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SONGS OF THE 30'S

THE DECADE SERIES



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SONGS OF THE 30'S

THE DECADE SERIES

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THE THIRTIES



by Stanley Green

HINDENBURG EXPLODES 33 Killed, 64 Saved in Lakehurst Blas

f ever a decade needed songs to lift its spirits and send it spinning merrily across a dance floor, that decade was the Thirties. From the Wall Street crash to the outbreak of World War II, it was a period marked by the Great Depression at home and darkening war clouds abroad. This, then, was the era of soup kitchens, breadlines and bank failures, of bonus marchers and dust storms, of painful labor gains and rampant lawless gangs. Overseas, a far more menacing form of rampant lawlessness was evident. Under Nazi Führer Adolf Hitler, German troops

occupied the Rhineland and scooped up Austria and Czechoslovakia. Under Fascist Duce Benito Mussolini, Italian forces subdued Ethiopia and Albania. Under the Japanese war lords, soldiers of the Empire of the Rising Sun subjugated Manchuria and other vast areas of China. At the decade's end, when Hitler and Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin agreed to carve up Poland between them, virtually the entire planet was plunged into the havoc of the most devastating conflict in history.



Adolph Ritler driving into Austria

he Thirties also had its share of other tragic headlines to take people's minds off their own imminent and potential troubles. In 1932, the 19-month-old baby of aviation ace Charles Lindbergh and Anne Morrow Lindbergh was kidnapped and murdered. In 1934, the S. S. Morro Castle went down in flames near Asbury Park, New Jersey, with a loss of over 125 lives. In 1937, the zeppelin Hindenburg, the world's largest dirigible, crashed on landing at Lakehurst, New Jersey, with a loss of 33 lives. No event, however, so intrigued a gossip-hungry public than the decision, in 1936, of Britain's King Edward VIII to abdicate the throne to marry American divorcée Wallis Warfield Simpson.





ut despite roadblocks, it was still possible in the Thirties for people to cross over to the sunny side of the street. Prohibition was repealed. Franklin D. Roosevelt was in the White House energizing a dispirited nation with his alphabetical New Deal programs (NRA, CCC, PWA, WPA) and his broadcast fireside chats. Gable, Crawford, Garbo, and Shirley Temple were on the silver screen, Joe Louis was in the ring, Lou Gehrig was up at bat, "Wrong-Way" Corrigan was up in the air, and the Dionne Ouintuplets were in their bassinets. The period also had its share of nonsense in the form of goldfish swallowing, zoot suits, and the game of knock-knock. ("Knock-knock." "Who's there?" "Machiavelli." "Machiavelli who?" "Machiavelli good suit for \$40.")

The New Work Times.

The New York Times.

The New Work Times.

The New York Times.

The New Y

s far as music was concerned, the Thirties was the decade of the big bands. They could be sweet or swingy, tasteful or gimmicky, but each orchestra had its own distinctive sound and style. Tootling a clarinet (like Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw), or blowing through a trombone (like Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller), or just waving a stick (like Guy Lombardo and Sammy Kave), the band leaders were latter-day Pied Pipers luring millions into dance halls, movie palaces, nightclubs, and college proms. Even unseen — thanks to radio and recordings — they moved right into the nation's parlors and bedrooms, generating a musical excitement that did much to help people escape from the seemingly unmanagable conditions of the world.

Ind what an array of personalities and songs there were. Offering "The Sweetest Music This Side of Heaven," Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians were on hand to bounce through the tearstained cry of the spurned lover called "Boo-Hoo," or to glide along to the beat of "Heartaches."

