### **Master Songwriter**

Module 11 of Music: Under the Hood

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#### Outline

- · Biography of Harold Arlen
- · Analysis of Stormy Weather

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# **Biography**

- Harold Arlen, 1905-1986
  - Born Hyman Arluck in Buffalo, NY
    - Son of Jewish cantor
    - Loved to sing
    - Began studying piano at 9 but hated practicing
  - Formed a combo (Snappy Trio) as a teenager
    - Wrote arrangements for it.



### **Biography**

- Career
  - Wanted to be a professional singer
    - But his arrangements were always more popular than his singing.
    - Moved to NYC, age 22
  - Met lyricist Ted Koehler
    - They wrote *Get Happy*, 1929, Arlen's first hit.
    - Wrote for Cotton Club, 1930-34.
    - Stormy Weather also a hit.

Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler



# **Biography**

- Career
  - Wizard of Oz
    - Arlen teamed with lyricist Yip Harburg for the movie
    - He felt the movie needed a ballad with a broad, sweeping melody.
    - It came to him while driving on Sunset Blvd...



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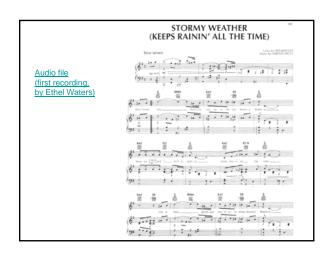
# **Biography**

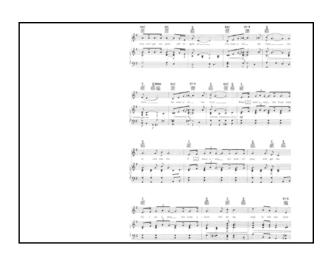
- Career
  - Over the Rainbow
    - Over the Rainbow was cut from the film 3 times.
    - Associate Producer Arthur Freed, who hired Arlen, lobbied to have it restored
    - Ranked Best Song of the Century by Recording Industry Association of America.
    - Named Best Movie Song of All Time by American Film Institute.



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• Also sung by Frank Sinatra,

Lena Horne, Billie Holiday

Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler



