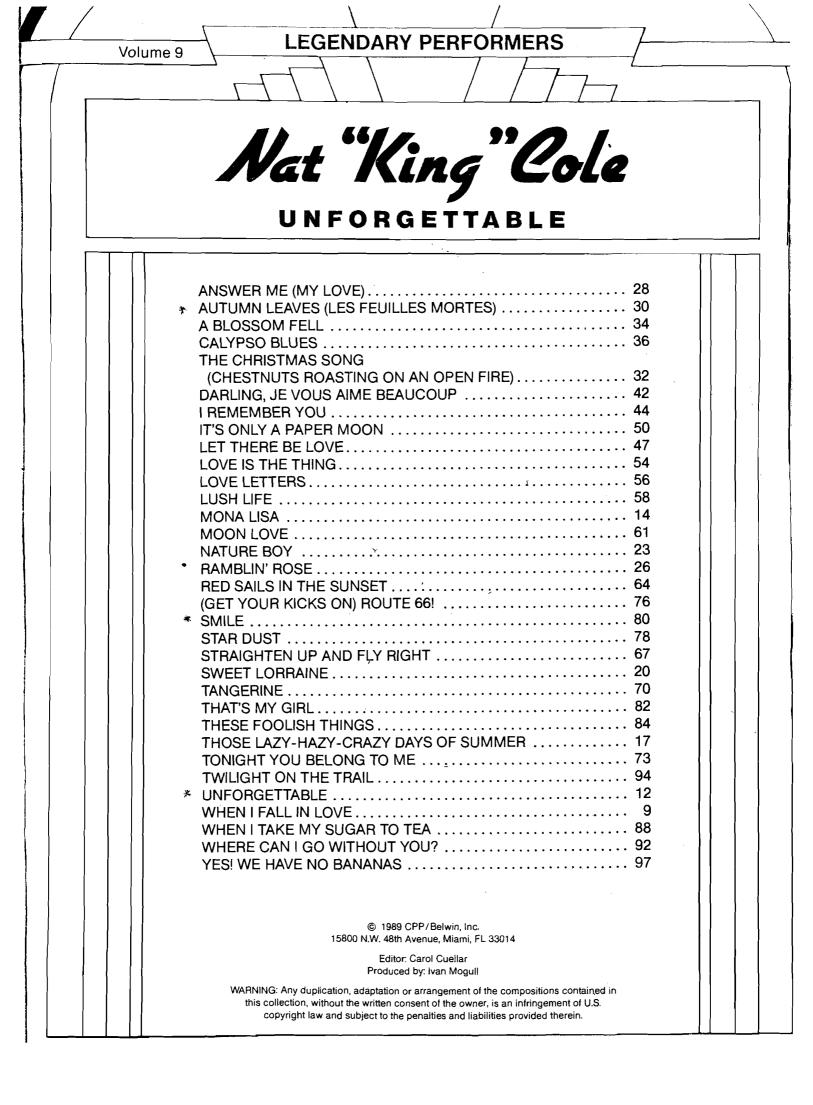
PIANO/VOCAL/CHORDS

LEGENDARY PERFORMERS - VOLUME 9 Nat King Cole UNFORGETTABLE

MON



т. Т





It was the year 1937. In America, the hopes of everyone were rooted in the word "recovery." But if the depression seemed to be nearing an end for most of the nation, it had only deepened early that year for the wandering minstrels of a road show with the peculiarly fitting title "Shuffle Along."

The revue had shuffled all the way from Chicago to Long Beach, California, when an employee with obviously scant optimism for the show's future resigned without notice. More than that, he helped himself to the company's entire bankroll, \$800.00, as his severance pay. "Shuffle Along" ground to a dead stop right there —and disintegrated.

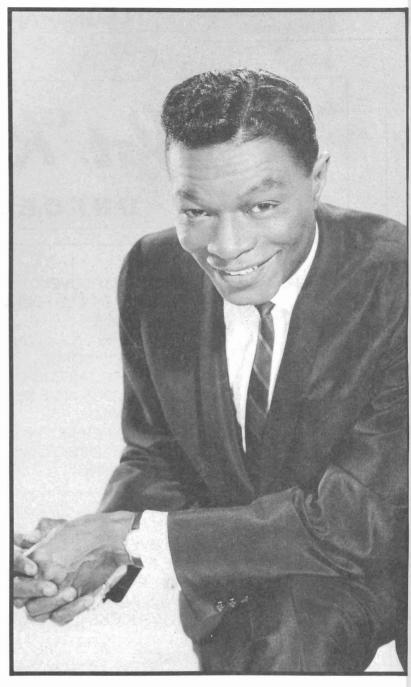
Being broke and stranded in a strange town is never a pleasure to anyone. To one member of the company, its 18-year-old bandleader, Nathaniel Adams Coles, it was akin to a major calamity. Not only was he a rookie in show business, but he was very reluctant to write home for money since his father, the Rev. Edward Coles, a Baptist minister in Chicago, was considerably less than enthusiastic over having his children trotting around the country tooting horns and plunking pianos.

Young Nat wisely decided to make the best of his bad bargain and rough it out in California — at least until he could raise enough money to home with his head held high.

For the next several months he pounded beer-soaked Baldwins and Scotch-stained Steinways in dives from Bakerfield to San Diego. His asking price was five bucks a night, but he could be had for less, and usually was.

During that year one thing happened to the lanky, good-natured youngster. He abbreviated his name to Nat Cole, and one night while he was working in the old Los Angeles Century Club, a gagster slipped a paper crown on his head and dubbed him "King." From that night forward, he was to be Nat "King" Cole.

