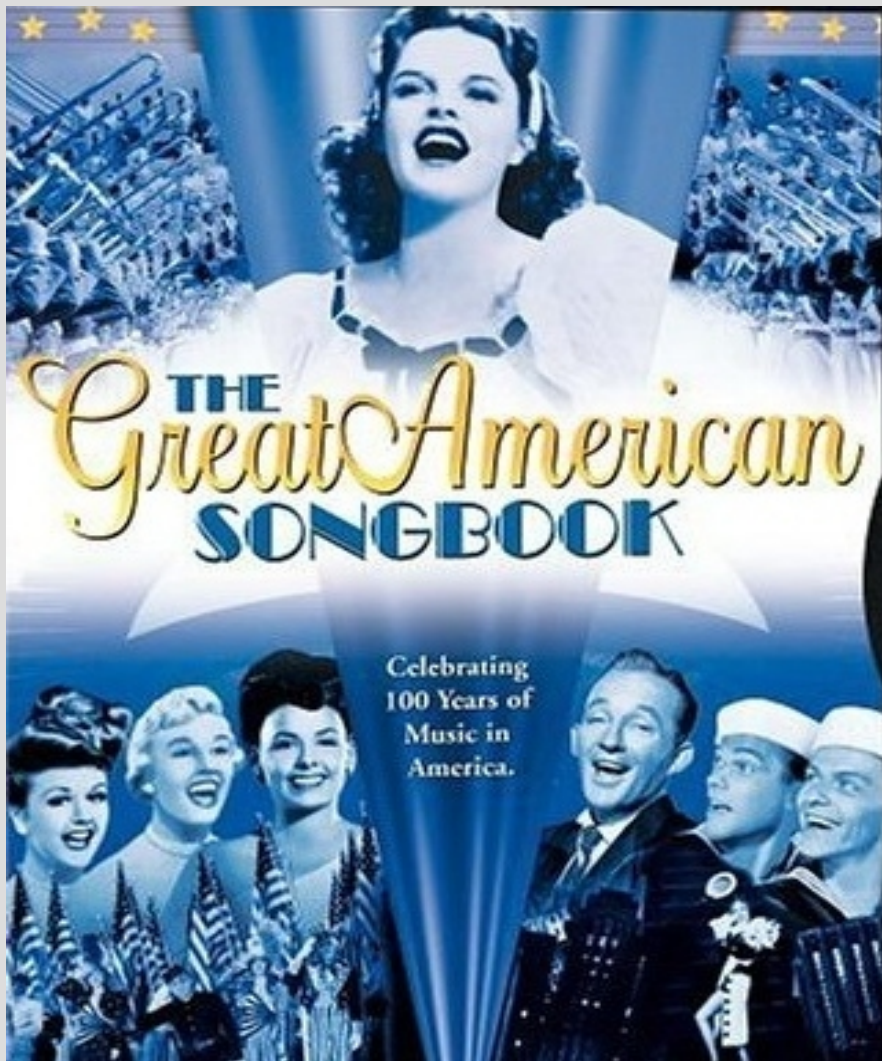
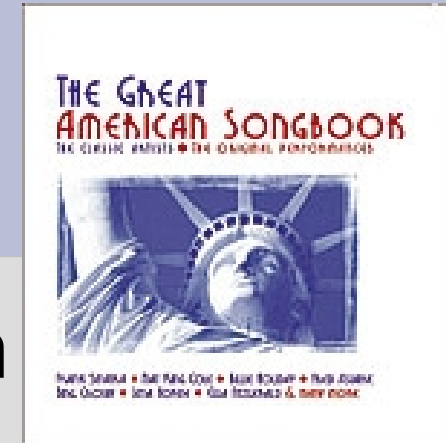


The Great American Songbook



from Wikipedia.org

The Great American Songbook



- The Great American Songbook is an informal term referring to a period of American popular music songwriting that took place between the 1930s and 1960s.
- Most of these songs are written in verse-chorus form, with a 32-bar chorus most often in AABA or ABAB form. Characteristically they feature strong melodies, thoughtful lyrics incorporating sophisticated rhymes, and a skillful thematic connection between music and words.

