### Master of Musical Theater Module 12 of *Music: Under the Hood*

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> Osher Course August 2017

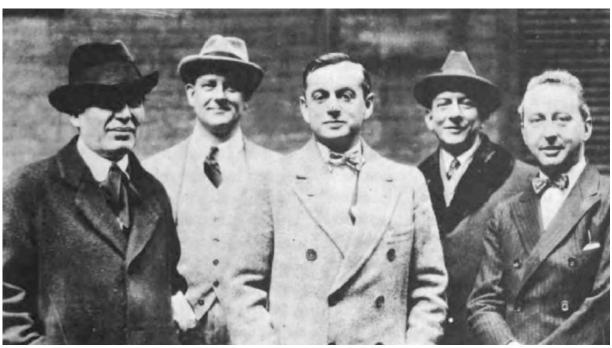
## Outline

- Biography of Jerome Kern
- Analysis of All the Things You Are

- Jerome Kern, 1885-1945
  - Born to Jewish family in Manhattan
    - His mother, an accomplished musician, taught him piano and organ.
    - Wrote songs for high school musical in Newark NJ
  - Dropped out of high school
    - Father disapproved of his ambition to become a composer.



- Musical education
  - In USA
    - Studied piano and harmony at New York College of Music
    - Published first piece at age 17.
  - In Germany
    - Studied music in Heidelberg.
  - In England



M. Gest, P.G. Wodehouse, G. Bolton, R. Comstock, J. Kern in London

### Career

#### - Began in London

- Got a contract to write songs for Broadway versions of London shows.
- Married a British woman and thereafter spent much time in the UK.

### Breakthrough in US

• Wrote 5 songs for *The Girl from Utah*, which put him in demand by Broadway producers.

Kern at age 33



### Career

- Showboat
  - Began collaborating with Oscar Hammerstein in 1925.
  - Wrote *Showboat* with Hammerstein in 1927
  - Everyone thought they were crazy for taking on such a serious theme.
  - But it was a smash hit.
- Movies
  - Wrote scores for several films, particularly after 1935

Hammerstein and Kern



### Career

- Legacy
  - Kern wrote songs for over 100 shows
  - Only *Showboat* is regularly performed today.
  - Yet several of his songs became classics.
  - Especially among jazz musicians

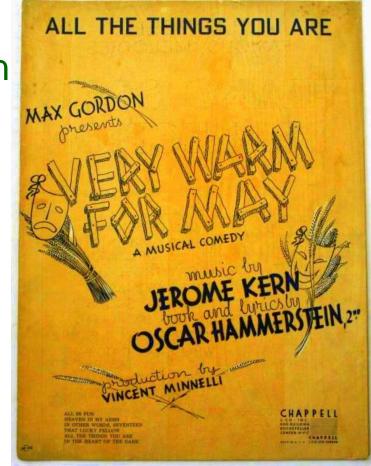


#### Some famous Kern songs (he wrote 700+)

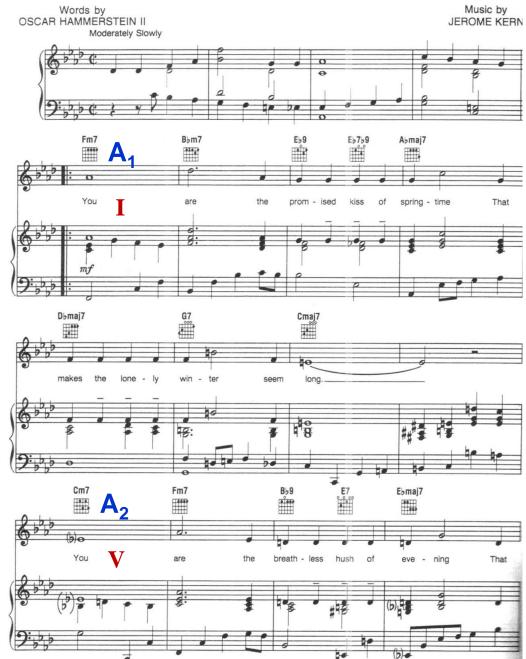
- Ol' Man River, 1927
- Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man, 1927
- Smoke Gets in Your Eyes, 1933
- A Fine Romance, 1936
- The Way You Look Tonight,1936
- All the Things You Are,1939
- I'm Old Fashioned,1942
- Long Ago and Far Away, 1944

## All the Things You Are

- Music by Jerome Kern, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein
  - From Broadway show
    Very Warm for May, 1939
    - The team's last Broadway show.
    - Song used in other shows and films.
  - Known for its sophisticated use of harmony
    - Performed and arranged by many jazz musicians.



#### ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE



#### Audio file (Ella Fitzgerald)

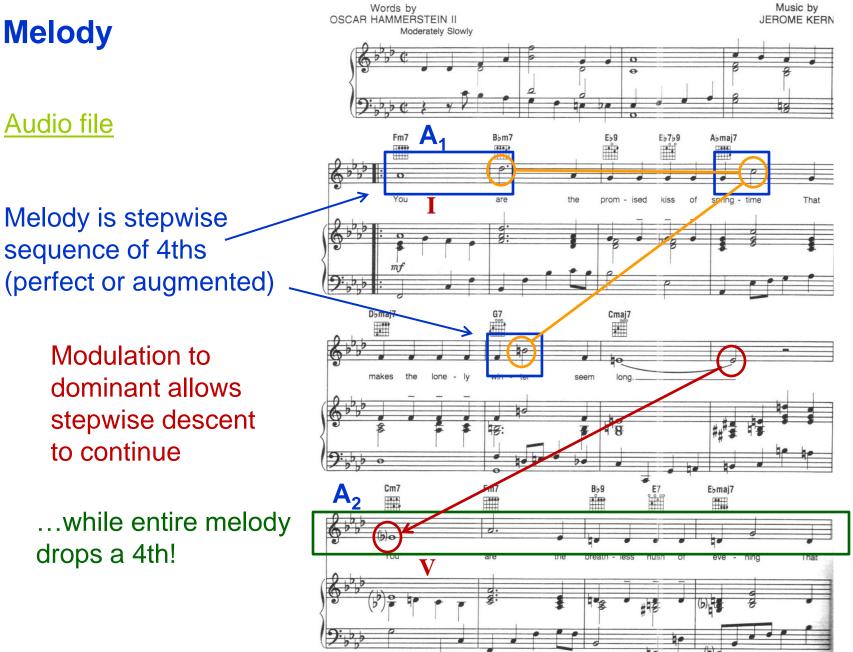
 $A_1A_2BA_3$  form



All the Things Vou Are - 3 - 2



ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE



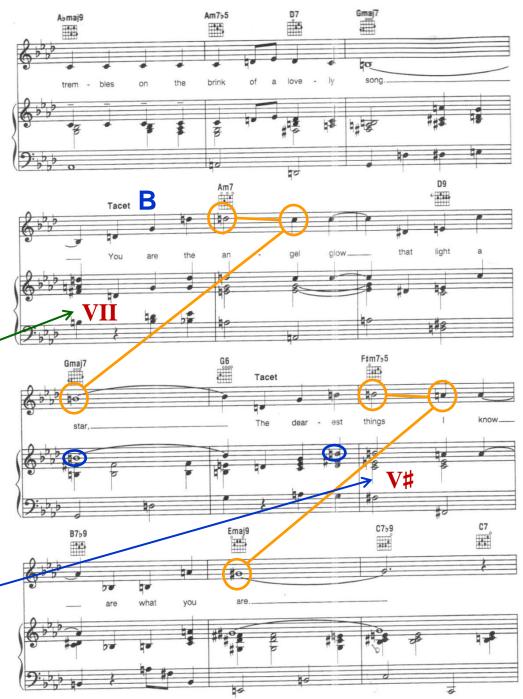
D-C-B<sup>1</sup> descent comes directly from melody!

Transposition to key of G allows D-C-B<sup>\(\exp\)</sup> to form // standard 5-4-3 passing tone in cadence!