From the fold-up of "Shuffle Along," his life was



punctuated with setbacks that turned out to be breaks. Some of them were large enough to provide him with footholds in his climb to the top of one of the toughest heaps in the world.

His singing was perhaps the most outstanding example. One of Cole's stops on his job-hunting rounds as an itinerant pianist was a Hollywood nightclub, the Swanee Inn. Their manager offered to pay Cole \$75 a week if he could come up with a quartet overnight. At the time, for that kind of money, Nat would have produced the Philadelphia Symphony — or at least tried. He rushed out and corralled guitarist Oscar Moore, bass player Wesley Prince and a drummer whose name remains unrecorded because he failed to show up for work on opening night.

The trio was hardly an immediate sensation. That was the era of the big bands. Club owners demanded plenty of bodies and plenty of noise for their money. An instrumental trio — the group was strictly voiceless — was about as marketable as a vaudeville juggling act. Still, the "King" Cole Swingsters, as they were known then, did begin attracting the attention of jazz aficionados, attracted by the trio's musical purity. In time, club bookers

The,

became aware that these fans, small in number and strange in tastes though they might be, were willing to put their money where their loyalty was. When that understanding got around, Cole and his cohorts found that they were working with encouraging regularity. Sometimes their leader's take-home pay ran as high as \$25 a week.

... It was during this cushy engagement at the Swanee Inn in Los Angeles, that Cole suffered another humiliating setback — or so, at least, it seemed to him at the time. One of those inevitable lushes in the audience, who wouldn't have known a dissonant chord from a harpsichord and wouldn't have cared, came stumbling to the bandstand and demanded that Nat sing his favorite tune "Sweet Lorraine."

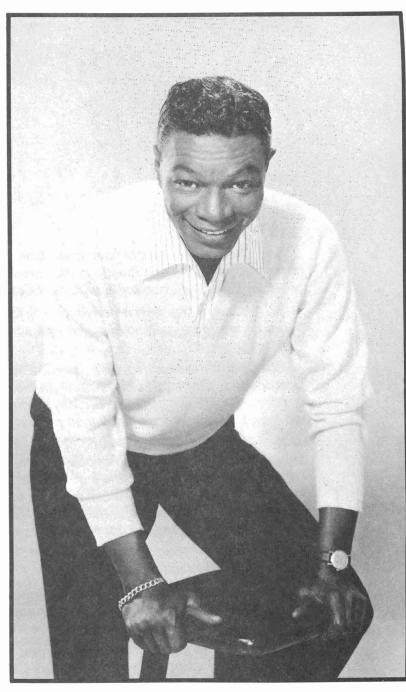
Nat was gentle. "We don't sing," he said softly.

The portly patron was in no mood to be put off, however. He brought his eyes to focus on Cole and in the voice of a platoon sergeant commanded, "Sing!" That brought the manager of the place on the double. He summed up the situation on his mental cash register and gave Cole the word: "Sing. This guy's a big spender. Sometimes three bucks a night."

Nat Cole sang, nervously, reluctantly and, although there were no critics around at the time to comment on his performance, probably not very well. That voice was to become among the best-known in the world of popular music.

If Nat Cole's success story followed the Hollywood film formula, that first timorous rendition of Sweet Lorraine" would have been the climax. But it wasn't. The truth is that Cole wasn't then particularly impressed with his voice, although in the years since then critics have graced it with such terms as "pussy-willow textured."

And so he submerged himself again in the trio, which prospered increasingly as its cult of followers swelled. The bookings were progressively better until the group reached the once famous Trocadero, where a room was



named for it.

With that sort of encouragement, the next logical step was a nation-wide tour. It was logical, but it wasn't especially successful. The trio's lukewarm reception was made worse when bass player Prince was drafted into the Army. Cole's return to the kindlier atmosphere of Los Angeles was anything but triumphant.

Meantime, however, Glenn Wallichs, a music store owner whom Cole had met while playing at the Radio Room next door, had teamed with songwriter Johnny Mercer and formed a new recording company — Liberty Records, later to become Capitol.

The company struggled through its first year and, in 1943, Wallichs heard Cole and his reorganized trio play "Straighten Up And Fly Right," a tune Nat had written during his lean years and sold for \$50 to pay the rent. On the strength of it, Wallichs offered Cole a contract to record that song and do some other solo singing. That last part didn't appeal to Nat much, but he agreed. "Straighten Up And Fly Right," of course, was the first of his — and Capitol's — smash hits. Still, Cole considered himself a full-time instrumentalist and a part-time singer. In the next three years, he and the trio made a number of records which today are regarded as collectors' items by jazz buffs, who rank Cole among the finest jazz pianists of all time.

So great was their reverence for him, in fact, that when he decided in 1946 to stake his future on his voice, instead of his fingers, some of his fans screamed with outrage that he was "selling out."

But Cole had set his course, a risky one but one he was determined to follow. For every jazz devotee who had listened raptly to his pianistics, hundreds of new followers were waiting just to hear his unique, breathy singing. As a single attraction in nightclubs and on records, he made more money than he had dreamed possible before.

And in 1947, in a \$20,000 wedding, the second largest in Harlem history, Cole married Maria Ellington, a pretty band vocalist, who was more than willing to abandon her own career to become "King" Cole's queen. While they were honeymooning in Mexico, Nat received a call from a very close friend, music publisher, Ivan Mogull, stating that Nat's latest recording, the strange, haunting "Nature Boy" was another smash hit. The world was a bright place, indeed, for Nat Cole.

