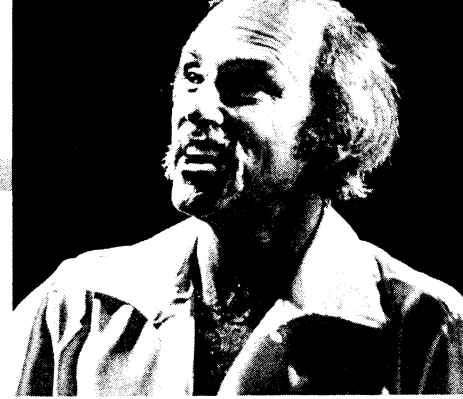


Best Selling Vocal Jazz

Survey of Seven Music Retailers

Compiled by Gene Aitken



Gene Aitken
Nat'l. Chairman of Vocal Jazz

Each year the same questions face just about every new or experienced vocal jazz director in the nation. . . "What music should my group perform this year? Are there some standard charts other directors use repeatedly to teach style and performance skills that I haven't tried?" As I began talking with some of the vocal jazz directors to get some feedback on my questions, a couple of things became evident. First, most of the directors said they really *did not* use the same music to teach style and performance skills, but chose music each year based on selections they had heard at festivals, concerts and sight-reading sessions. Secondly, if there was to be any consensus of opinion as to what is considered standard literature, hundreds of vocal jazz directors would have to be interviewed. An alternative to this last task would be to find out from some organization which music sells the

best over a period of time. The only logical source having this type of information are sheet music retailers. From their response it can be determined what music sells year after year. The question was asked of several well-known vocal jazz sheet music retailers in the United States, "What vocal jazz charts seem to have staying power and are purchased year after year?" their response to this question provided two pieces of information. First, we can assume the music is used to teach ballad, swing, etc. styles. Secondly, we now have a list of music that seems to have some intrinsic value other than being just popular for the moment. For this survey, stores were selected based on input from vocal jazz directors located throughout the United States. The sheet music retailers gladly responded and provided a list of vocal jazz music they thought sold the best

over the past five years. . .including some new publications issued within the past year.

The sheet music dealers response provided us with one extra benefit. It not only gave us a list of the vocal jazz music that seems to sell, but a list of vocal jazz music that seems to sell within a certain geographic region.

The information provided below is listed exactly as given by the sheet music retailers. Depending on the region, the difficulty level and style may be different. Differences in arrangers for the Puerling / Mattsson tunes may be because G. Puerling is credited for the arrangement and P. Mattson for the editing. All tunes listed are SATB unless otherwise noted. The vocal jazz music listed is currently published and is available from the music retailers listed below.

Byron Hoyt Sheet Music Service
2525 - 16th Street
San Francisco, California
(415) 431-8055
Contact: Susan Wolston

Title	Arranger	Publisher
Button Up Your Overcoat	G. Puerling	Columbia
C'est se Bon	P. Mattson	Leonard
Darn That Dream	G. Aitken	Kendor
Gene Puerling Sound Collection	G. Puerling	Shawnee
Georgia	G. Puerling	Columbia
I've Got You Under My Skin	P. Mattson	Leonard
Johnny One Note	G. Puerling	Leonard
Sounds of the Singers Unlimited	G. Puerling	Shawnee
Sunny Side Up	G. Puerling	Leonard
Sweet Georgia Brown	K. Shaw	Jenson
S' Wonderful	P. Mattson	Jenson

Comment: Byron Hoyt has a list of 39 vocal jazz publications they carry. Please write for the list.

Carl Fischer Music Company
312 South Wabash
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(800) 621-4496 (National line)
(800) 572-3272 (Illinois only)
(312) 427-6652 (Local)
Contact: David Lawrence

Title	Level	Arranger	Tempo	Publisher
Add A Riff	MD	S. Berkowitz	MS	Coronet
The Alley "S"cat Song	ME	W. Rodby	MS	Somerset
Bourree (Bach)	ME	W. Swingle		Belwin
Boy From New York City	M	L. Lapin	Pop	Columbia
Everyday I've Got to Sing...	M	K. Shaw	S	Leonard
How High the Moon	FS	S. Zegree	FS	Leonard
It Don't Mean a Thing...	MS	Rutherford	MS	Belwin
Manhattan Transfer in Concert	MD	J. Nowak	Variety	Leonard
Puttin' on the Ritz	MD	K. Shaw	FS	Leonard
Ray's Rockhouse	MD	S. Zegree	Rock/Pop	Leonard
Sweet Georgia Brown	MD	K. Shaw	FS	Warner Bros

Comment: Sales of vocal jazz music are not good in general.