Same here, transposed

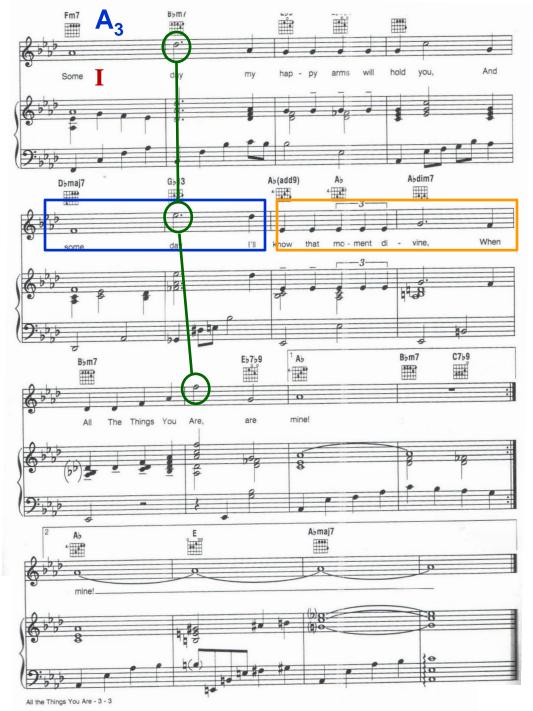
All the Things You Are - 3 - 2

Transposition to key of E allows repeat starting on final B<sup>§</sup>



#### Melody changes here 2-bar extension

Modified melody rises from initial leap to D to form climax.



#### ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE

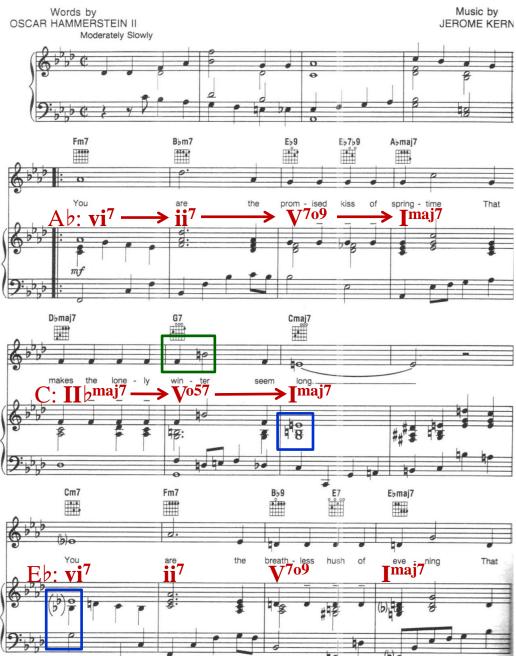
#### Harmony

#### Audio file

Standard vi-ii-V-I progression, but with effective passing tones. Melody establishes tonal center Ab

Final leap of augmented 4<sup>th</sup> in melody strongly suggests modulation to C major.

Smooth transition to dominant due to half-step drop from  $C^{maj7}$  to  $C^{min7}$ 

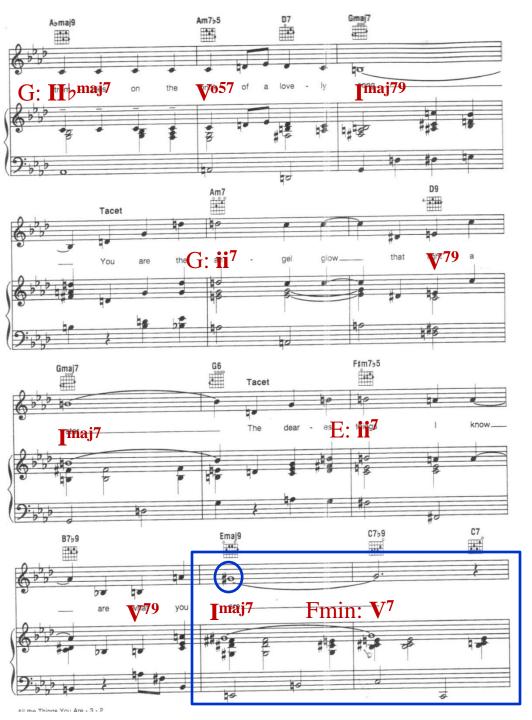


# Same modulation as before leads to G major

Middle section begins in G and again uses **ii-V-I** progression

Same progression in E

Crunch! Pivot on G<sup>#</sup> modulates to C<sup>aug57</sup>, which will resolve to F minor, vi in tonic key, and return us to the melody. The G<sup>#</sup> is respelled to become A<sup>b</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> of F minor.



Modified melody allows us to stay in tonic rather than modulate to C major, rounding out the song.



## All the Things You Are

- The harmony uses full resources of Western tonal system.
  - Every note of the 12-tone chromatic appears as the root of some chord in the song.
    - In addition, the harmony is simply beautiful and allows for Chopinesque nuance in performance.
  - The harmony is not gratuitous as in many jazz arrangements.
    - It is intimately linked to the melody.