His tenure on Cloud Nine was characteristically brief. Cole still had a lot to learn — and quite a few things to teach.

Nat became aware that the Internal Revenue Service made a claim on back taxes, at which time Nat resolved this matter. With sudden luck smiling at him, he had one hit after another, which enabled him to pay off the IRS within two years.

In 1953, all the long smouldering worries, frustrations and resentments erupted within him, and he collapsed in the wings of Carnegie Hall during an Easter recital. The diagnosis was acute ulcers and internal hemorrhaging. Immediate surgery was recommended and performed with satisfactory results.

Since that brush with tragedy, Nat Cole became more taciturn, more introspective and less easy to lean on. He learned to invest his money — and built an efficiently operating organization around himself that allowed him a more reasonable amount of time for the things he loved most — his wife, their children, Carol, Natalie, Nat Kelly, Casey and Timolin, and baseball, to which he was hopelessly addicted. No amount of planning, however, can stave off all defeats, especially for a man as willing to gamble as Nat Cole. And so he had his fair share of them, perhaps even more, to go with his incredibly indestructible success as a nightclub and recording artist.

Probably the bitterest of them, to Cole, was what happened to his network television show in 1957. Actually, the show was on the air for 64 weeks and could have remained if Cole had submitted to an airtime change insisted upon by NBC. But it didn't accomplish what Nat had hoped for and sacrificed for. It was a costly venture. Besides plowing part of his own salary back into the production costs, he turned down \$500,000 worth of nightclub dates to stick with it.

Why did it mean so much to him? Although Cole never had been a shouting crusader for black rights, in his own quiet way he had always espoused the cause of racial equality, often more effectively than its more militant adherents. As the first black ever to have his own weekly show on TV, to him fell the opportunity, and the burden, of proving that such a program could achieve public acceptance on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line.

Cole proved that. His show had good ratings and drew excellent reviews. The biggest "names" in show business guest-starred on it. But one of the peculiar details of the electronic medium defeated him. No national sponsor dared back Cole's play. In some areas, the program was sponsored regionally and successfully by the tab payers, but the big spenders of Madison Avenue, without whose support the show could not long survive, looked the other way.

His record of accomplishment over set-backs and disappointments is one that anyone would be proud to claim. For such a record to belong to the Alabama-born son of a minister who might never have sung at all if a slicker had not absconded with \$800 and a nightclub drunk had not insisted on hearing someone wail "Sweet Lorraine," it might be classified as a minor miracle.

Nat "King" Cole became one of the hottest selling artists through the forties, fifties, and sixties. He became a legend with his fantastic sound. On December 7th, 1964, he suddenly took ill and he entered St. James Hospital in Santa Monica, California, where he was diagnosed as having lung cancer. On January 25, 1965, his left lung was removed. His sky rocketing career ended with his death on February 15, 1965.

Included in this collection are most all of the great standards which have become associated with Nat "King" Cole. We hope you enjoy playing and singing them, as they are a lasting tribute to one of the greatest performers of all time.







WHEN I FALL IN LOVE

Words by EDWARD HEYMAN

Music by VICTOR YOUNG

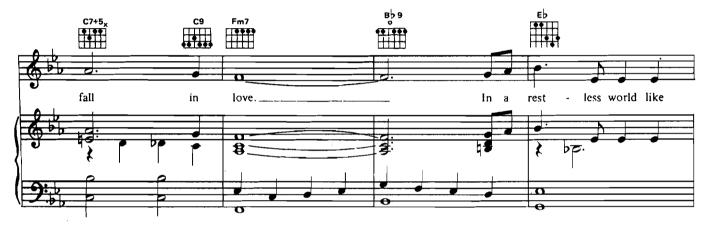


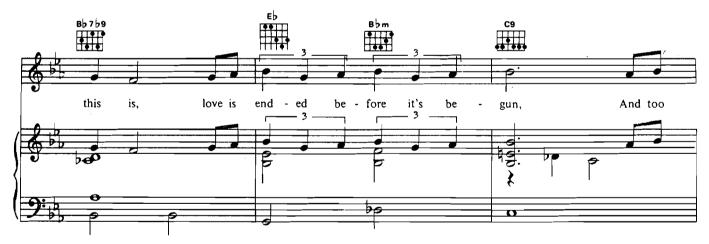


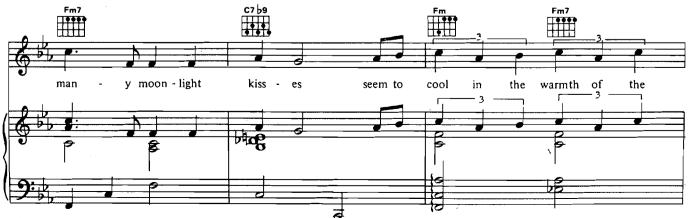


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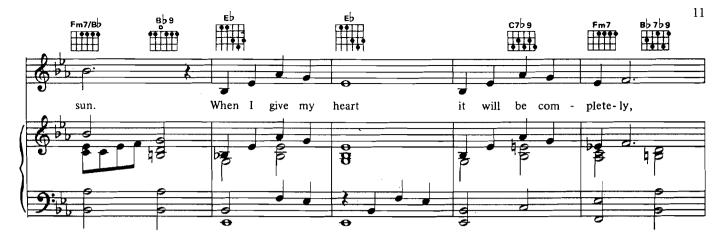


