Mp3 Ron Kaplan American Songbook Preservation Society- Singing The Great American Songbook



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Ronald Kaplan, Executive Director GreatAmericanSongbook.org .Singing the Great American Songbook What is the Great American Songbook, also known as the Popular Standards? It is largely composed of songs written between 1920 and 1960 from the Tin Pan Alley era through the Broadway stages and sets of Hollywood musicals. This era represented a unique period in the history of American popular music. It was a period that saw the advent of a new type of songwriting, utterly original in some respects, but grounded in the simple structure of the Tin Pan Alley era that preceded it, and strongly influenced by the musical form known as Jazz (and by the precursors of Jazz: Ragtime and Blues). The Great American Songbook is a distinct body of works, which collectively represent one of Americas true cultural treasures, and exemplify popular songwriting at its best, with vivid, literate lyrics set to haunting elusive harmonies and gorgeous melodies that have come to hold an exalted place in American culture and around the world. Of the American Songbook Popular Standards, most were written for specific spots in shows, films, specialty acts, or revues. They were the product of professional songwriters and lyricists working at their craft. In the hands of a capable singer like Ella Fitzgerald or Frank Sinatra, the Standards serve as a sort of musical thesaurus of the spectrum of human emotions. Maybe thats the reason these songs and this body of work continue to engender such a deep response to this day. The purpose of the American Songbook Preservation Society is to keep these songs in the public consciousness, by performing them in venues around the country and around the world with the highest musical integrity and interpretation from a cast of highly capable Singers and Musicians as Ambassadors of American Song. Future Projects: include archiving and organizing historical documentation about the composers and lyricists, the personalities, and their works, as an educational resource for future generations for use in the classroom and the university. In addition, we will record and develop new material for presentation to the public as representative of this body of work. Finally, we will work on a permanent display using modern technology to bring the Great American Songbook and its inhabitants to life. Some of the Great American Songbook Composers and Lyricists Edward Kennedy Duke Ellington Billy Strayhorn Ted Koehler James Van Huesen Jules Styne Rogers and Hammerstein Lerner and Loewe Meredith Wilson and Frank Loesser Harold Arlen Irving Berlin Lew Brown Johnny Burke Irving Caeser Sammy Cahn Hoagy Carmichael B.G. DeSylva Howard Dietz Walter Donaldson Al Dubin Vernon Duke Dorothy Fields George Gershwin Ira Gershwin Mack Gordon Johnny Green Oscar Hammerstein II Otto Harbach E.Y. Harburg Johnny Mercer Ray Noble Mitchell Parish Cole Porter Ralph Rainger Andy Razaf Leo Robin Richard

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