

POP MUSIC LEGENDS

PROGRAM NOTES

QUINCY SYMPHONY CHORUS

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Ain't No Mountain High Enough was written by Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson in 1967. The song went on to become a signature duet for Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell for Motown Records. It was famously covered in 1970 by Diana Ross, becoming her first #1 hit on Billboard and leading to her Grammy nomination for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance.

Your Song was the first of many international hits for pop superstar Elton John and lyricist Bernie Taupin. It has been covered by many artists and used in films such as *Moulin Rouge* and *Rocketman*. The 1970 ballad conveys a simple and earnest declaration of love with a beautiful piano melody and was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1998.

The Wind Beneath My Wings, composed by Jeff Silbar and Larry Henley in 1982, was first recorded by Kamahl for a country-western album project, but never released. It was recorded by Roger Whittaker, Sheena Easton, Lee Greenwood, Lou Rawls, Gladys Knight & the Pips, and others before it became a number one hit for Bette Midler in 1988 when she starred in the movie *Beaches* and sang the soundtrack for the film. *The Wind Beneath My Wings* was named Record of the Year and Song of the Year at the Grammy Awards of 1990.

Sweet Caroline was written and released by Neil Diamond in 1969, using Caroline Kennedy's name as inspiration for the name of the song. The song became a top-ten hit and is a favorite at sporting events.

Written by Paul Simon and recorded by Simon and Garfunkel, ***The Sound of Silence*** uses its poetic lyrics to reflect peoples' inability to communicate with each other. This song was featured in the movie *The Graduate* and has endured as a highlight of the folk-rock genre of the 1960s.

Queen of Soul (A Salute to Aretha Franklin) features Franklin's hits *Think*, *(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman*, and *Respect*. Highlighting the range of Franklin's career with lyrics of empowerment and confidence, these songs have become synonymous with the Queen of Soul and the many people she inspired.

One Voice was the title track of Barry Manilow's 1979 album. Manilow says the song came to him in a dream. It features multiple background vocals, all sung by him. This song carries a message of unity and solidarity.

I Feel the Earth Move was written by Carole King and released on her landmark album, *Tapestry*, which became one of the biggest mainstream pop hits of 1971. Its combination of rock, blues, and pop went on to cement King's legacy as one of the greatest female song writers of all time. Carole King was part of a cultural revolution and wrote lyrics that redefined song writing for women.

River Deep - Mountain High was released in 1966 by Ike and Tina Turner and was considered a flop in America but was a hit in Europe. Its overseas popularity led to it being reissued in 1969. The song was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1999, and is classified by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as one of 500 songs that shaped Rock and Roll. Rolling Stone ranked it number 33 on their list of the 500 greatest songs of all time.

Mornin' was written by Al Jarreau, David Foster, and Jay Graydon in 1983, was nominated for a Grammy that year, and reached twenty-one on the Billboard Top One Hundred. Jarreau, primarily known as a jazz vocalist, was nominated for 7 Grammys in his career and was the only person to have won in 3 categories – jazz, pop and R&B. Jarreau died of respiratory failure in February 2017. His headstone features lyrics from *Mornin'*: "Like any man, I can reach out my hand, And touch the face of God."

Killing Me Softly With His Song was written by Charles Fox and Norman Gimbel. This song originated when Lori Lieberman attended a Don McLean concert. Lieberman collaborated on the lyrics and recorded the first version of this song in 1972, but it did not chart. One year later, Roberta Flack covered it, making it a number one hit. She won Best Record and Best Female Popular Vocal Performance for 1973.

Overjoyed was released on Stevie Wonder's 1985 *In Square Circle* album. This song was originally performed on *Saturday Night Live* two years before the album was released. It became a number one hit on the adult-contemporary charts. Stevie Wonder revealed that the song came out of his personal experience and observation of love.

The Greatest Love of All was written by Michael Masser and Linda Creed, and was originally performed by George Benson for the 1977 Muhammad Ali biopic, *The Greatest*. In 1985, Whitney Houston covered the song, which became one of her signature ballads and a world-wide, smash hit.

Lullabye (Goodnight, My Angel) was released as a single on Billy Joel's 1993 album *River of Dreams*. The lyrics were inspired by his daughter, Alexa. The song went on to inspire a children's book titled, *Goodnight, My Angel (A Lullabye)*.

Written by song writing duo Burt Bacharach and Hal David, ***I Say a Little Prayer*** was originally a top ten hit for Dionne Warwick in 1967. A year later, Aretha Franklin covered the song, which resulted in it once again becoming a top ten hit.

The ***Funny Girl Highlights*** selection arranged by Lisa DeSpain includes *I'm the Greatest Star*, *People*, and *Don't Rain on My Parade*, from the 1964 musical *Funny Girl* written by Jule Styne and Bob Merrill. The musical is based on the life of vaudeville comedienne Fanny Brice and her complicated relationship with her husband, Nicky Arnstein. The musical was a star vehicle for then unknown actress and singer, Barbra Streisand. The success of *Funny Girl* launched Streisand into superstardom. *I'm the Greatest Star* is performed at the beginning of the show and highlights Fanny's resolve to succeed in show business. *People* reflects her complicated feelings when she starts falling in love with Nicky. *Don't Rain on my Parade* closes the first act of the show where she resolves to marry Nicky despite his troubled past.