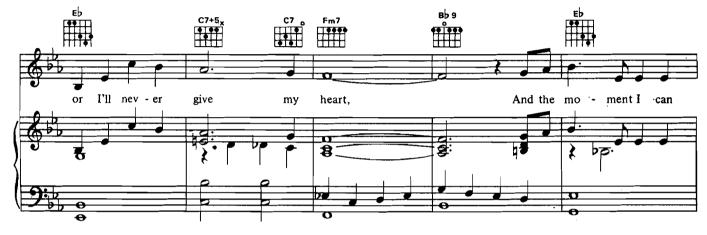


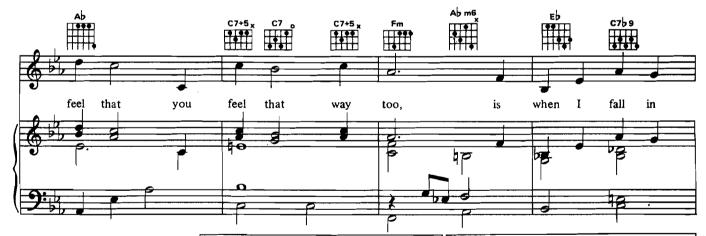


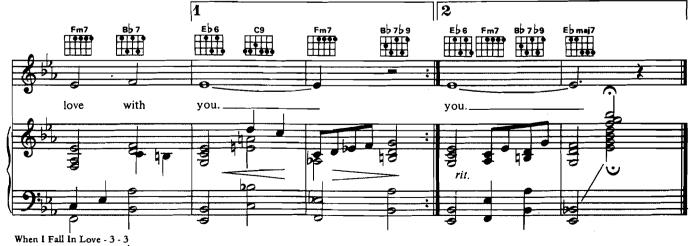


When I Fall In Love - 3 - 2









UNFORGET TABLE

Words and Music by IRVING GORDON



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MONA LISA

Words and Music by JAY LIVINGSTON and RAY EVANS



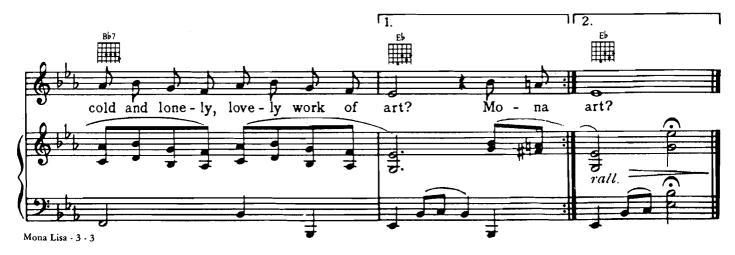
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THOSE LAZY-HAZY-CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER

Words by CHARLES TOBIAS



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HANS CARSTE





Those Lazy-Hazy-Crazy Days Of Summer - 3 - 3

19



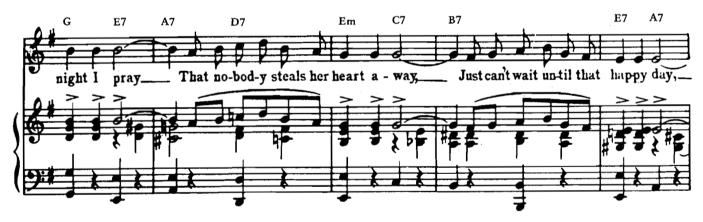
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Sweet Lorraine - 3 - 2









Sweet Lorraine - 3 - 3

NATURE BOY

Words and Music by EDEN AHBEZ



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RAMBLIN' ROSE

Words and Music by NOEL SHERMAN & JOE SHERMAN



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ANSWER ME

Words and Music by WINKLER, RAUCH, SIGMAN



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AUTUMN LEAVES

(Les Feuilles Mortes)

French Lyric by JACQUES PREVERT English Lyric by JOHNNY MERCER

Music by JOSEPH KOSMA

Slowly, with much feeling



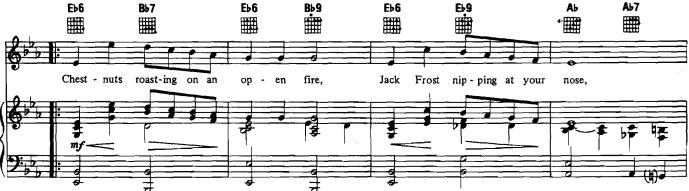


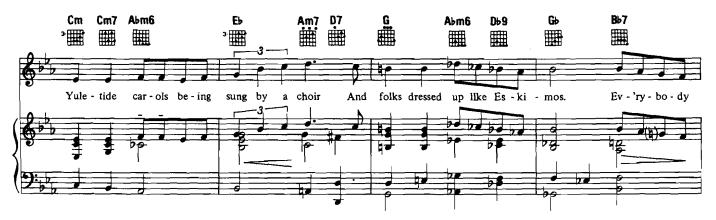
THE CHRISTMAS SONG

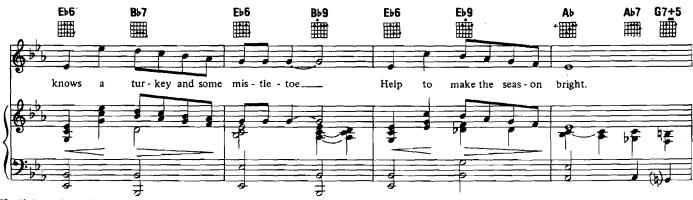
(Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire)

