

Timeless Melodies Foundation for Education, Inc.

Fred Astaire: Part 1
(Music 450A)

The Timeless Melodies Foundation for Education, Inc. has been created to develop, promote, and advance the study and understanding of the role played by American song in the cultural development of our society. Our presentations are designed to increase and enhance the awareness of the general public with regard to the rich, historical significance of our American musical tradition. As such -- via lecture, live music, and audio and video excerpts -- we recount the life stories and career highlights of those who composed the music, wrote the words, or performed the classic, popular melodies and lyrics. These are the men and women who have immeasurably informed our lives and world... and whose accomplishments remain the standard to which all others have aspired or been compared.

Description:

This is the first of a three-part survey course providing the student with an introduction to the career and repertoire of stage and screen dance legend Fred Astaire.

Our Course Objectives for Part 1:

1. To develop an understanding of (and appreciation for) the vast number of great popular songs specifically written for and introduced by Fred Astaire;
2. To examine "the show business" as it developed in the vaudeville theaters during the first two decades of the twentieth century;
3. To acknowledge the individual contributions made to the Astaire career by his father, mother, and sister;
4. To celebrate the 1920s "golden era" of Broadway and the 1930s preeminence of the "new" film musical as refined by Astaire and partner Ginger Rogers.

Suggested Reading: Astaire: The Man and The Dancer, Bob Thomas; St. Martin's Press, 1984
Starring Fred Astaire, Stanley Green; Dodd, Mead & Company, 1973
Astaire Dancing, John Mueller; Alfred A. Knopf, 1985

Suggested Listening: "Let's Face the Music and Dance," Prism Music
Fred Astaire Golden Greats, 3-CD set

Instructor: Larry Maurer



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Timeless Melodies Courses

George Gershwin ♪ Irving Berlin ♪ Rodgers & Hart ♪ Harry Warren ♪ America 1900: Popular Music Begins

Rodgers & Hammerstein ♪ Cole Porter ♪ Sentimental Journey: The Songs of World War II

Frank Sinatra Parts 1 & 2 ♪ Fred Astaire Parts 1, 2 & 3 ♪ Jewish Contributions to American Popular Music

Judy Garland ♪ Gene Kelly Parts 1 & 2 ♪ Songs That Inspired a Nation ♪ African-American Contribution

The Roaring 20's ♪ Ain't We Got Fun ♪ Swing ♪ The Power of Music

Timeless Melodies expresses its profound appreciation to the following companies: 20th Century Fox, Columbia Pictures, Warner Bros. MGM, & Paramount Pictures whose film clips made this course possible.

Timeless Melodies Foundation For Education, Inc.

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TIMELESS MELODIES

Presents

Fred Astaire

Part 1

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Fred Astaire - Celebration of American Dance

Part 1

Music 450 A

Lesson - 1 - Songwriters' Dream

Exquisite Sampling: What Fred Sang -- and Wrote
"He Can Do No Wrong" - Fred the Immortal
Unique Among Hollywood Men

Lesson 2 - Dance at The Turn of The Century

Beginnings for Brother & Sister
What's Vaudeville?
The Real Vernon & Irene Castle
An Early Hit Parade
"Bojangles" Himself...and Miss Cansino

Lesson - 3 Broadway and The West End

The Incomparable Gershwin: *Lady, Be Good*
Funny Face....and etc.

Lesson 4 - Ginger...Hollywood...and Ginger

Paging Astaire...as choreographer
Fred Goes Solo
Hollywood Learns to Talk, Sing -- and Dance
Astaire...and Crawford?

Lesson 5 - On Top At RKO

The Great Movies, The Great Songs: *The Carioca*
Night and Day
Music Soothes The Depression
Fred & Ginger -- Nothing Thrilled Us Half So Much: *I Won't Dance*
Top Hat
No Strings
Cheek to Cheek
The First to Sing & Dance in the Rain....

Lesson 6 - Finale

Pick Yourself Up!

"A discussion will follow the presentation"