The Great American Songbook

- *Songwriters considered part of this group include:*
- *Harold Arlen ("Somewhere Over the Rainbow", "Stormy Weather")*
- *Irving Berlin ("White Christmas", "Always", "Blue Skies")*
- *Hoagy Carmichael ("Stardust", "Georgia On My Mind", "The Nearness Of You")*



**Berlin at his piano,
note his hands on the black keys only**

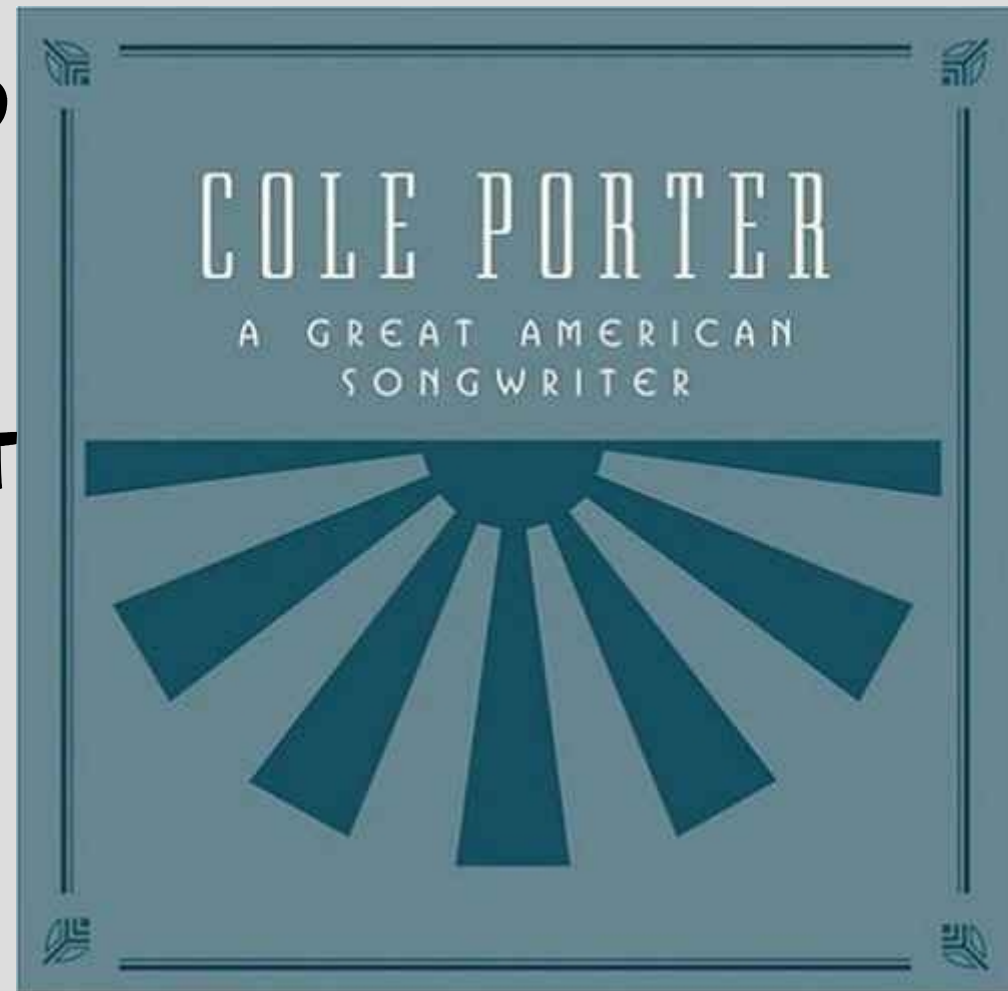
The Great American Songbook

- Duke Ellington *"In A Sentimental Mood", "It Don't Mean A Thing", "Satin Doll", "Mood Indigo", "Sophisticated Lady"*
- George and Ira Gershwin *"Someone to Watch Over Me", "Wonderful", "Summertime"*
- Jerome Kern *"Ol Man River", "The Way You Look Tonight", "All The Things You Are", "The Song is You", "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes"*
- Henry Mancini *"Moon River", "Days Of Wine And Roses"*