Music and Lyric by MEL TORME & ROBERT WELLS









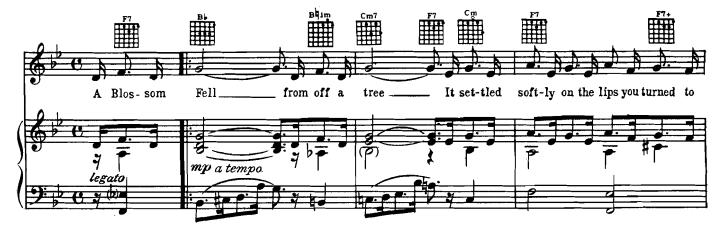
The Christmas Song - 2 - 1

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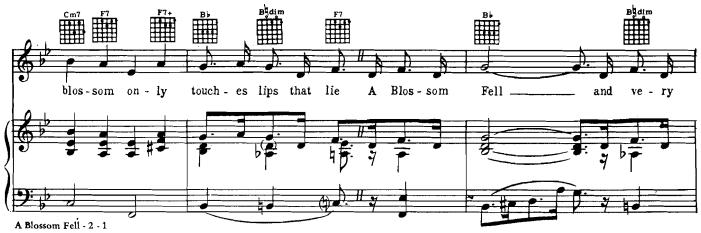


A BLOSSOM FELL

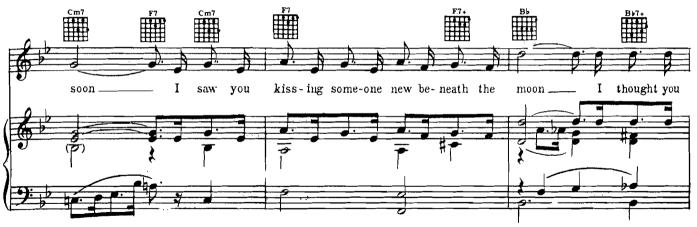




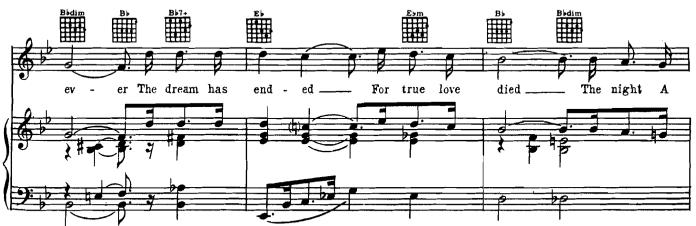




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CALYPSO BLUES



Calypso Blues - 6 - 1

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Calypso Blues - 6 - 4

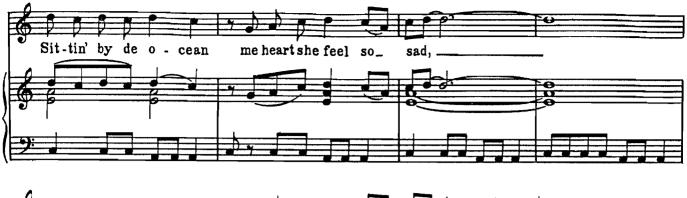


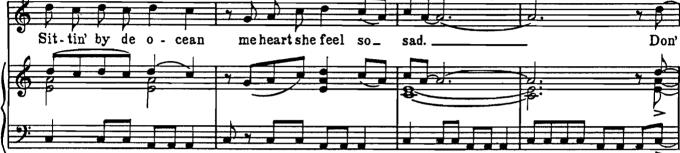


















DARLING, JE VOUS AIME BEAUCOUP

Words and Music by ANNA SOSENKO

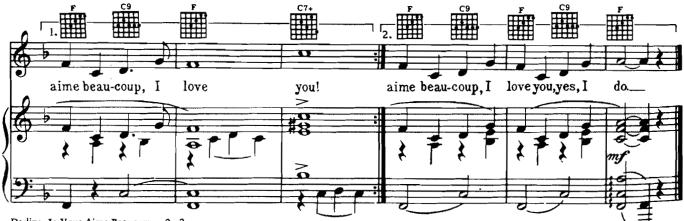


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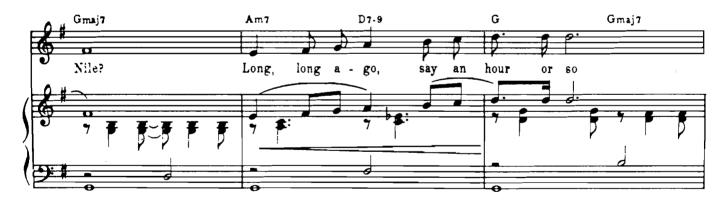
Darling, Je Vous Aime Beaucomp - 2 - 2

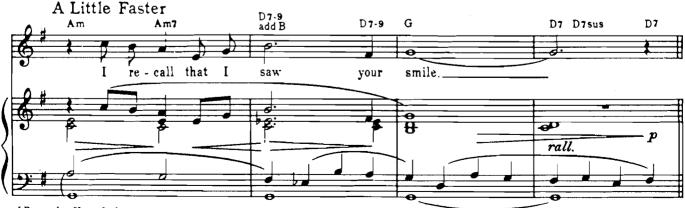
I REMEMBER YOU

Words by JOHNNY MERCER Music by VICTOR SCHERTZINGER





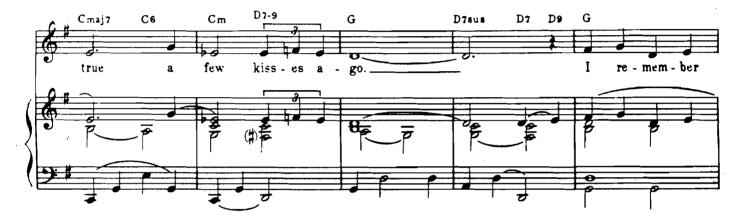




I Remember You - 3 - 1

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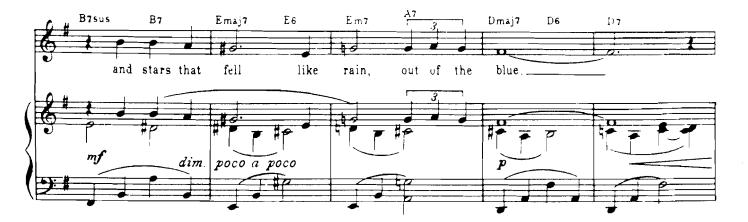








