

Ira Gershwin: The Art of the Lyricist



Ira Gershwin was one of the most successful and influential lyricists in American history. His songs, written with his brother George, have been performed by countless artists and have become standards of the Great American Songbook.

Ira Gershwin: The Art of the Lyricist by Philip Furia

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled



Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 286 pages
Lending : Enabled



Gershwin was born in New York City in 1896. He began writing songs as a child, and by the time he was a teenager, he was writing lyrics for vaudeville shows. In 1918, he met his brother George, who was already a successful composer. The two brothers began collaborating immediately, and soon had their first hit song, "Swanee."

Over the next two decades, the Gershwin brothers wrote some of the most popular and enduring songs in American history. Their songs were known for their wit, charm, and sophistication, and they were quickly adopted by the biggest stars of the day. Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, and Ella Fitzgerald all recorded Gershwin songs, and many of their recordings became best-sellers.

In addition to his work with George, Ira Gershwin also wrote lyrics for other composers, including Jerome Kern, Harold Arlen, and Kurt Weill. He also wrote several Broadway musicals, including *Lady, Be Good!* and *Of Thee I Sing*.

Gershwin's lyrics were often praised for their intelligence and wit. He had a gift for turning a phrase, and his lyrics were always clever and memorable.

He also had a deep understanding of the American vernacular, and his songs often reflected the rhythms and language of everyday speech.

Gershwin's songs have had a lasting impact on American culture. They have been performed by countless artists, and they have been featured in films, television shows, and Broadway musicals. His songs are a testament to his talent and his love of music.

Some of Ira Gershwin's most famous songs include:

- "Swanee"
- "Fascinating Rhythm"
- "I Got Rhythm"
- "The Man I Love"
- "Someone to Watch Over Me"
- "Embraceable You"
- "Summertime"
- "Love Walked In"
- "A Foggy Day"
- "Nice Work If You Can Get It"

Ira Gershwin died in 1983. He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1971, and he received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1932 for his work on *Of Thee I Sing*.

Ira Gershwin was one of the most important figures in American music. His songs are a testament to his talent, his wit, and his love of music.



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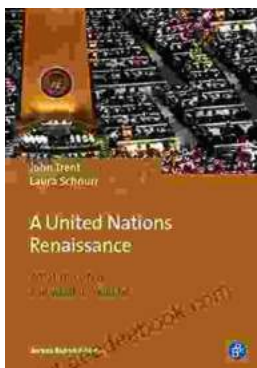
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