

A Review of Famous Songs of the Past

‘Fascinating Facts’ September 2020

Track 1 Bobby Shafto

Bobby Shafto is an English language folk song. The earliest printed version is in 1805. No-one is quite sure who Bobby Shafto was.

The Blaydon Aces Roly Veitch and fellow guitarist James Birkett joined up as 'The Blaydon Aces'. Their versions are quite traditional in style but the accompaniments behind the vocals are original with dialects quite natural and unforced.

Track 2 Down At The Old Bull & Bush

The Old Bull and Bush is a Grade II listed public house near Hampstead Heath in London which gave its name to the music hall song "Down at the old Bull and Bush" sung by Florrie Forde in 1904.

Florrie Forde (1875-1940), music hall artist, was born on 16 August 1875 in Fitzroy, Melbourne. She first appeared as a singer in a vaudeville programme. On August Bank Holiday 1897, she made her first appearances in London at three music halls—the South London Palace, the Pavilion and the Oxford—in the one evening, singing You Know and I Know. Immediately booked for three years on the circuit, she never looked back. With clear diction, and a commanding stage presence, she had the ability to select songs with catchy choruses and to lead an audience in singing them. Her early successes included Down at the Old Bull and Bush in 1904, which became a music hall anthem. Other numbers that she made popular and recorded included Pack Up Your Troubles, It's a Long Way to Tipperary, Oh! Oh! Antonio, Hold Your Hand Out Naughty Boy, Goodbye-ee and Has Anybody Here Seen Kelly.

Track 3 I Dream of Jeannie With The Light Brown Hair

"Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair" is a parlour song by Stephen Foster (1826-1864). It was published by Firth, Pond & Co. of New York in 1854. Foster wrote the song with his wife Jane McDowell in mind.

Richard Crooks was born in 1900 in New Jersey. After a tour in European cities Crooks returned to the United States and made his American debut in 1930 in Philadelphia. From 1928 to 1945, Crooks was the host of "The Voice of Firestone" radio broadcasts, in which he sang operatic arias, patriotic songs, folk songs, and popular hits such as "People Will Say We're in Love" from Oklahoma! He also appeared on radio broadcasts with Bing Crosby. Health problems forced Crooks to retire in early 1945. He continued to sing at his church and elsewhere. An entire room in his house was devoted to framed, autographed photographs of singers, conductors, and U.S. presidents he had known.

Track 4 Island In The Sun

A song comprised of traditional Jamaican music. Belafonte starred in a film of the same name in 1957.

Harry Belafonte born Harold George "Harry" Belafonte, Jr. (born March 1, 1927) is an American singer, songwriter, actor and social activist. He was dubbed the "King of Calypso" for popularizing the Caribbean musical style. Belafonte is perhaps best known for singing The Banana Boat Song, with its signature lyric "Day-O". Throughout his career he has been an advocate for civil rights and humanitarian causes and was a vocal critic of the policies of the George W. Bush Administration. From 1932 to 1940, he lived with his grandmother in her native country of Jamaica. In the 1940s he became interested in American Negro Theatre.

While primarily known for Calypso, Harry has recorded in many genres, including blues, folk, gospel, show tunes, and American standards. He supported the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and was one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s confidants. He was also active in the anti-apartheid movement. In January 2006 Harry said that if he could choose his epitaph it would be, "Harry Belafonte, Patriot."

Track 5 Windmill In Old Amsterdam

Released in 1965 this song took Ronnie Hilton away from the romantic ballads of his earlier years. Windmill in Old Amsterdam, which eventually sold a million copies, became a fixture across decades of Children's Favourites.

Ronnie Hilton (1926 – 2001) was an English singer and radio presenter. Although almost forgotten now he was one of Britain's most popular singers of the 1950s. He started singing professionally during 1954 after leaving his job in a Leeds engineering factory. A true Yorkshireman, Hilton remained loyal to his roots - especially to Leeds United. He composed, sang and recorded several anthems to the football club he loved. He came to fame by supplying smoothly delivered cover versions of popular American songs during the 1950's.

