pearl Harbor, WWII, the Vietnam war, 9/11 and more to their timeline.
- 2 Next, have your students slot in the composition dates of various Great American songs on the timeline. (Remember that by definition, a Great American song is any song that lasts, which means any song in any genre that has made a lasting impression on a student's story is a Great American song.)
- 3 Finally, have your students pull out lines from the lyrics that correspond to major historical events during that time period. Discuss how major events were often reflected in the music of an era.
- 4 For enrichment, have your students research more about the time period when a chosen song was written so they can really start to understand the heart and soul behind the lyrics.

The Great American JUKEBOX Activity

Adapted from *TheSongbook.org*



GRADES 9-12

Choir, Show Choir,
Theater or History classes

MATERIALS:

A list of favorite
songs from The Great
American Songbook
(www.thesongbook.org)

A list of top hits from
the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's
and 90's

The Great American
Jukebox Worksheet
(see page 4)

WHAT TO DO:

- 1 Break your students into groups. Have them imagine that they are creating the ultimate "Great American Jukebox" to stand in a diner. This jukebox should include history-changing songs from every decade in recent history so that when a diner comes in to eat, they can select a song that changed their story.
- 2 Have your students fill in the reproducible worksheet to create their playlist for the Great American Jukebox. Challenge them to see if they can come up with a song from each decade from the 1920's to present. Have them consider the songs that have changed their lives, that they have listened to as they studied, as they played and as they learned. Also, have them consider the songs that changed their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friend's lives.
- 3 Enrichment: Print off an extra copy of the Great American Play List worksheet and send it home and have them work with their parents or grandparents to fill it out for another version.

The Great American Jukebox Reproducible

Decade	Song	Why
1920's		
1930's		
1940's		
1950's		
1960's		
1970's		
1980's		
1990's		
2000's		
Now		