I Remember You - 3 - 2





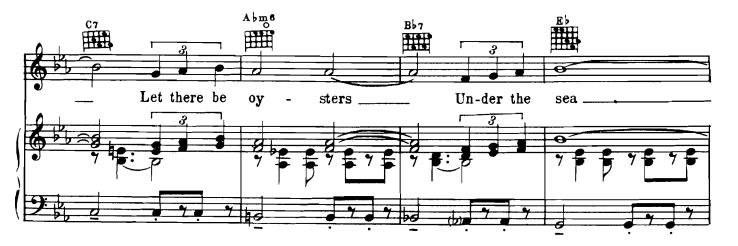


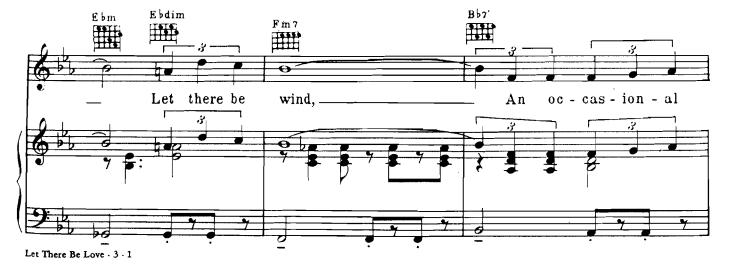


I Remember You - 3 - 3

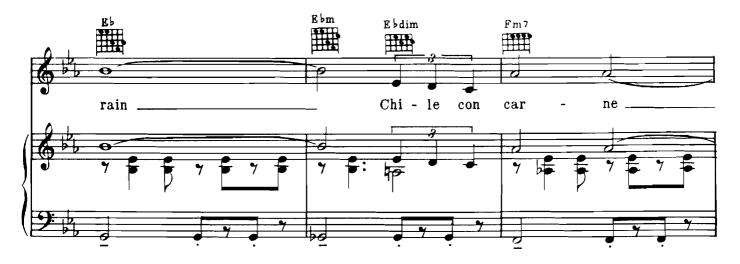
LET THERE BE LOVE

Words by Music by LIONEL RAND IAN GRANT Еþ Gm Bbm6 Guitar T A. Θ Let there be you And let there be me Г Г 3 З mp Ż

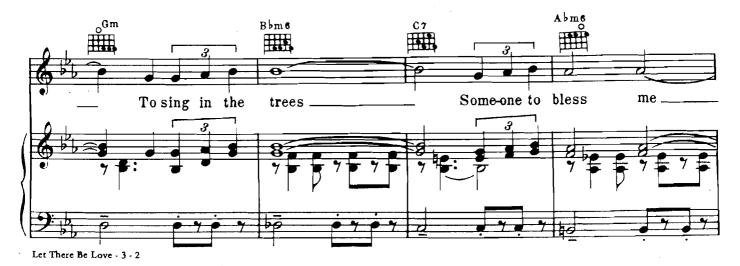




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Words by BILLY ROSE & E.Y. HARBURG Music by HAROLD ARLEN





It's Only A Paper Moon - 4 - 2



It's Only A Paper Moon - 4 - 3



LOVE IS THE THING

Lyric by NED WASHINGTON Music by VICTOR YOUNG



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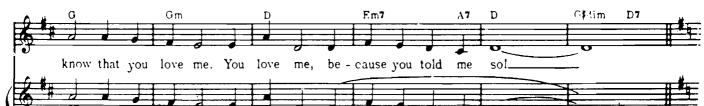
LOVE LETTERS

Words by EDWARD HEYMAN Music by VICTOR YOUNG









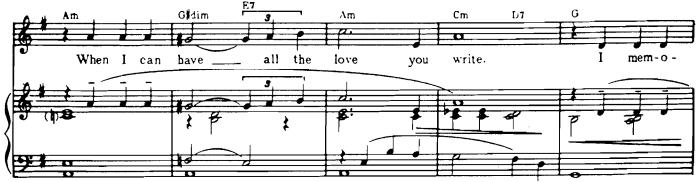


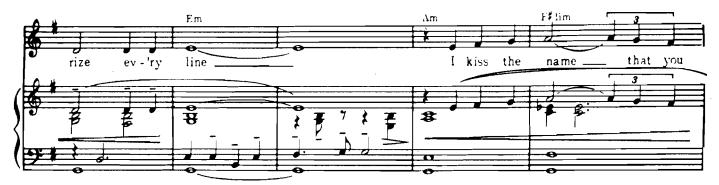


Love Letters - 2 - 1

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Love Letters - 2 - 2

LUSH LIFE



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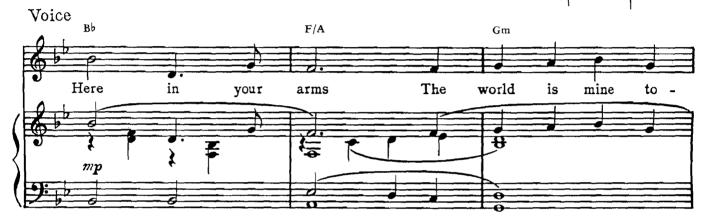




