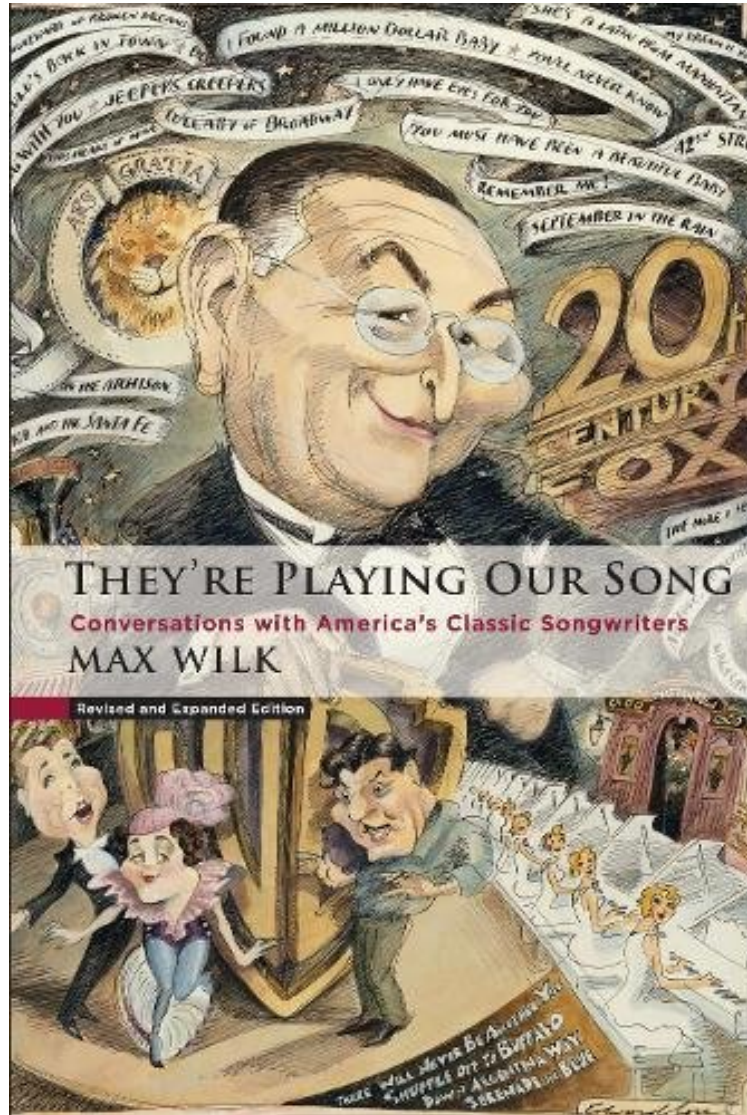


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They're Playing Our Song: Conversations With America's Classic Songwriters

Max Wilk

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Max Wilk : They're Playing Our Song: Conversations With America's Classic Songwriters before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised They're Playing Our Song: Conversations With America's Classic Songwriters:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Joy To ReadBy The TopperI thoroughly enjoyed this book. The music composed and lyrics written by the subjects of Wilk's adoring conversations have been in my heart since the age

of 4 or 5 when I first heard my mother play them. While I was familiar with some of the composers and lyricists there were several of whom I've never heard, sadly. Thus Wilk's purpose for this book, to share these unsung (no pun intended) musicians with the world. We should all know who they were. has clearly been the benefactor of Max Wilk's efforts, as reading through the pages of this book caused me to purchase many CDs to add to my collection, particularly "An Evening With Dorothy Fields". I've always loved Dorothy's lyrics and listening to her sing them and reminisce about here professional life is thrilling, although it became clear that Wilk used this as source material. So what, that didn't matter to me. It was even better hearing Dorothy say it in her deep, smoky voice. I will most likely scour 's listings of books and CDs to find other favorite subjects of Wilk to learn more of their story. My only complaint about this book are the myriad of typos. It is highly unfortunate that a book of this caliber is riddled with such errors. However I did not let that stand in the way of my enjoyment and I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves a finely written lyric set to masterfully composed music. They just don't write 'em like that anymore! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. They're Playing Our Song--review By William H. Young A splendid insiders' look at America's premier songwriters from the era of the Great American Song Book. Comprehensive and extremely well-written. Recommended! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Terrific book, not to be missed. By Bruce M. Kerner This is a super book of interviews with famous song writers who worked from 1900 - 1970 in popular American song era of Tin Pan Alley. Not a history of TPA, but of our shared popular culture as created, or reflected, by these writers from vaudeville, Broadway, and movies. Max Wilk makes the reader feel that " you are there ", in the room with these exceptional writers such as Kern, Berlin, Arlin, Harburg, Gershwin, Lane, and countless other as they tell us their stories. A must read.

Originally published in 1973, when it won the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award, reprinted and revised several times since, *They're Playing Our Song* is a classic oral history of American popular music. Now further updated with new material and new photographs, this book is indispensable for anyone interested in the Great American Songbook of the 20th century, these classic and timeless songs and lyrics are as popular today as ever.

An outstanding study of American songwriters. Washington Post What an education it has given me to read this book. From Gershwin to Sondheim, it's all here. Tony Bennett You know that a book is good when one of its subjects recommends it to you. That is how I discovered *They're Playing Our Song*. Ira Gershwin told me all about an essential book on American Popular Song. And now, years after Ira's death, when I read Max's chapter on him, I feel like I'm once again sitting at the feet of the master, carefully listening and absorbing Mr. Gershwin's perspective of a bygone but omnipresent era. . . . Strangely enough, time has made the book more important, like a bottle of fine vintage wine. Michael Feinstein The brilliant writers whose songs I love to sing are all in these pages. Every one echoes with their genius. Who could ask for anything more? Barbara Cook These are the composers I've always loved to play. Reading their words here makes the music even better. Bill Charlap Bravo Max! Bucky Pizzarelli "I can't tell you how delighted I am to have your book. What a gas it must be for the song writer to be able to stop and think, "Hey, they're playing my song.." It is a lot nearer to having a small grasp on immortality to know that somewhere a fragment of one's song can still be heard. It is amazing and also rather sobering to realize how many of the voices you were celebrating only a very few short years ago have already gone silent. But thank God, their works live on. Your work is now a priceless treasure trove of memory and a recapturing of men and women who have contributed so incredibly much to our lives, our memories, and our carings. It is astonishing to stop now and again and realize and appreciate how deep and enduring an impression the songwriters have left on absolutely every one of us, whatever our race, voice, or condition of servitude. Thanks again for this lovely and timeless book.--Charles Champlin, former film critic Los Angeles Times