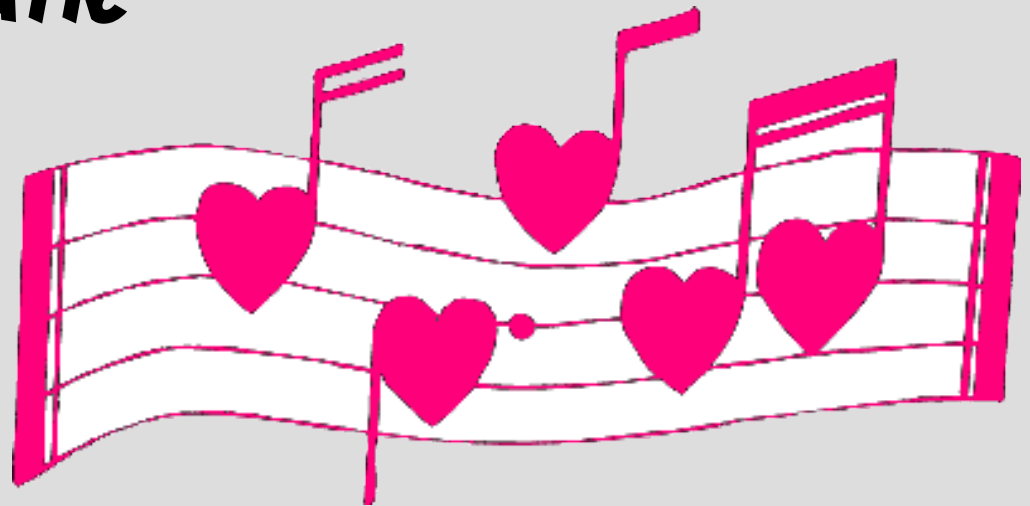
The **Great** AMERICAN **SONGBOOK**

- **JOHNNY MERCER ("ONE FOR MY BABY (AND ONE MORE FOR THE ROAD)")**
- **COLE PORTER ("NIGHT AND DAY", "I'VE GOT YOU UNDER MY SKIN", "BEGIN THE BEGUINE")**
- **RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN ("OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNIN'", "SHALL WE DANCE?", "THE SOUND OF MUSIC")**
- **RODGERS AND HART ("BEWITCHED, BOTHERED AND BEWILDERED", "MY ROMANCE", "HAVE YOU MET MISS JONES", "MY FUNNY VALENTINE")**