MOON LOVE

Words and Music by MACK DAVID, MACK DAVIS & ANDRE KOSTELANETZ



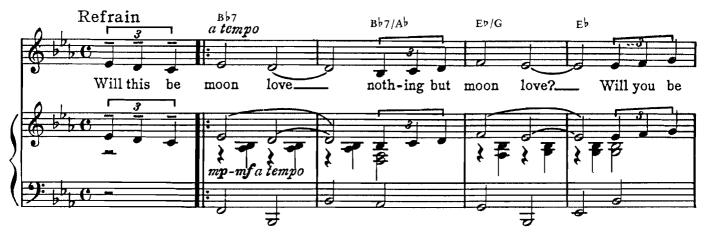






Moon Love - 3 - 1

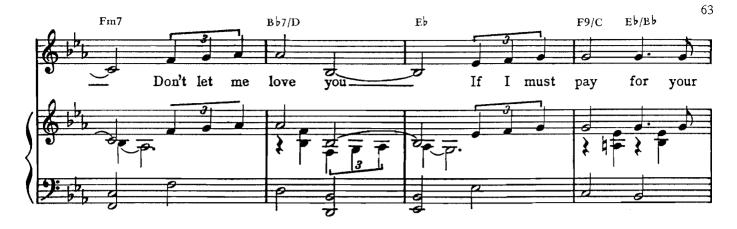
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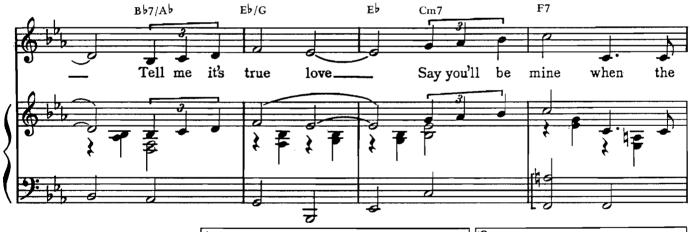














Words by JIMMY KENNEDY Music by HUGH WILLIAMS



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Red Sails In The Sunset - 3 - 2

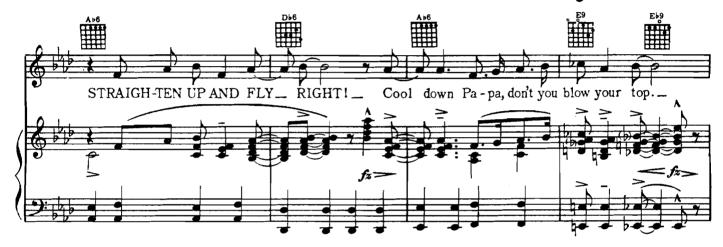


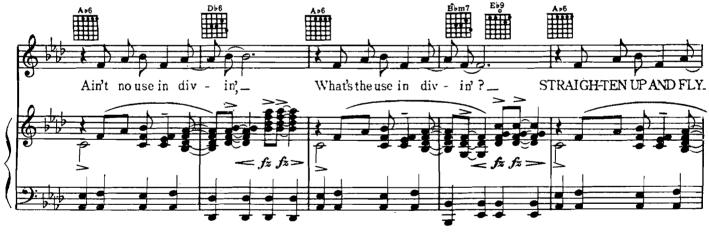
STRAIGHTEN UP AND FLY RIGHT



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Straighten Up And Fly Right - 3 - 2









Straighten Up And Fly Right - 3 - 3

TANGERINE

Words by JOHNNY MERCER Music by VICTOR SCHERTZINGER



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Tangerine - 3 - 2



TONIGHT YOU BELONG TO ME

By BILLY ROSE and LEE DAVID









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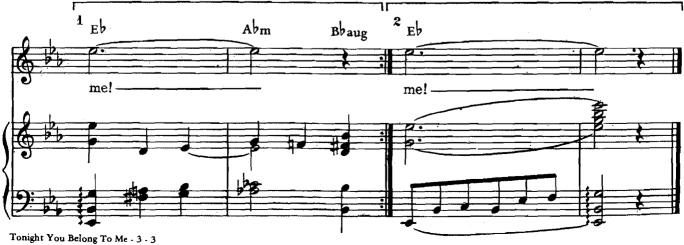


Tonight You Belong To Me - 3 - 2









(Get Your Kicks On) ROUTE 66!

> Words and Music by BOBBY TROUP



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Route 66 - 2 - 2

STAR DUST



Stardust - 2 - 1

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Stardust - 2 - 2

SMILE

Words and Music by TURNER, PARSONS, CHAPLIN





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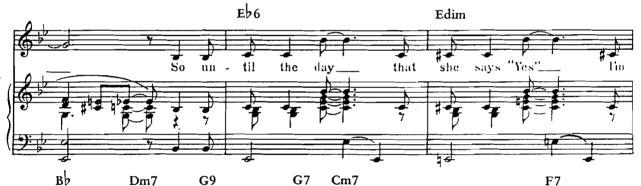
Words by BARBARA TOBIAS Music by RAY ELLINGTON

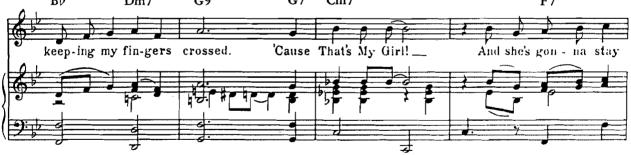


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That's My Girl - 2 - 2

THESE FOOLISH THINGS

(Remind Me Of You)









