

Naxos 8.559314 Classic American Love Songs

[01] **What's Good About Goodbye?**
(Music by Harold Arlen, words by Leo Robin)

What's good about goodbye?
What's fair about farewell?
You know a broken heart
Can come from such a broken spell.

Your love could bring eternal spring,
Your kiss could be a magic thing,
Your smile could be a shining light
Burning from day to day,
More lovely from night to night.

But if you should go away
Our dream would go astray,
Our song would be a sigh.

Say you're mine forever,
Say you're mine, but never say goodbye.
We're in love, you and I.
Darling, don't say goodbye.

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[02] **Love In A Mist**
(Music by Kurt Weill, words by Ogden Nash)

I'd never heard of love in a mist,
No warning word of love in a mist,
I don't know why or how I'm lost,
But now I'm lost in love in a mist.

I felt one glance awaken my heart,
Have I by chance mistaken my heart?
One moonstruck moment brought me here,
And caught me here, in love in a mist.

I was bewitched, I took it all for granted,
Under the spell, how could I tell the end?
Standing alone, suddenly disenchanted,

Calling in vain, through love in a mist,
Chill as the rain through love in a mist,
My own true love is deaf to me,
What's left to me, but love in a mist.

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[03] **You And The Night And The Music**
(Music by Arthur Schwartz, words by Howard Dietz)

You and the night and the music
Fill me with flaming desire,
Setting my being completely on fire!

You and the night and the music
Thrill me but will we be one,
After the night and the music are done?

Until the pale light of dawning and daylight
Our hearts will be throbbing guitars
Morning may come without warning,
And take away the stars.

If we must live for the moment,
Love till the moment is through!
After the night and the music die will I have you?

Song is in the air,
Telling us romance is ours to share.
Now at last we've found one another alone.
Love like yours and mine
Has the thrilling glow of sparkling wine,
Make the most of time ere it has flown.

You and the night and the music
Fill me with flaming desire,
Setting my being completely on fire!

You and the night and the music
Thrill me but will we be one,
After the night and the music are done?

Until the pale light of dawning and daylight
Our hearts will be throbbing guitars
Morning may come without warning,
And take away the stars.

If we must live for the moment,
Love till the moment is through!
After the night and the music die
Will I have you?

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[04] **Last Night When We Were Young**
(Music by Harold Arlen, words by E.Y. Harburg)

Last night when we were young,
Love was a star, a song unsung.
Life was so new, so real so bright,
Ages ago last night.

Today the world is old,
You flew away and time grew cold,
Where is that star that seemed so bright,
Ages ago last night?

To think that spring had depended
On merely this— a look, a kiss.
To think that something so splendid
Could slip away in one little daybreak,

So now let's reminisce and recollect the sighs and
the kisses,
The arms that clung when we were young last
night.

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[05] **The Romance Of A Lifetime**
(Music by Kurt Weill, words by Sam Coslow)

Would you know the romance of a lifetime
Would you sense it when you met face to face?
Would your heart surmise that yonder lies your
pinnacle?
Or would you shut your eyes, too worldly-wise,
and cynical?

Would you guess that her first tender greeting
Was the music of that old, old refrain?
Would you know in advance that you've met the
romance of a lifetime?
Or would you pass her by, never to meet again?

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[06] **Poppyland**
(Music by George Gershwin, words by B.G. DeSylva
& John Henry Mears)

There is a captivating land where the skies are ever
blue,
It's made a fascinating land by poppies crimson hue,
You'll see a very lovely night—a dream of colorful
delight,
Each bud is blooming for you.

So come with me where the blossoms grow in
Poppyland—
What joy 'twill be just we two dear, strolling hand in
hand—
We'll hear the drowsy hum of the bees,
Borne upon the whispering breeze,
There I'll tell that wonderful story, and you'll
understand.

For lurking deep in the heart of each seductive
flow'r—
That gaily blooms, you will find a sweet compelling
pow'r—
And, darling, while the birds are singing above
We will talk of nothing but love
When we are hand in hand in Poppyland.

[07] **Unforgettable**
(Music by Kurt Weill, words by Ira Gershwin)

You are unforgettable;
You're the rainbow shining through.
No one quite so sweet and pettable
As you.

You are unforgettable,
It was curtains from the start,
Didn't know I had so upsettable
A heart.

I'll always remember that unforgettable night:
Love wasn't an ember but still burns bright.

You are unforgettable
Heaven here on earth below.
Isn't it regrettable
That we didn't meet years ago?

