

George Gershwin: A Master of Yale, Broadway, and American Music



George Gershwin (Yale Broadway Masters Series)

by Larry Starr

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

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George Gershwin, a towering figure in the world of music, left an indelible mark on the worlds of Yale, Broadway, and the American Songbook. His extraordinary talent and innovative spirit continue to inspire generations.

Early Life and Education

George Gershwin was born on September 26, 1898, in Brooklyn, New York City. From a young age, he displayed an exceptional talent for music, teaching himself to play the piano by ear. In 1919, he enrolled at the prestigious Yale University, where he studied music theory and composition.

At Yale, Gershwin honed his skills under the tutelage of distinguished professors, including renowned composer Horatio Parker. His early compositions during this period reflected the influence of classical music and established his reputation as a rising star in the musical world.



Broadway Breakthrough

After graduating from Yale in 1918, Gershwin embarked on a successful career on Broadway. His collaborations with his lyricist brother, Ira, resulted in a string of hit musicals that captivated audiences and transformed the American musical theater landscape.

"Swanee" (1920), "Fascinating Rhythm" (1924), and "The Man I Love" (1924) are just a few of the iconic songs that solidified Gershwin's position as one of the most influential composers of his time. His Broadway

triumphs brought him widespread recognition and paved the way for his future endeavors.



George Gershwin on Broadway

American Masterpieces

In addition to his Broadway successes, Gershwin also composed a number of groundbreaking classical works that showcased his mastery of orchestration and harmonic innovation.

His "Rhapsody in Blue" (1924), arguably one of his most famous compositions, seamlessly blends jazz and classical elements, creating a uniquely American masterpiece. "Concerto in F" (1925), another iconic work, demonstrates Gershwin's unparalleled skill as a composer and pianist.

Rhapsody in Blue
By George Gershwin
Arranged by Kirby DeMiller

Rubato

mp *mp* *cresc.* *poco a poco*

mf

mp *mp* *cresc.* *poco a poco*

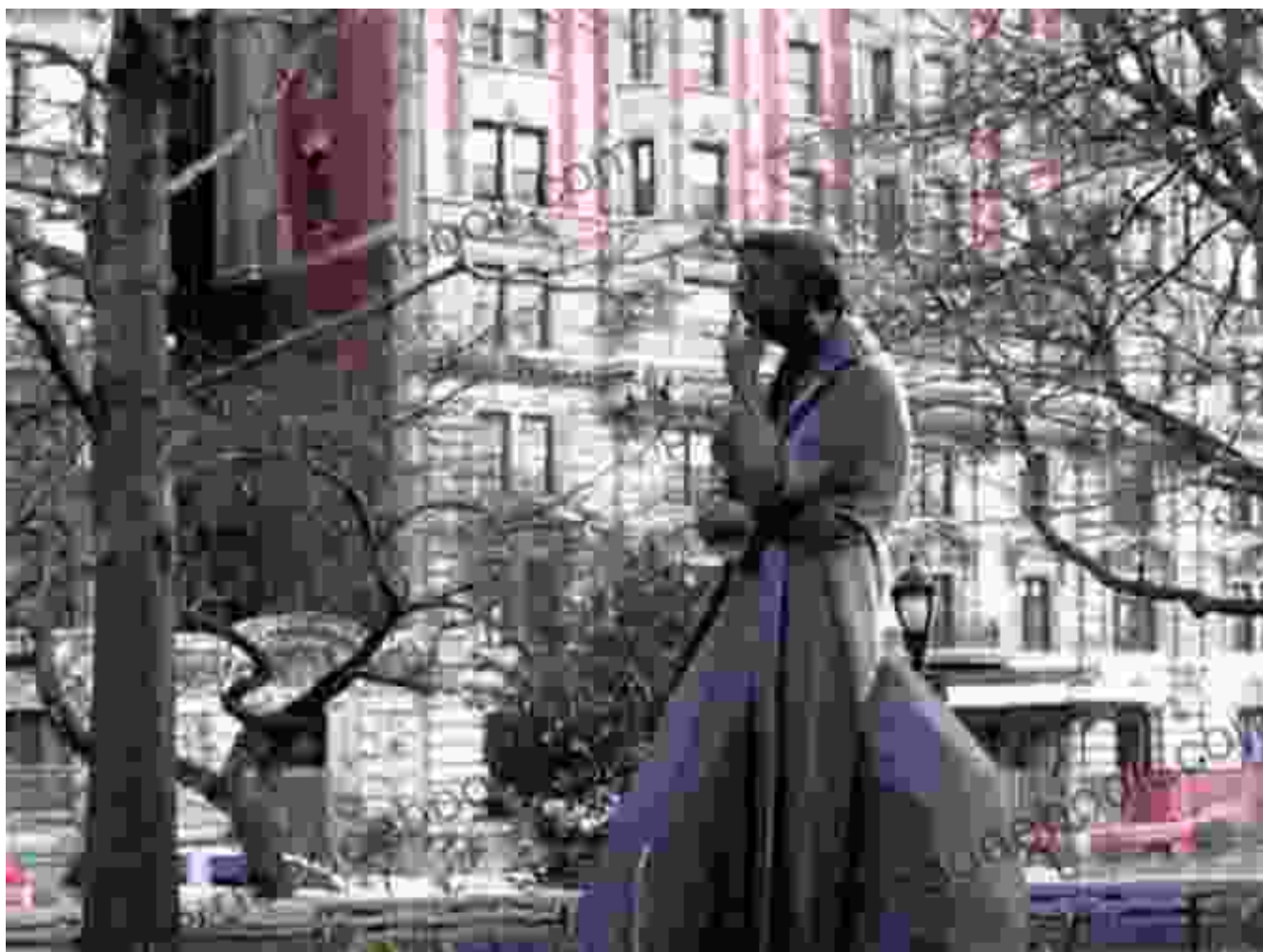
mf

13 18

Legacy and Impact

George Gershwin's untimely death at the age of 38 cut short a brilliant career, but his legacy continues to endure. His compositions have become standards in the American Songbook and are performed by musicians worldwide.

His innovative approach to music, blending elements of classical, jazz, and popular music, revolutionized the American musical landscape. He remains an inspiration to musicians and composers to this day, and his music continues to captivate audiences around the globe.



Statue of George Gershwin in New York City

George Gershwin was a true master of music, whose exceptional talent and groundbreaking compositions left an indelible mark on Yale, Broadway, and American culture as a whole. His legacy continues to inspire and captivate generations, solidifying his position as one of the most influential and beloved American composers of all time.



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