Key for all companies: E=Easy, M=Medium, D=Difficult, B=Ballad, S=Swing, F=Fast

Flesher-Hinton Music Company
3936 Tennyson Street
Denver, Colorado 80212
(303) 433-8891
Contact: Donna Giocomo

Title	Level	Arranger	Tempo	Publisher
Birdland	D	G. Puerling	Fusion	Leonard
Button Up Your Overcoat	MD	G. Puerling	MS	Columbia
C'est se Bon	D	G. Puerling	MS	Leonard
How High the Moon	ME	S. Zegree	F	Leonard
Johnny One Note	D	P. Mattson	F	Leonard
Just In Time	M	K. Shaw	MS	Leonard
My Funny Valentine	M	K. Shaw	B	Leonard
My Romance	D	G. Puerling	B	Columbia
Nightingale Sang... Berkley S.	D	G. Puerling	B	Leonard
People	D	G. Puerling	B	Leonard
Rock-A-Bye Baby (SSAA)	M	M. Wier	B	Leonard
Summers Eyes Are Blue	ME	K. Krainitz	B	Alfred
Their Hearts Full of Spring	ME	K. Shaw	B	Leonard
When I Fall In Love	M	K. Shaw	B	Leonard

St. Ann Music Publications
P.O. Box 388
10009 St. Charles Rock Road
St. Ann, Missouri 63074
(800) 235-9714 (National line)
(800) 392-3414 (Missouri only)
(314) 428-7100 (Local)
Contact: Bob Waggoner

Title	Level	Arranger	Style	Publisher
For Once In My Life	M	K. Shaw	MF	Columbia
Georgia	D	P. Mattson	B	Columbia
How High the Moon	M	S. Zegree	F	Leonard
I Remember You	MD	P. Mattson	MS	Leonard
It Don't Mean A Thing...	ME-M	M. Huff	MS	Columbia
Moonglow	ME	T. Chinn	MS	Columbia
Nightingale Sang In Berkley...	MD-D	G. Puerling	B	Leonard
Route 66	M	D. Barduhn	F	Leonard
Satin Doll	ME	K. Shaw	MS	Leonard
Sesame Street	M	P. Mattson	MS	Columbia

Comment: If music publishers would avoid putting "Easy Vocal Jazz Music" on the cover of the choral music, it would make the job of selling the music to our students a little easier. Several complaints from directors on this.

Sheet Music Service of Portland
34 N.W. 8th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97209-3591
(503) 222-9607
Contact: Kathy Duncan
Beth Hamon

Title	Level	Arranger	Style	Publisher
Bourree	D	W. Swingle	Bach	Belwin
Boy From New York City	ME	L. Lapin	Pop	Columbia
God Bless the Child	M	A. Kerr	B	Leonard
Happy Together	M	Nylons	60's	Leonard
I Wanna Be There	M	C. Dedrick	Spiritual	Kendor
In The Mood	MD	H. Simone	MS	Hansen H.
Jazz Gloria	ME	N. Sleeth	Xmas	C. Fisher
Jazz 150 (Psalm 150)	MD	A. Davies		Shawnee
Kiss and Goodbye	M	Nylons	60's	Leonard
Loving You	D	J. Kunz	B	Scott Music
Ray's Rockhouse	M	S. Zegree	Rock	Leonard
Tangerine	MD	P. Mattson	MS	Shawnee
Twilight Zone	M	J. Nowak	Disco	Leonard

Comment: The company indicated that for new teachers and small choirs, Dave Barduhn charts were very popular because they were easy to sing (Leonard). In addition, Jack Kunz charts were popular because they were also easy (Warner Brothers, Scott and Jensen).

Ted Brown Music Company
1121 Broadway Plaza
Tacoma, Washington 98402
(206) 272-3211
Contact: Karen Schink

Title	Level	Arranger	Style	Publisher
Button Up Your Overcoat	MD	G. Puerling	FS	Columbia
Georgia	MD	G. Puerling	B	Columbia
How High the Moon	ME	S. Zegree	MS	Leonard
I Got Rhythm	E	J. Kunz	MS	Jensen
I'll Be Seeing You	M	P. Mattson	B	Leonard
New York Afternoon	D	P. Mattson	F	Jensen
Over By the Bay	E	J. Kunz	B	Jensen
September in the Rain	M	R. Emerson	B	Jensen
Then She Smiles	E	F. DeMiero	B	Jensen

UNC Jazz Press
University of Northern Colorado
Greeley, Colorado 80639
(303) 351-2577
Contact: Sandy Scott

Title	Level	Arranger	Style
A Case of the Blues	M	M. Mazur	MS
Alice In Wonderland	M	R. Treece	B
April Joy	D	R. Treece	Contemporary
Blackbird	ME	G. Rosen	B
Four Brothers	MD	M. Mazur	MS
Infatuated	M	B. Latchaw	Contemporary
Let's Fall	ME	K. Marcy	M
Magic	M	M. Gettel	Contemporary
Spain	M	Rare Silk	Latin
Sugar	ME	Rare Silk	MS
You Know Its Wrong	M	Rare Silk	M
We Were Meant To Be...	ME	M. Gettel	B