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[08] **Dancing In The Dark**

(Music by Arthur Schwartz, words by Howard Dietz)

Dancing in the dark till the tune ends,
We're dancing in the dark and it soon ends;
We're waltzing in the wonder of why we're here.
Time hurries by—we're here and gone.

Looking for the light
Of a new love to brighten up the night,
I have you, love,
And we can face the music together,
Dancing in the dark.

What though love is old?
What though song is old?
Through them we can be young.

Hear this heart of mine
Make yours part of mine,
Dear one, tell me that we're one!

Dancing in the dark till the tune ends,
We're dancing in the dark and it soon ends;
We're waltzing in the wonder of why we're here.
Time hurries by—we're here and gone.

Looking for the light
Of a new love to brighten up the night,
I have you, love,
And we can face the music together,
Dancing in the dark.

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[09] **Isn't It A Pity?**

(Music by George Gershwin, words by Ira Gershwin)

While you were flitting
I was busy knitting,
Hoping I'd survive,
Hoping you'd arrive—
Isn't it a pity?
Isn't it a crime?

My journey's ended;
Ev'rything is splendid:
Meeting you today
Has given me a wonderful idea,—
Here I stay!

It's a funny thing,
I look at you—
I get a thrill I never knew,
Isn't it a pity
We never met before?

Here we are at last!
It's like a dream!
The two of us—
A perfect team!
Isn't it a pity
We never met before?

Imagine all the lonely years we've wasted:
You with the neighbors,—
I, at silly labors;
What joys untasted!
You, reading Heine,
I, somewhere in China.

Happiest of girls I'm sure to be,—
If only he—will say to me,—
"It's an awful pity,
We never, never met before."

Imagine all the lonely years you've wasted:
Fishing for salmon,
Losing at backgammon.
What joys untasted!
My nights were sour—
Spent with Schopenhauer.

Let's forget the past
Let's both agree—
That I'm for you—
And you're for me,—
And it's such a pity,
We never, never met before.

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[10] **When The Sun Comes Out**
(Music by Harold Arlen, words by Ted Koehler)

When the sun comes out—
And that rain stops beatin' on my window pane;—
When The Sun Comes Out—
There'll be bluebirds 'round my door
Singin' like they did before
That ol' storm broke out—
And my man walked out and left me in the rain—
Though he's gone I doubt
If he'll stay away for good,
I'd stop livin' if he should,

Love is funny;
It's not always peaches, cream, and honey.
Just when ev'rything looked bright and sunny,
Suddenly the cyclone came.—
I'll never be the same

'Til that Sun Comes Out—
And the rain stops beatin' on my window pane;—
If my heart holds out—
Let it rain and let it pour,
It may not be long before there's a knockin' at my
door,
Then you'll know the one I loved walked in—
When The Sun Comes Out.

If my heart holds out—
Let it rain and let it pour,
It may not be long before there's a knockin' at my
door,
Then you'll know the one I loved walked in—
When The Sun Comes Out.

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[11] **Love Is Sweeping The Country**
(Music by George Gershwin, words by Ira Gershwin)

Why are people gay
All the night and day,
Feeling as they never felt before?
What is the thing
That makes them sing?

Rich man, poor man, thief,
Doctor, lawyer, chief,
Feel a feeling that they can't ignore;
It plays a part
In every heart,
And ev'ry heart is shouting "Encore!"

Love is sweeping the country,—
Waves are hugging the shore,—
All the sexes
From Maine to Texas
Have never known such love before.—

See them billing and cooing,—
Like the birdies above,—
Each girl and boy alike,
Sharing joy alike,
Feels that passion'll
Soon be national.
Love is sweeping the country,—
There never was so much love.

See them billing and cooing,—
Like the birdies above,—
Each girl and boy alike,
Sharing joy alike,
Feels that passion'll
Soon be national.
Love is sweeping the country,—
There never was so much love.

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[12] **It Was Written In The Stars**
(Music by Harold Arlen, words by Leo Robin)

It was written in the stars,
What was written in the stars shall be!
It was written in the skies
That the heart and not the eyes shall see.

And so, whether it bring joy,—
Whether it bring woe.—
It shall be done!
Now suddenly I know—
You are the one.

Here,—as in a daydream,
By my side you stand;
Here with my tomorrows in your hand.—

It was written high above
That I have to have your love
Or I'll never be free.

And cloudy though the day be,
Crazy though I may be,
What the stars foretold shall be.—
And so— shall it be.

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[13] **Boy! What Love Has Done To Me!**
(Music by George Gershwin, words by Ira Gershwin)

It happened down at the Golden Gate;—
A fool there was and her name was Kate;—
She went and found herself a mate—
And she suffered ever after.