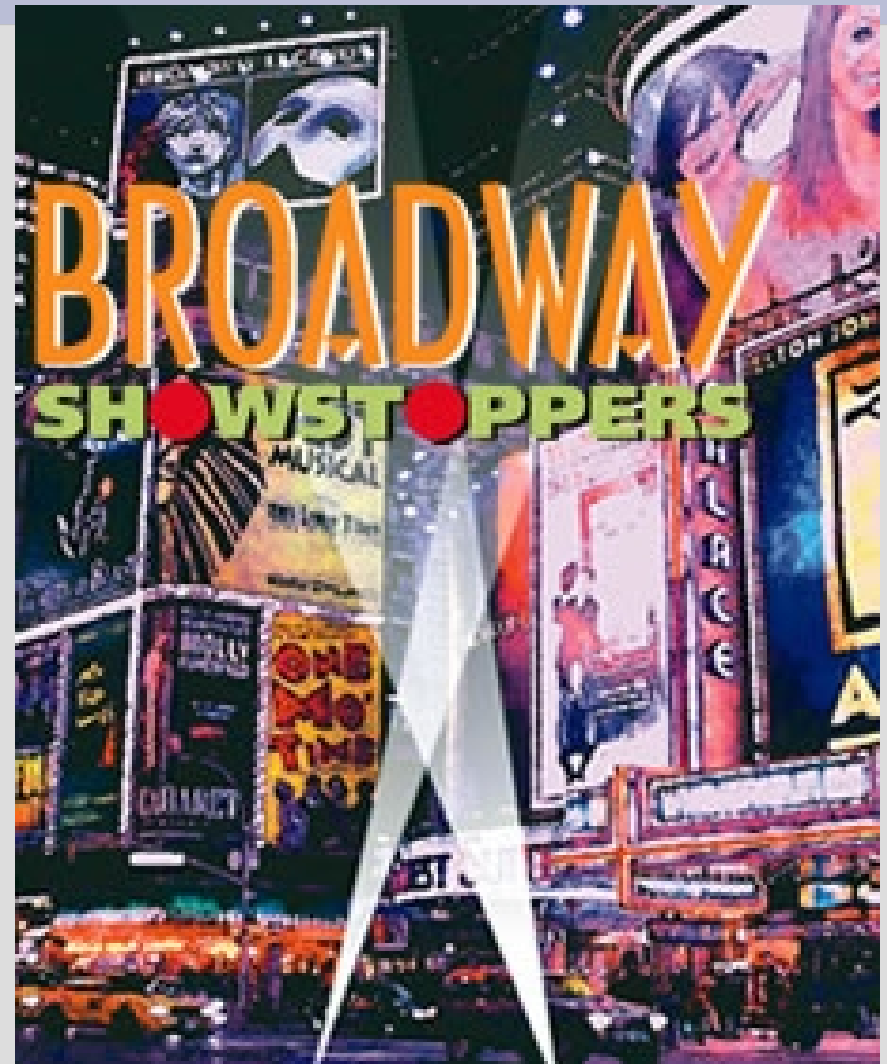
THE **GREAT** AMERICAN **SONGBOOK**

- **MOST OF THESE SONGS ARE WRITTEN IN VERSE-CHORUS FORM, WITH A 32-BAR CHORUS MOST OFTEN IN AABA OR ABAB FORM. CHARACTERISTICALLY THEY FEATURE STRONG MELODIES, THOUGHTFUL LYRICS INCORPORATING SOPHISTICATED RHYMES, AND A SKILLFUL THEMATIC CONNECTION BETWEEN MUSIC AND WORDS.**

