

Notables: The Well Sung Heroes Of Songwriting With Robin And The Giant

Here are just a few of the songwriters featured in Notables:



Cole Porter
1891-1964

During World War I Cole Porter had a specially constructed portable piano made for him so that he could carry it on his back and entertain the troops. His songs include “Kiss Me, Kate,” “Fifty Million Frenchmen,” “DuBarry Was a Lady” and “Anything Goes,” as well as songs like “Night and Day”, "I Get a Kick out of You", "Well, Did You Evah!" and "I've Got You Under My Skin".



Katharine Lee Bates
1859-1929

Author of “America The Beautiful.” At the summit of Pike's Peak, Colorado in 1893 the opening lines of "America the Beautiful" floated into her mind, and gave new meaning to the spectacular view. Katherine Lee Bates was the first known writer to introduce Mrs. Santa Claus to the American scene.

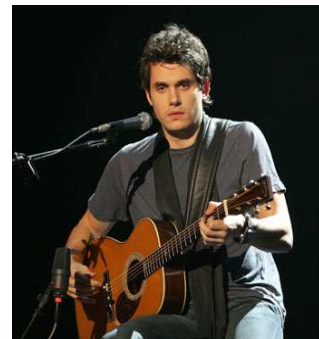


Carrie Jacobs Bond
1862-1946

Wrote the enduring standards “A Perfect Day”, “Just A-Wearyin’ For You”, “I Love You Truly”, “God Remembers When the World Forgets”, “Because of the Light”, and many others. Carrie Jacobs Bond was the first woman to establish a music publishing firm in America. By 1910, she was billed as the first woman composer to earn \$1 million (about \$20 million today).

John Mayer
1977-

Wrote “Say” for the motion picture “Bucket List.” Wrote “Your Body Is A Wonderland,” “Daughters”, “Who Says,” “Heartbreak Warfare.” When Mayer was seventeen, he was stricken with a cardiac arrhythmia and was hospitalized for a weekend. Reflecting on the incident, Mayer said, “That was the moment the songwriter in me was born,” and he penned his first lyrics the night he got home from the hospital.





George and Ira Gershwin

1896-1983 (Ira Gershwin)

1898-1937 (George Gershwin)

Before the Gershwin brothers began earning money as songwriters, Ira worked as a desk attendant at a Turkish bath. At the age of 16, George worked as a song plugger for a Tin Pan Alley publisher. Their songs include "I've Got A Crush On You," "Someone To Watch Over Me," "Crazy For You," and many many others.

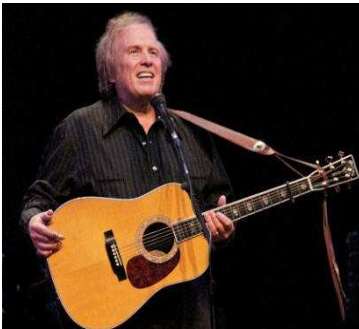
James Bland

1854-1911

Wrote over 600 songs. The composer of the great minstrel show tunes, "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny," "In the Evening By the Moonlight," "De Golden Wedding," and "Oh Dem Golden Slippers."

James applied for positions with some Minstrel groups but was turned down, because they preferred white men playing in blackface.

James Bland was buried in an unmarked pauper's grave in Merion, PA. In 1939, ASCAP found his gravesite, landscaped it and erected a monument. In 1940 Virginians adopted "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia" as their state's official song and resurrected Bland as a symbol of the harmony between the races under segregation.



Don McLean

1945-

In 2001, Don McLeans mega-hit "American Pie" was voted number 5 in a poll of the 365 "Songs of the Century" compiled by the Recording Industry Association of America and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam plays "Vincent" (another mega-hit) regularly. A copy of the sheet music is buried along with Van Gogh's paint brushes in a time capsule at the museum.

Tracy Chapman

1964-

Tracy Chapman began playing guitar and writing songs at the age of eight. She says she may have been first inspired to play the guitar by the television show Hee Haw. She holds a B.A.

degree in anthropology and African studies. During college, Chapman was a street performer in Harvard Square. Another student heard her playing and brought Chapman to the attention of his father, Charles Koppelman, who ran SBK Publishing.

After Chapman graduated in 1987, he helped her to sign a contract with Elektra Records.



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