Of millionaires she had her pick,—
But she played herself a dirty trick—
When she chose that guy whose name is Slick.—
She's a sap to love him so;
Listen to her tale of woe:

I fetch his slippers;
Fill up the pipe he smokes.
I cook the kippers;
Laugh at his oldest jokes;
Yet here I anchor—
I might have had a banker,
Boy! What love has done to me!

His nature's funny,
Quarrelsome half the time;
And as for money
He hasn't got a dime.
And here's the joker,
I might have had a broker:
Boy! What love has done to me!

When a guy looks my way,
Does he get emphatic?
Say! He gets dramatic!
I just want to fly 'way.
But if I left him I'd be all at sea.—

I'm just a slavey;
Life is a funny thing.
He's got the gravy,
I got a wedding ring;
And still I love him,
There's nobody above him!
Boy! What love has done to me!

I can't hold my head up.
The butcher, the baker,
All know he's a faker;
Brother I am fed up,
But if I left him he'd be up a tree.—

Where will it wind up?
I don't know where I'm at,
I make my mind up
I ought to leave him flat,
But I have grown so
I love the dirty so'n' so!
Boy! What love has done to me!

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[14] **Right As The Rain**
(Music by Harold Arlen, words by E.Y. Harburg)

Right as the rain that falls from above;
So real, so right, is our love.

It came like the spring that breaks thru the snow,
I can't say what it may bring
I only know, I only know
It's right to believe—whatever gave your eyes this
glow—
Whatever gave my heart this song can't be
wrong.—

It's right as the rain that falls from above
And fills the world with the bloom of our love.—

As rain must fall and day must dawn,
This love, this love must go on.

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[15] **I Had Myself A True Love**
(Music by Harold Arlen, words by Johnny Mercer)

I had myself a true love,
A true love who was somethin' to see.—
I had myself a true love,
At least that's what I kept on tellin' me,—

The first thing in the mornin'—
I still try to think up a way to be with him,
Some part of the evenin'
An' that's the way I live thru the day.—

She had herself a true love,—
But now he's gone an' left her for good.—
The Lord knows I done heard those backyard
whispers goin' 'round the neighborhood.

There may be a lot of things I miss,
A lot of things I don't know,
But I do know this:
Now I ain' got no love
An' once upon a time I had a true love—

In the evenin'! In the doorway,
While I stand there and wait for his comin'—
With the house swept,
And the clothes hung,
An' the pot on the stove there a-hummin',—
Where is he, while I watch the risin' moon?
With that gal in that damn ol' saloon?

No!—That ain' the way that it used to be.
No!—An' ev'rybody keeps tellin' me,

There may be a lot o' things I miss,
A lot o' things I don't know,
But I do know this:
Now I ain' got no love
An' once upon a time I had a true love.—

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[16] **I See Your Face Before Me**
(Music by Arthur Schwartz, words by Howard Dietz)

In a world of glitter and glow
In a world of tinsel and show
The unreal from the real thing is hard to know;

I discovered somebody who
Could be truly worthy and true, Yes,
I met my ideal thing when I met you.

I see your face before me
Crowding my ev'ry dream,
There is your face before me,
You are my only theme.

It doesn't matter where you are,
I can see that there you are
I close my eyes and there you are, always.

If you could share the magic
If you could see me too
There would be nothing tragic
In all my dreams of you.

Would that my love could haunt you so;
Knowing I want you so,
I can't erase your beautiful face before me.

It doesn't matter where you are,
I can see that there you are
I close my eyes and there you are, always.

If you could share the magic
If you could see me too
There would be nothing tragic
In all my dreams of you.

Would that my love could haunt you so;
Knowing I want you so,
I can't erase your beautiful face before me.

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[17] **The River Is So Blue**

(Music by Kurt Weill, words by Ann Ronell)

Today is drifting down the river stream—
Tomorrow is nothing more than just a dream.—
Oh Love, the river is so blue today
So blue and life is sweet to live.

Today the hours have little bells to ring,—
Tomorrow is just a song the night might sing.—
Oh Love, the river is so blue today—
So blue, it calls for us to live.—

The moment is precious and fleeting
It flies like a bird to the sky.
Oh darling, how this moment begs for capture,
Let's take it to our hearts, don't let it die.

Today is now and is forever too,—
Tomorrow who knows if I'll be here with you?
Oh Love,— the river is so blue today,—
The river is so blue today
And you today must be mine.

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[18] **Something To Remember You By**

(Music by Arthur Schwartz, words by Howard Dietz)

You are leaving me,
And I will try to face the world alone,
What will be will be,
But time cannot erase the love we've known.