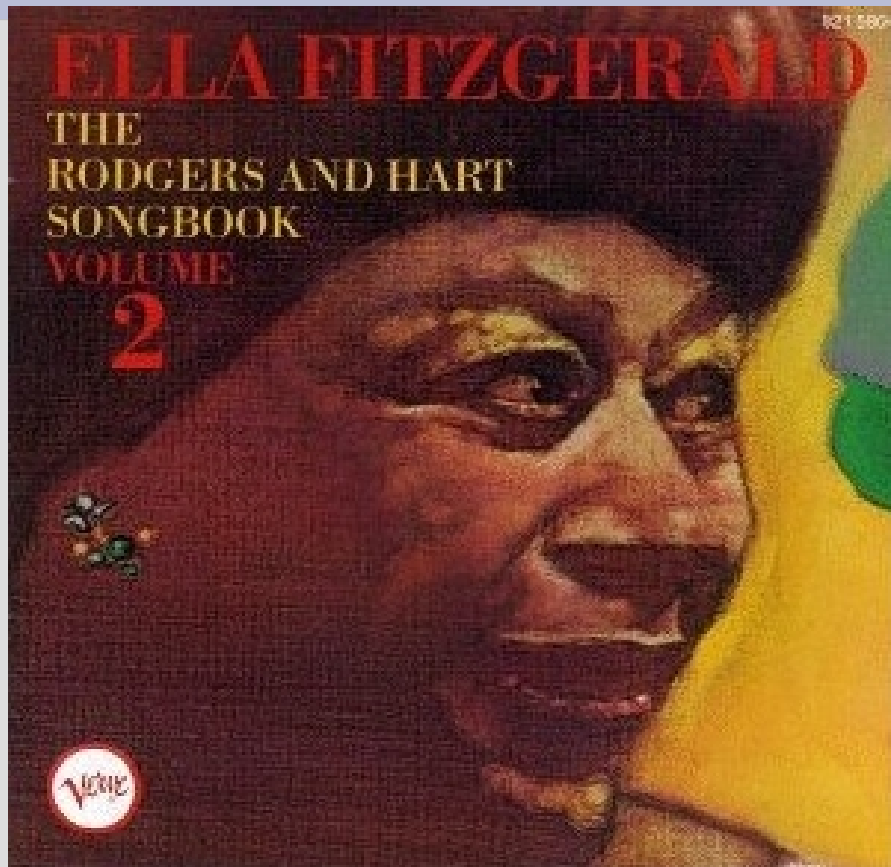


The Great American Songbook

- Many of these songs were written for Broadway or motion picture musicals, and the lyrics of the songs often refer explicitly to the plots of these works.
- Since the 1930's, many singers and musicians have explicitly recorded or performed large parts of the Great American Songbook, to the extent that interpreting material from the Songbook forms a large part of jazz music today.

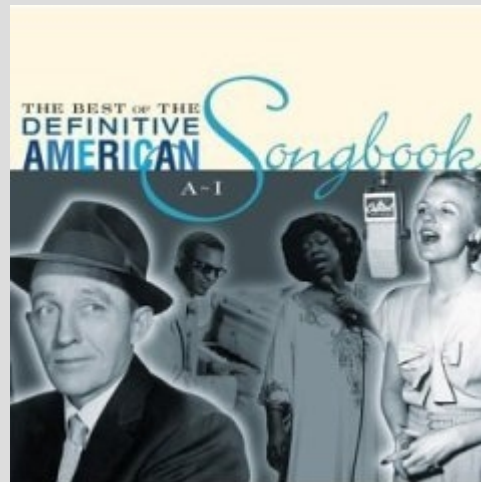
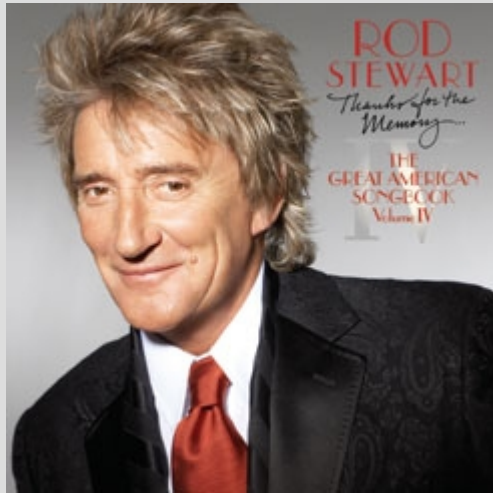


The *Great American Songbook*



Ella Fitzgerald's popular and influential **Sings the ... Songbook series** on Verve in the 1950s and 60's collated 252 songs from the Songbook. Amongst jazz singers, the influential interpreters of the Great American Songbook have included **Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Johnny Mathis, Barbra Streisand** (particularly in her earlier work), **Sammy Davis, Jr., Sarah Vaughan, Peggy Lee, Carmen McRae, Billie Holiday, Dinah Washington, Blossom Dearie, Cleo Laine, and Mel Tormé.**

THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK



IN MORE RECENT YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A REVIVAL OF THE SONGBOOK WITH LINDA RONSTADT, CARLY SIMON, MICHAEL FEINSTEIN, QUEEN LATIFAH, JONI MITCHELL, JOHN PIZZARELLI, BOZ SCAGGS, BETTE MIDLER, ROD STEWART, MICHAEL BUBLE AND JOHN STEVENS.