Nasal-voiced Rudy Vallee and his Connecticut Yankees managed to sail



smooth)y through the misty "Harbor Lights." Glen Gray and the Casa Loma Orchestra with Sonny Dunham on trumpet — could be heard recalling fond "Memories of You." The languid romantic appeal of the South, both astral and lunar, was captured by the orchestras of Jack Teagarden in "Stars Fell on Alabama" and Ted Fiorito in "Moon Over Miami." Another "moon" song — "Moonglow" - was written by bandleaders Will Hudson and Eddie DeLange as a specialty for their own Hudson-DeLange Orchestra. Songs of foreign origin also won favor in the Thirties when introduced in the United States by leading dance bands. From France came "Avant de Mourir," better known as "My Prayer," which was popularized by



Glenn Miller and His Orchestra

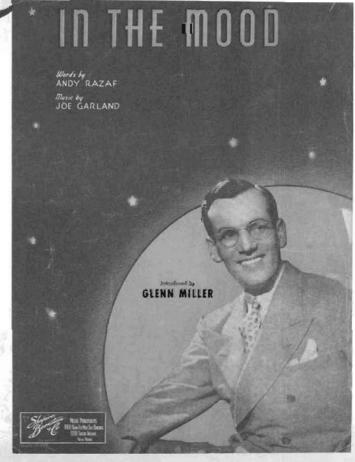
orchestra and tune by Verbecame biggest As the Gler or he find and the finding linding the first of the first

orchestra and "I Can't Get Started" (a show tune by Vernon Duke and Ira Gershwin) became both his theme and biggest selling record.

As the decade came to a close. Glenn Miller emerged with his orchestra and first resounding hit, "In the Mood." (Remember the windup with the members of the brass section facing in all directions as they repeated the riff over and over again?) Even closer to iazz roots were the orchestras of two composer-pianists, the exuberant Fats Waller (who did not compose his most popular number, "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter"), and the more urbane Duke Ellington (whose standards include "Caravan" and "Mood Indigo").

Sammy Kaye's
Swing and Sway group; from
Cuba, "Para Vego Me Voy," which became
"Say Si Si" when it was brought over by
rhumba maestro Xavier Cugat; and from Mexico,
"Cuando Vuelva a Tu Lado" — or "What a
Diff'rence a Day Made" — was identified
with Richard Himber's Ritz-Carlton Orchestra.

on 1934, Benny Goodman organized his first dance band and within two years had been proclaimed the undisputed King of Swing. Like every orchestra at the time, Goodman's had a theme song, the bright, crisp invitation, "Let's Dance." Another theme song, "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You," became the trade mark of that Sentimental Gentleman of Swing, Tommy Dorsey. Dorsey also had a resounding hit with young Frank Sinatra on the vocals when he introduced the threnodic "I'll Never Smile Again," penned by pianist Ruth Lowe in memory of her busband who had died within a year after their marriage. In 1937, Dorsey's star trumpeter, Bunny Berigan, left the band to front his own







George Gershwin

he incredible appeal of the "talkies" did much to bring about the demise of vaudeville as the most popular form of mass entertainment. Songs, of course, quickly became a major attraction on the screen whether they were sung by Ruby and Dick in backstage sagas, Fred and Ginger in glossy comic escapades, or Jeanette and Nelson in romantic costume epics. These musicals called upon the services of the top talent of both Hollywood and Broadway. In 1934, "The Continental," by Con Conrad and Herb Magidson, was introduced in the Astaire-Rogers vehicle The Gay Divorcee and became the first song to win an Academy Award. Three years later, George and Ira Gershwin contributed the score for the team's seventh movie, Shall We Dance, in which Fred sang the rueful admission "They Can't Take That Away From Me." The songwriting brothers followed up that movie with A Damsel in Distress, Astaire's first solo starring movie, whence came "Nice Work if You Can Get It" and "A Foggy Day." The last song George Gershwin wrote before his untimely death at the age of 38 was "Love Is Here to Stay," included in his score for The

Goldwyn Follies. Another major figure of the American musical theatre was Cole Porter, who wrote both music and lyrics for two Hollywood spectacles of 1936 — Born to Dance, which introduced "Easy to Love" (sung by James Stewart to Eleanor Powell), and Rosalie, which introduced "In the Still of the Night" (sung by Nelson Eddy to Eleanor Powell).

