Master of Musical Theater

Module 12 of Music: Under the Hood

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> Osher Course October 2018

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Outline

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

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Biography

- 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.



Biography

- 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

Biography

- 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



Biography

- 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



Biography

- 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



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Biography

- 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

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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.

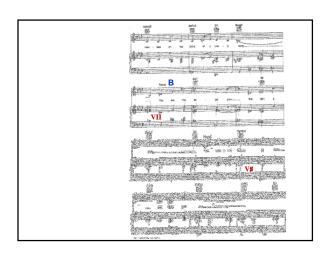
 Known for its sophisticated use of harmony
 - Performed and arranged by many jazz musicians.



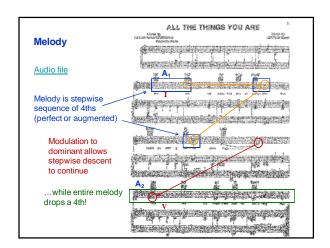
Audio file (Ella Fitzgerald)

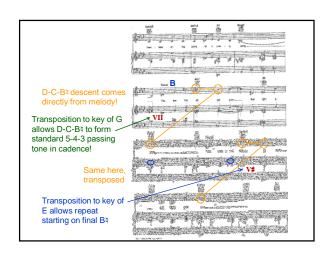
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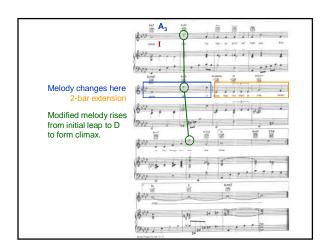
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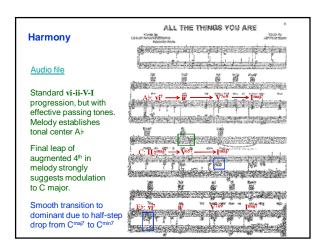


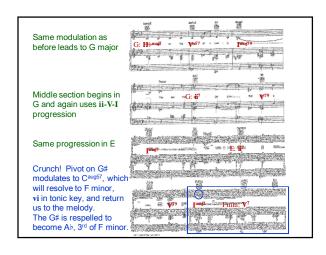


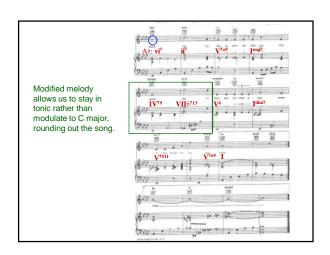












All the Things You Are

- 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.

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