

FAMILIAR SONGS AND THEIR
UNFAMILIAR STORIES:
Jewish
DISCOVER THE ROOTS OF
AMERICAN SONG

PART 3
ALL TOGETHER NOW

If You Believed in Me



Billy Rose wanted just one song for his production of *The Great Magoo*, a Broadway drama by Ben Hecht and Gene Fowler.

Following the great success of Ben Hecht's *The Front Page*, expectations for his new drama were high. It closed after 8 days and 11 performances. But the song lives on.

Over the Rainbow: The Real-Life
Challenges that Produced the Song of
the Century



In the opening scene of *The Wizard of Oz*, Judy Garland's performance of *Over the Rainbow* looks so effortless! It gives no hint of the aspirations and struggles that preceded it.

Sandy Schuman
Stories and Music



Sandy Schuman is a storyteller, musician, and educator. He tells stories about songs and songwriters, personal adventures, historical sagas, folk tales, and stories in the Jewish storytelling tradition.

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DISCOVER THE ROOTS OF
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A Three-Part Program
with
Sandy Schuman



Three 1-hour sessions
that can be shortened
to one 60-90 minute
program to meet your
scheduling needs

FAMILIAR SONGS AND THEIR UNFAMILIAR STORIES

Jewish

DISCOVER THE ROOTS OF AMERICAN SONG



Learn how some of the best-known American songs came to be written and uncover their Jewish roots. This three-session program features songs from the *Great American Songbook* and stories about the Jewish songwriters who wrote them – Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Jay Gorney, and E. Y. Harburg.

PART 1

THE CANTORS' SONS

God Blessed America for Me



The little known but easily recognized Jewish origins of Irving Berlin's *God Bless America*, a hit song of 1939 and number 19 of the 365 *Best Songs of the 20th Century*.

And then there's its most famous parody.

Get Happy



Harold Arlen aspired to a career as a singer and piano player. Serendipity led to his first big hit—in 1929—and a songwriting career that landed many of his songs in

The Great American Songbook.

PART 2

WHO COULD ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE

George had Chutzpah, Ira Didn't!



The surprising Jewish story behind *It Ain't Necessarily So*, one of the most famous songs from *Porgy and Bess*, the 1935 opera. It was written by George Gershwin

and DuBose Heyward, but they needed some help with the lyrics from George's older brother, Ira. The story begins in 1909, at Ira's *Bar Mitzvah*.

The Forgotten Man



E. Y. Harburg lost his electrical appliance business in the Great Crash, was thousands of dollars in debt, and had no way forward.

Acting on the advice of his old high school buddy, he went on to write the lyrics for the Anthem of the Great Depression.

PART 3 ⇨