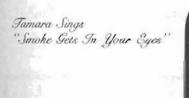
he most popular singing idol of the screen, however, was the former Paul Whiteman vocalist, Bing Crosby, who casually crooned his way through 24 movies during the decade. One of these, Pennies from Heaven, gave us a title song that philosophically urged the acceptance of bad times in order to be able to enjoy good times ("If you want the things you love, you must have showers"). On the technical front, surely among the great innovations in the art of the cinema was Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Walt Disney's first full-length animated cartoon, whose score included the poignant "Someday My Prince Will Come."



Fred Istour

Ifter rapid growth in the Twenties, radio became the major provider of home entertainment in the Thirties. The coverage was now broad enough to include news events, comedy programs (Jack Benny, Amos and Andy), dramas (in 1938, Orson Welles scared the pants off gullible listeners with his dramatization of H. G. Wells' The War of the Worlds), and musical variety shows. Among those whose voices introduced and popularized songs over the air were Bing Crosby (singing his theme "Where the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the Day"), dynamic Belle Baker ("All of Me"), Irish tenor Morton Downey ("For All We Know"), and Crosby's chief crooning rivals, Rudy Vallee ("Nevertheless") and Russ Columbo ("Love Letters in the Sand").

he Broadway theatre of the Thirties, though hardly as robust as it had been during the halcyon days of the previous decade, still managed to offer many successful shows and durable songs. And once again it was blessed by contributions from the giants of American music -Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, and Cole Porter. Kern, generally acknowledged as the father of musical comedy joined lyricist Otto Harbach to provide a rich, melodic score for Roberta, including the brooding torch ballad "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes." In 1935, Gershwin, in collaboration with his brother Ira and DuBose Heyward, created the classic folk opera, Porgy and Bess, in which the plaintive lullaby "Summertime" was first heard. After spending over two years in Hollywood, Rodgers and his partner Lorenz Hart returned to Broadway in the mid-Thirties for a succession of hits such as Babes in Arms, featuring "The Lady Is a Tramp," "Where or When," and "My Funny Valentine," and The Boys from Syracuse, featuring "Falling in Love With Love" and "This Can't Be Love." And Porter continued





Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Rart



Jerome Kern

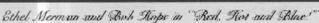
to transport audiences into his own glittering, carefree world with a total of nine musicals, including *Red*, *Hot and Blue!* In that one, Ethel Merman and Bob Hope sang the duet "It's DeLovely," relating the story of a girl and boy from the night they fall in love, through their wedding and honeymoon, and up to the birth of their first born.

óining the ranks of Broadway masters in the Thirties was Kurt Weill, a victim of Hitler's Germany, who quickly became a leader in expanding the horizons of the commercial musical theatre. Weill's second Broadway show, Knickerbocker Holiday, written with Maxwell Anderson, not only provided Walter Huston (as Pieter Stuyvesant) with the memorable "September Song," it also showed deep concern for the vital issue of freedom versus totalitarianism. This, in fact, was the issue that - on September 3, 1939 — at last rallied the European democracies to strike back at Hitler's aggression. Only twenty years after "the war to end war." another even more horrible carnage had begun.



Walter Huston as Leter Stuggesant







Kurt Weill

ALL OF ME

By SEYMOUR SIMONS and GERALD MARKS Moderately Of why not take **mf** a tempo Can't with - out you. Am ##



BLUE PRELUDE



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BOO-HOO







BYE BYE BLUES







THE CONTINENTAL



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CARAVAN

By DUKE ELLINGTON, IRVING MILLS & JUAN TIZOL









EAST OF THE SUN

(And West Of The Moon)





EASY TO LOVE

(From "BORN TO DANCE")



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FALLING IN LOVE WITH LOVE

(From "THE BOYS FROM SYRACUSE")



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A FOGGY DAY

(From "A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS")







FOR ALL WE KNOW





AR

HARBOR LIGHTS

Words and Music by JIMMY KENNEDY and HUGH WILLIAMS





HAVE YOU EVER BEEN LONELY?

