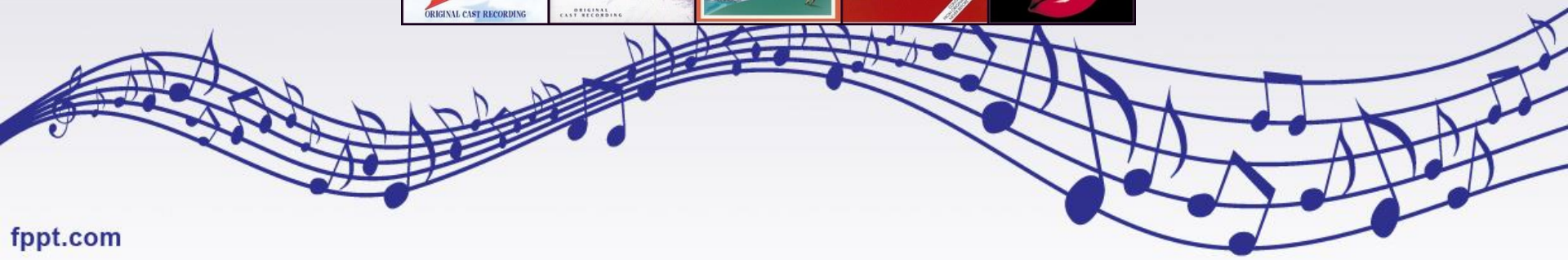


Musician of the Month

September 2021



Magic of the musicals!

Each week in September we are going to listen to a different composer of musicals. We will start almost 100 years ago with Gilbert and Sullivan who wrote “operettas” or “comic operas”. Opera (where people sing what they want to say) had been going for 500 years but was normally very serious and very dramatic.



Gilbert and Sullivan

Gilbert and Sullivan refers to the Victorian-era theatrical partnership of the dramatist W. S. Gilbert (1836-1911) and the composer Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900) and to the works they jointly created. The two men collaborated on fourteen comic operas between 1871 and 1896, of which *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado* are among the best known.



The Pirates of Penzance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rs3dPaz9nAo>

This story concerns Frederic, who, having completed his 21st year, is released from his apprenticeship to a band of tender-hearted pirates. He meets the daughters of Major-General Stanley, including Mabel, and the two young people fall instantly in love. Frederic soon learns, however, that he was born on the 29th of February, and so, technically, he has a birthday only once each leap year. His indenture specifies that he remain apprenticed to the pirates until his "twenty-first birthday", meaning that he must serve for another 63 years. Bound by his own sense of duty, Frederic's only solace is that Mabel agrees to wait for him faithfully.



The Major General's song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rs3dPaz9nAo>

Listen carefully to this song - it goes very quickly! Quite a lot of it is nonsense too - which bit is your favourite? Although it is a solo for the Major General you hear the chorus (the other characters) repeating parts which is quite common in Gilbert and Sullivan.

You might recognise the tune - there's a song called "The Elements Song" which shares it.

If you would like to listen to more Gilbert and Sullivan I recommend *The Policeman's song* from the same show

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmBq_xtuOUM and *With Cat Like Tread*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdJg6Duffz4>



Rogers and Hammerstein

Rodgers and Hammerstein refers to the duo of composer [Richard Rodgers](#) (1902-1979) and lyricist-dramatist [Oscar Hammerstein II](#) (1895-1960), who together were an influential, innovative and successful American musical theatre writing team. They created a string of popular Broadway musicals in the 1940s and 1950s, initiating what is considered the "golden age" of musical theatre.



The Sound of Music

It is based on the 1949 memoir of Maria von Trapp, *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*. Set in Austria on the eve of the Anschluss in 1938, the musical tells the story of Maria, who takes a job as governess to a large family while she decides whether to become a nun. She falls in love with the children, and eventually their widowed father, Captain von Trapp. He is ordered to accept a commission in the German navy, but he opposes the Nazis. He and Maria decide on a plan to flee Austria with the children. Many songs from the musical have become standards, such as "Edelweiss", "My Favorite Things", "Climb Ev'ry Mountain", "Do-Re-Mi", and the title song "The Sound of Music".



Do Re Mi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drnBMAEA3AM>

Listen carefully to this song from the film version of the musical- what do you notice? Have you heard it before? When you sing do you use the same system to get the notes right?

If you enjoyed this then there are a great many other songs from Rogers and Hammerstein you might enjoy including Edelweiss, My Favourite Things and The Sound of Music from this musical and lots from their other musicals which include: Carousel, Oklahoma, State Fair, The King and I, South Pacific and a version of Cinderella.



Andrew Lloyd Webber

Andrew Lloyd Webber, Baron Lloyd-Webber (born 22 March 1948) is an English composer and impresario of musical theatre. Several of his musicals have run for more than a decade both in the West End and on Broadway. He has composed 21 musicals, a song cycle, a set of variations, two film scores, and a Latin Requiem Mass. For many of his musicals he composed the music and the words (libretto) was written by Tim Rice.



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (often colloquially known as Joseph) is a musical comedy with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The story is based on the "coat of many colours" story of Joseph from the Bible's Book of Genesis. This was the first Lloyd Webber and Rice musical to be performed publicly.

The show has only a few lines of spoken dialogue; it is almost entirely sung-through. Its family-friendly story, familiar themes and catchy music have resulted in numerous stagings.



Any Dream Will Do

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5Lg4trPUJc>

This is the first song of the musical which we will see filmed.

Have you heard it before?

What do you think about the staging of this song? Almost all of the musical is sung - including the narrator at the start.

If you enjoyed this then I recommend the rest of Joseph, as well as Jesus Christ Superstar, Cats, Starlight Express, and the Phantom of the Opera



Lin Manuel Miranda

Lin-Manuel Miranda (born January 16, 1980) is an American actor, singer, songwriter, rapper, producer, and playwright. He created and starred in the Broadway musicals *In the Heights* and *Hamilton*. His awards include a Pulitzer Prize, two Laurence Olivier Awards, three Tony Awards, three Grammy Awards, an Emmy Award, a MacArthur Fellowship, and a Kennedy Center Honor in 2018.

A graduate of Wesleyan University, Miranda made his Broadway debut in the 2008 musical *In the Heights* for which he starred and wrote the music and lyrics.



Hamilton

Hamilton: An American Musical is a sung-and-rapped-through musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda. It tells the story of American Founding Father Alexander Hamilton. Miranda said he was inspired to write the musical after reading the 2004 biography Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow. The show draws heavily from hip hop, as well as R&B, pop, soul, and traditional-style show tunes. It casts non-white actors as the Founding Fathers and other historical figures. Miranda described Hamilton as about "America then, as told by America now".



The Schuyler Sisters

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bkqXVc_1go

This is a really joyous song from Hamilton - with three main ladies singing as well as the chorus. There is a really clever bit where they repeat a passage while the chorus sing another part of the song over the top.

If you enjoyed this then there are some very good songs that you could listen to from the musical including this list here

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4btvcmcrcKQNf6A7hytgPtq>