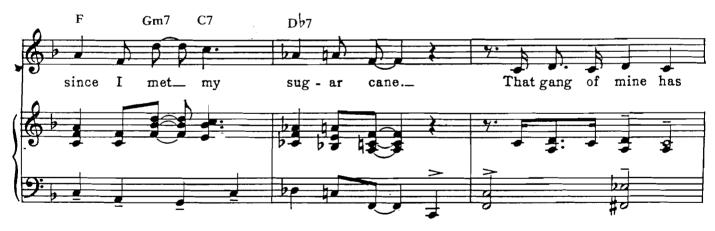
These Foolish Things

WHEN I TAKE MY SUGAR TO TEA



Words and Music by





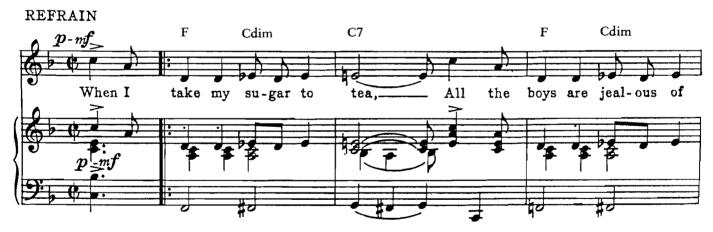


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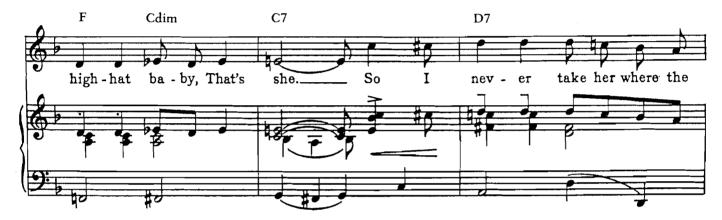




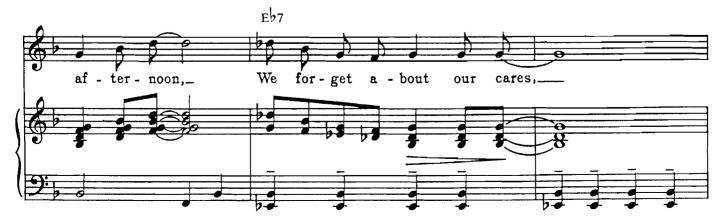
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When I Take My Sugar To Tea - 4 - 3









When I Take My Sugar To Tea - 4 - 4

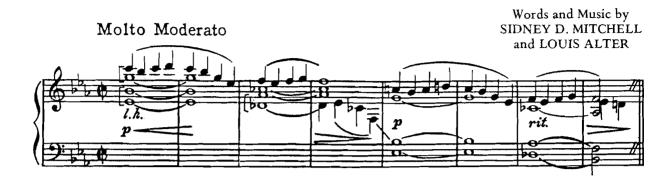
WHERE CAN I GO WITHOUT YOU?



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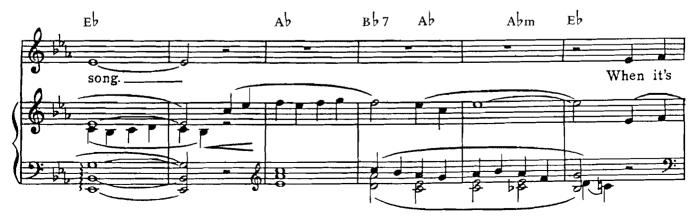


TWILIGHT ON THE TRAIL









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Twilight On The Trail - 3 - 2



Twilight On The Trail - 3 - 3

YES! WE HAVE NO BANANAS

By FRANK SILVER and IRVING COHN



Yes, We Have No Bananas - 3 - 1

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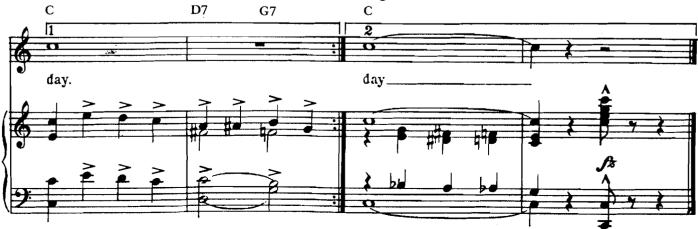


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... It was during this cushy engagement at the Swanee Inn in Los Angeles, that Cole suffered another humiliating setback - or so, at least, it seemed to him at the time. One of those inevitable lushes in the audience, who wouldn't have known a dissonant chord from a harpsichord and wouldn't have cared, came stumbling to the bandstand and demanded that Nat sing his favorite tune "Sweet Lorraine."

Nat was gentle. "We don't sing," he said softly.

The portly patron was in no mood to be put off, however. He brought his eyes to focus on Cole and in the voice of a platoon sergeant commanded, "Sing!" That brought the manager of the place on the double. He summed up the situation on his mental cash register and gave Cole the word: "Sing. This guy's a big spender. Sometimes three bucks a night."

Nat Cole sang, nervously, reluctantly and, although there were no critics around at the time to comment on his performance, probably not very well. That voice was to become among the best-known in the world of popular music.



MONA LISA RAMBLIN' ROSE SMILE SWEET LORRAINE THOSE LAZY-HAZY-CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER UNFORGETTABLE WHEN I FALL IN LOVE ... and many more

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