

# The P G Wodehouse Society (UK)

Information Sheet Number 5

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## Musical Comedies with Lyrics Written by P G Wodehouse

The difficulties which arise in trying to prepare a comprehensive list of productions to which Wodehouse contributed lyrics come mainly in deciding whether to include shows in which a lyric appeared almost by chance, *ie* a lyric which had not been written for that show. His best-known song, *Bill*, falls into that category, its second appearance (in *Showboat*) being far more memorable than its first, in the pre-Broadway try-out of *Oh, Lady! Lady!!*. On the other hand, the mere appearance of one of his lyrics in a post-war production not having any specific connection with an accepted Wodehouse-related show barely warrants inclusion.

This list is essentially restricted to shows in which new, or substantially revised, Wodehouse lyrics appear for the first time. Because of the relevance of the original production of *Very Good, Eddie* to Wodehouse's first involvement with American musical theatre, its successful 1970s revival, which included two Wodehouse interpolations, has also been included.

P G Wodehouse personally preferred the term 'lyrist' to the more common 'lyricist'.

### SHOWS TO WHICH PGW CONTRIBUTED VIRTUALLY ALL THE LYRICS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Composer(s)</i>
1917	<i>Have a Heart</i>	Jerome Kern
1917	<i>Oh, Boy!</i>	Jerome Kern
1917	<i>Leave It To Jane</i>	Jerome Kern
1917	<i>Miss 1917</i>	Jerome Kern
1918	<i>Oh, Lady! Lady!!</i>	Jerome Kern
1918	<i>See You Later</i>	Jean Schwartz & William F Peters
1918	<i>The Girl Behind the Gun</i>	Ivan Caryll
1918	<i>Oh, My Dear!</i>	Louis A Hirsch
1919	<i>Oh, Joy!</i>	Jerome Kern
1919	<i>Kissing Time</i>	Ivan Caryll
1919	<i>The Rose of China</i>	Armand Vecsey
1924	<i>Sitting Pretty</i>	Jerome Kern
1927	<i>The Nightingale</i>	Jerome Kern

## SHOWS TO WHICH PGW CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE LYRICS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Composer(s)</i>	<i>Fellow Lyrist</i>
1914	<i>Nuts and Wine</i>	Frank E Tours and Melville Gidson	Charles H Bovill
1916	<i>Miss Springtime</i>	Jerome Kern and Emmerich Kalman	Herbert Reynolds
1917	<i>Kitty Darlin'</i>	Rudolf Friml and Otto Harbach	Otto Harbach
1918	<i>The Canary</i>	Ivan Caryll, Irving Berlin and Harry Tierney	Anne Caldwell
1921	<i>The Golden Moth</i>	Ivor Novello	Adrian Ross
1922	<i>The Cabaret Girl</i>	Jerome Kern	George Grossmith and Anne Caldwell
1923	<i>The Beauty Prize</i>	Jerome Kern	George Grossmith
1928	<i>Rosalie</i>	George Gershwin and Sigmund Romberg	Ira Gershwin
1960	<i>Oh, Kay (Revival)</i>	George Gershwin	Ira Gershwin

## SHOWS TO WHICH PGW CONTRIBUTED JUST ONE OR TWO LYRICS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Composer(s)</i>	<i>Principal Lyrist</i>
1904	<i>Sergeant Brue</i>	Liza Lohmann and Frederick Rosse	J Hickory Wood
1906	<i>The Beauty of Bath</i>	Herbert E Haines and Jerome Kern	Charles H Taylor
1907	<i>My Darling</i>	Herbert E Haines	Charles H Taylor
1907	<i>The Girls of Gottenberg</i> <sup>1</sup>	Ivan Caryll and Lionel Monckton	Adrian Ross and Basil Hood
1907	<i>The Gay Gordons</i>	Guy Jones	Arthur Wimperis
1917	<i>Hello, America</i>	Jerome Kern	Multiple
1920	<i>Sally</i>	Jerome Kern	Clifford Gray
1925	<i>The City Chap</i>	Jerome Kern	Anne Caldwell
1926	<i>Hearts and Diamonds</i>	Bruno Granichstaden	Graham John
1927	<i>Showboat</i>	Jerome Kern	Oscar Hammerstein II
1928	<i>The Three Musketeers</i>	Rudolf Friml	Clifford Gray
1934	<i>Anything Goes</i> <sup>2</sup>	Cole Porter	Cole Porter
1941	<i>The Wild Rose</i>	Jerome Kern	Clifford Gray
1975	<i>Very Good Eddie (Revival)</i>	Jerome Kern	Schuyler Greene

<sup>1</sup> Wodehouse included the title of one song, *Our Little Way*, from this show in the letterhead of his personal notepaper, but the libretti of the show did not include it, and no copy of its words has been seen.

<sup>2</sup> Wodehouse was invited by Cole Porter to anglicise the lyrics of *Anything Goes* and *You're the Top* for the first British production.

UNPRODUCED SHOWS TO WHICH PGW IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED LYRICS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Composer</i>	<i>Fellow Lyrist</i>
c1918	<i>Ladies Please</i>	Jerome Kern	
1921	<i>The Blue Mazurka</i>	Jerome Kern and Franz Lehar	
1922	<i>Pat</i>	Jerome Kern	Billy Rose
1990s	<i>Betting on Bertie</i>	Robert Wright & George Forrest	

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