

## Mp3 Frankie Laine - Old Man Jazz



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Easy Listening Jazz 15 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Smooth Jazz, JAZZ: Jazz Vocals Details: n the world of popular music, yesterday's idol is very often tomorrow's forgotten name. Only a handful of performers have demonstrated the lasting appeal it takes to weather the onslaught of fads and changing trends over the years, and Frankie Laine is a classic example. His impeccable musicianship and taste have kept him an international favorite for over four decades. Ever since his recording of "That's My Desire" burst onto the scene like a musical firework in 1947, praise has poured in from all corners, from young and old alike, for this gifted and versatile artist. Today, 21 Gold Records later, Frankie Laine has become a musical tradition. He is in constant demand for top nightclub engagements, both here and in Europe. The Oldies are Still Great Laine's magical appeal, however, far transcends mere nostalgia. His recording of "You Gave Me a Mountain," a song written especially for Laine by his good friend, Marty Robbins, went gold in the early 1970's, a time by which many of his contemporaries had long since quieted down. Laine continues to record exciting new material while maintaining a healthy respect for the songs, like "Mule Train," "That Lucky Old Sun," "I Believe," and "Jezebel," which all his longtime admirers know by heart. Many of these tunes were collected into an album entitled "The World of Frankie Laine," that topped the charts in England in 1982. Since then, this album has been issued in 43 different countries. Chicago Origins Not too shabby for a humble Sicilian kid, born to immigrant parents in the heart of Chicago's Little Italy on March 30, 1913. Laine first sang in public as part of the choir at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. His love of music led him to Chicago's Merry Garden Ballroom, where friends frequently urged him up onto the bandstand to perform a number or two. At the age of 17, Laine left home to try his luck as a marathon dancer. This fad of the depression years was a tough way of keeping body and soul together, but Laine stuck with it and eventually he and a partner, Ruth Smith, met the all-time marathon

dance record in Atlantic City, New Jersey. They danced for a total of 3,501 hours over 145 consecutive days, and split a grand prize of \$1,000 for their efforts. Road to Hollywood When Frankie decided to make his living with his voice instead of his feet, the road to success proved long and hard. It led him up and down the Eastern Seaboard, back to Chicago, to Cleveland and then eventually to Billy Berg's jazz club on Vine Street in Hollywood, where in 1946, Hoagy Carmichael heard the young unknown performing a favorite Carmichael composition, "Rocking Chair." This chance encounter led to a steady job at Billy Berg's, which in turn resulted in a recording contract with Mercury Records. On his first session he recorded a forgotten 1931 ballad entitled, "That's My Desire," and from that point on, there was just no stopping Frankie Laine. Laine, along with Nat Cole, who preceded him by a year, marked the ascendance of the popular singer over the Big Bands, and his phenomenal success set the pattern for Johnny Ray, Tony Bennett, Elvis Presley, Tom Jones and the other musical idols who have followed. His style was thrillingly new to the audiences of the late 1940's, based as it was on his deep love of jazz and the blues.

Radio, TV Movies The hit records were followed by starring roles in several motion pictures, guest appearances on numerous major radio and television shows, and his own television variety program on CBS in the mid-1950's. With a 1953 Warner Brother's production, "Blowing Wild," Laine started something different: he became the first and most successful of the singers to be identified with title songs. To date he has performed the title songs for seven motion pictures, most recently in 1974, Mel Brooks Western farce, "Blazing Saddles." On television, Laine's featured recording of "Rawhide" has become one of the most popular theme songs of all time. Knocking 'em Dead in Britain Frankie's popularity quickly spread across the Atlantic, and in 1953 his stirring rendition of "I Believe" topped the British charts and stayed at number one for eighteen weeks, an unbeaten performance that even The Beatles never matched. Laine's renown continued to grow as he went to England for a record breaking engagement at the London Palladium followed by a tour of much of the rest of Europe. In later years, he added South America, Australia and the Orient to his itinerary, while continuing his unparalleled love affair with British audiences. A Little of the Personal His companion on these jaunts was the lovely Nan Grey, a former Universal starlet, whom Laine married on June 15, 1950. They had two children from Mrs. Laine's previous marriage, and three grandsons. Nan passed away, suddenly, on her 72nd birthday, July 25, 1993, leaving a void that will never be filled. In 1985, Laine was temporarily laid low by quadruple bypass surgery. Good wishes poured in from all over the world, and Laine assured his fans that he had no

intention of ever retiring. Indeed, after a brief rest, his distinctive voice soon returned, as virile and powerful as ever. A trip to Nashville resulted in his first real country album, playfully entitled, "A Country Laine." In 1987 Laine released a compact disc of Western musical Americana which he recorded with Eric Kunzel and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. Entitled, "Roundup," Frankie couldn't help but chuckle when it shot up Billboard's classical CD rankings. "The last place I ever expected to find myself," he noted, "was on the classical music charts!" After recovering from a second bypass surgery in 1990, Laine began work on his autobiography which he mischievously called "That Lucky Old Son". The book was published in 1993 and has met with great success. Frankie attends many book signings at Southern California bookstores, as well as having signed copies available by mail. Copies of the book and much of Frankie

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