(HAVE YOU EVER BEEN BLUE?)







I CAN'T GET STARTED

(From "ZIEGFELD FOLLIES OF 1936")







HEARTACHES











I DONT KNOW WHY (I JUST DO)





I'LL NEVER SMILE AGAIN



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I'M GETTING SENTIMENTAL OVER YOU







I'M GONNA SIT RIGHT DOWN AND WRITE MYSELF A LETTER







I'VE GOT THE WORLD ON A STRING (From "Cotton Club Parade - 21st Edition")







I'VE GOT YOU UNDER MY SKIN (From "BORN TO DANCE")



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IN A SHANTY IN OLD SHANTY TOWN







IN THE MOOD

تهمير

Glen Miller

Words and Music by JOE GARLAND









IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO

Words by IRA GERSHWIN Music by GEORGE GERSHWIN













IT'S A BLUE WORLD





IT'S DE-LOVELY

(From "RED, HOT AND BLUE!")





IT'S ONLY A PAPER MOON





IT'S THE TALK OF THE TOWN







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LOVE IS HERE TO STAY

(From GOLDWYN FOLLIES)







THE LADY IS A TRAMP (From "BABES IN ARMS")



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LET'S DANCE





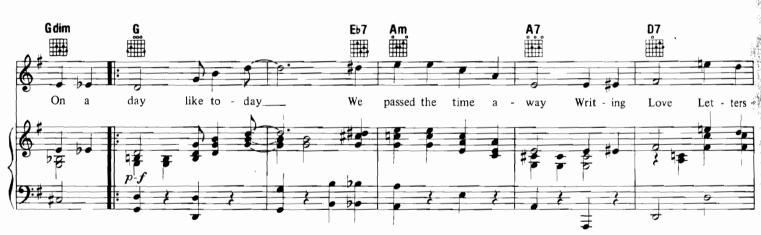
LOVE LETTERS IN THE SAND

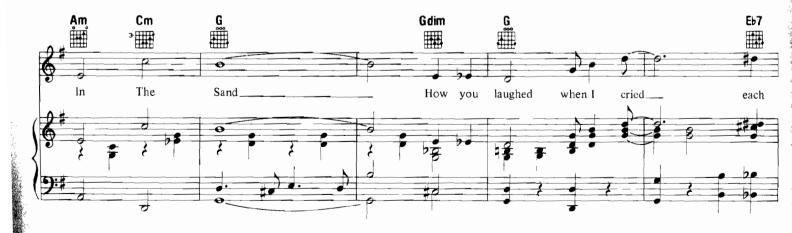
Words by NICK KENN and CHARLES KENN Music by J. FRED COOT

Moderato

Gdim G E57 Am A7 D7

HE HE HE HE HE





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LULLABY OF THE LEAVES









MEMORIES OF YOU





MOOD INDIGO

Words and Music by DUKE ELLINGTON,







MOONGLOW

By WILL HUDSON, EDDIE DELANGE & IRVING MILLS







MOON OVER MIAMI





MY FUNNY VALENTINE

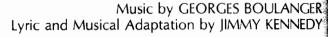
Try's

(From "BABES IN ARMS")





MY PRAYER











NEVERTHELESS

(I'm In Love With You)





NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT

(From "A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS")









ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET







PAPER DOLL

* 11

By JOHNNY S. BLACK







PENNIES FROM HEAVEN



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STARS FELL ON ALABAMA







RED SAILS IN THE SUNSET



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SAY "SI, SI"