Let me but have a token
Through which your love is spoken,
You are leaving me,
But it will say you're my own.

Oh, give me something to remember you by,—
When you are far away from me, dear;
Some little something meaning love cannot die,—
No matter where you chance to be.—

Though I'll pray for you,—
Night and day for you;—
It will see me through like a charm,
Till you're returning.
So give me something to remember you by,
When you are far away from me.

Though I'll pray for you,—
Night and day for you;—
It will see me through like a charm,
Till you're returning.
So give me something to remember you by,
When you are far away from me.

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[19] **Fun To Be Fooled**

(Music by Harold Arlen, words by Ira Gershwin & E.Y. Harburg)

Spring is here! I'm a fool, if I fall again
And yet, I'm enthralled by its call again.
You say you love me; I know from the past,—
You mean to love me; But these things don't last.—

Fools rush in to begin new love affairs,—
But, tonight, tonight, my dear, who cares?—

Fun to be fooled,—
Fun to pretend;—
Fun to believe love is unending.

Thought I was done,—
Still, it is fun being fooled again.
Nice when you tell all that you feel,—
Nice to be told this is the real thing;

Fun to be kissed,—
Fun to exist,—
To be fooled again.—

It's that Old Debbil Moon having his fling once
more;—
Selling me Spring once more,—
I'm afraid love is king once more!—

Fun to be fooled,—
Fun to pretend—
This little dream won't end.

It's that Old Debbil Moon having his fling once
more;—
Selling me Spring once more,—
I'm afraid love is king once more!—

Fun to be fooled,—
Fun to pretend—
This little dream won't end.

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[20] **The Picture On The Wall**
(Music by Kurt Weill, words, by Ann Ronell)

Oh, the picture on the wall, Oh, the picture on the wall
Was staring at me so—
Just when I was assured that love could be cured,
Oh, the picture on the wall said no.

I was not surprised at all,
When the picture on the wall just wouldn't let me go—
I was locked in a gaze that held me amazed
At all the picture on the wall could show.

So I lifted up my heart
And put my hand upon the picture,
Turning it round, away out of sight.
But I still could see it staring at me,
Till I ran out into the night.—

A voice that seemed to call
From the picture on the wall
Repeated on and on:
Fool, to think love would let you ever forget.

And I stumbled back to find
'Twas only in my mind.
And the picture on the wall
Had not been there at all,
For the picture on the wall was gone.

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Sam Coslow

[21] **How Long Has This Been Going On?**
(Music by George Gershwin, words by Ira Gershwin)

'Neath the stars at bazaars often I've had to
caress men,—
Five or ten dollars then I'd collect from all those
yes-men.—
Don't be sad, I must add that they meant no more
than chessmen.—
Darling, can't you see—
'T'was for charity.—

Though these lips have made slips, it was never
really serious.
Who'd a'thought I'd be brought to a state that's so
delirious?

I could cry salty tears;—
Where have I been all these years?—
Little wow,— tell me now—
How long has this been going on?—

There were chills—up my spine,—
And some thrills I can't define.—
Listen sweet,— I repeat:—
How long has this been going on?—

Oh, I feel that I could melt;—into Heaven I'm hurled!
I know how Columbus felt,—finding another world!

Kiss me once,—then once more—
What a dunce I was before.—
What a break!
For Heaven's sake!
How long has this been going on?—

I could cry salty tears;—
Where have I been all these years?—Listen you—
Tell me do—
How long has this been going on?

What a kick!—How I buzz!—
Boy, you click as no one does!
Hear me sweet,—
I repeat:—
How long has this been going on?—

Dear, when in your arms I creep,—
That divine rendezvous,
Don't wake me, if I'm asleep,—
Let me dream that it's true.

Kiss me twice,—then once more—
That makes thrice, let's make it four!—
What a break!—for Heaven's sake!
How long has this been going on?—

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[22] **Soon**
(Music by George Gershwin, words by Ira Gershwin)

I'm making up for all the years that I waited,
I'm compensated at last.
My heart is through with shirking,
Thanks to him it's working fast.

The many lonely nights and days when I waited
Just had to suffer, are past.
Life will be a dream song,
Love will be the theme song.

Soon—the lonely nights will be ended,
Soon—two hearts as one will be blended.
I've found the happiness I've waited for;—
The only one that I was fated for.—

Oh, soon a little cottage will find us safe—
With all our cares far behind us;
The day I'm yours this world will be in tune,—
Let's make that day come soon.—

Oh, soon our little ship will come sailing home—
Through ev'ry storm, never failing;
The day I'm yours this world will be in tune,—
Let's make that day come soon.—

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