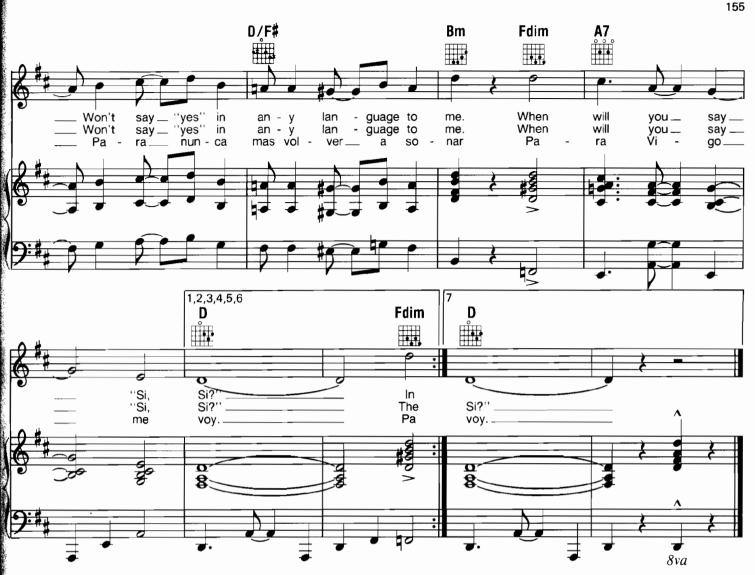
Music by ERNESTO LECUONA Spanish Words by FRANCIA LUBAN English Words by AL STILLMAN



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3rd Chorus

The monkeys in the tree Don't have to say: "Si, Si"; All they do is wag their little tails; That's a little gag that never fails. In darkest Africa The natives say: "Uh, Huh!" But you never hear my plea, Won't say "Yes" in any language to me When will you say: "Si, Si"?

5th Chorus In Washington, D.C., The yes-men say: "Si, Si"; There are lots of politicians, though Who can always say both "Yes" and "No" But sweetheart tell me why, No matter how | try, You won't listen to, my plea Won't say "Yes" in any language to me When will you say "Si Si"?

> 7th Chorus In 606 B.C., Those gals would mix, Si, Si! Every little cave man used his dome, Hit 'em on the head, then dragged 'em home. So, sweetheart, tell me why, No matter how I try, You won't listen to my plea Won't say "Yes" in any language to me, When will you say: Si, Si"?

4th Chorus

Out West they say: "Wah Hoo!" That's "O.K., Toots" to you. Every Southern lady knows her stuff, 'Cause her answer always is "Sho Nuff!" But, sweetheart, tell me why, No matter how I try, You won't listen to my plea, Won't say "Yes" in any language to me When will you say: "Si, Si"?

6th Chorus

A lady horse, they say, Means "Yes" when she says: "Neigh!" Every little gal from Mexico Hates to give a pal a "No, No, No!" So, sweetheart, tell me why, No matter how I try, You won't listen to my plea Won't say "Yes" in any language to me When will you say "Si Si"?

SEPTEMBER SONG

(From the Musical Play "KNICKERBOCKER HOLIDAY")









SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES

Words by OTTO HARBACH Music by JEROME KERN





(From "Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs")

SOME DAY MY PRINCE WILL COME

(Someday I'll Find My Love)





SUMMERTIME

(From "PORGY AND BESS")

Words by DuBOSE HEYWARD
Music by GEORGE GERSHWIN







THAT'S MY DESIRE







THESE FOOLISH THINGS



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THEY CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME







UNDER A BLANKET OF BLUE







THIS CAN'T BE LOVE

(From "THE BOYS FROM SYRACUSE")





WHAT A DIFF'RENCE A DAY MADE







WHERE OR WHEN (From "BABES IN ARMS")







YOU'RE MY EVERYTHING

Words by MORT DIXON and JOE YOUNG

Music by HARRY WARREN





YOURS

Words by ALBERT GAMSE and JACK SHERR





WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT (Meets The Gold Of The Day)

Words and Music by ROY TURK, BING CROSBY and FRED E. AHLERT



₹.