Track 6 Goodbye Dolly Gray

Goodbye, Dolly Gray is a music hall song by Will D. Cobb (lyrics) and Paul Barnes (music). Popularised as a Boer War anthem, it was written during the earlier Spanish-American War. It has featured in many plays and films; Coward's *Cavalcade* and the movies *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962), *Alfie* (1966) and *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969).

Florrie Forde (1875-1940), music hall artist, was born on 16 August 1875 in Fitzroy, Melbourne. She first appeared as a singer in a vaudeville programme. On August Bank Holiday 1897, she made her first appearances in London at three music halls—the South London Palace, the Pavilion and the Oxford—in the one evening, singing *You Know and I Know*. Immediately booked for three years on the circuit, she never looked back. With clear diction, and a commanding stage presence, she had the ability to select songs with catchy choruses and to lead an audience in singing them. Her early successes included *Down at the Old Bull and Bush* in 1904, which became a music hall anthem. Other numbers that she made popular and recorded included *Pack Up Your Troubles*, *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*, *Oh! Oh! Antonio*, *Hold Your Hand Out Naughty Boy*, *Goodbye-ee* and *Has Anybody Here Seen Kelly*.

Track 7 Daisy, Daisy, A Bicycle Built For Two (Daisy Bell)

Daisy Bell was composed by Harry Dacre in 1892. When Dacre, an English popular composer, first came to the United States, he brought with him a bicycle, for which he was charged import duty. His friend William Jerome, another songwriter, remarked lightly: "It's lucky you didn't bring a bicycle built for two, otherwise you'd have to pay double duty." Dacre was so taken with the phrase "bicycle built for two" that he soon used it in a song.

Tony Paris is a very well-respected vocalist amongst his peers and audiences.

Track 8 Autumn Leaves

Autumn Leaves was originally a 1945 French song "*Les feuilles mortes*" (literally "*The Dead Leaves*") with music by Joseph Kosma and lyrics by poet Jacques Prévert. The American songwriter Johnny Mercer wrote English lyrics in 1947 and Jo Stafford was among the first to perform this version. "*Autumn Leaves*" became a pop standard and a jazz standard in both languages. In 1950, French singer Edith Piaf sang both French and English versions of this song on the radio programme *The Big Show*, hosted by Tallulah Bankhead.

Nathaniel Adams Coles (March 17, 1919 – February 15, 1965), known professionally as **Nat King Cole**, was an American musician who first came to prominence as a leading jazz pianist. He owes most of his popular musical fame to his soft baritone voice, which he used to perform in big band and jazz



genres. He was one of the first black Americans to host a television variety show. Cole fought racism all his life and rarely performed in segregated venues. In 1948, Cole purchased a house in an all-white neighbourhood of Los Angeles. The Ku Klux Klan, still active in Los Angeles well into the 1950s, responded by placing a burning cross on his front lawn. Members of the property-owners association told Cole they did not want any undesirables moving in. Cole retorted, "Neither do I. And if I see anybody undesirable coming in here, I'll be the first to complain." Cole maintained worldwide popularity throughout his life and even since his death.

Track 9 Run Rabbit Run

This song was written for Noel Gay's show *The Little Dog Laughed*, which opened on 11 October 1939, at a time when most of the major London theatres were closed. It was a popular song during World War II, especially after Flanagan and Allen changed the lyrics to poke fun at the Germans (e.g. Run Adolf, Run Adolf, Run, Run, Run...). The lyrics were used as a defiant dig at the allegedly ineffectual Luftwaffe.

Flanagan and Allen were a British singing and comedy double act popular during World War II. Its members were Bud Flanagan (1896–1968) and Chesney Allen (1893–1982). They were first paired in a Florrie Forde revue. As music hall comedians, they would often feature a mixture of comedy and music in their act. Throughout the Second World War they appeared in several films and were both members of *The Crazy Gang*. Flanagan and Allen's songs featured the same, usually gentle, humour for which the duo were known in their live performances, and during the Second World War they reflected the experiences of ordinary people during wartime. Songs like 'We're Going to Hang out the Washing on the Siegfried Line' mocked the German defences (Siegfried Line), while others like 'Miss You' sang of missing one's sweetheart during enforced absences.

Track 10 Black Hills of Dakota

The Black Hills of Dakota is a song, written for the musical film *Calamity Jane*, about the singer's love for, and desire to return to, the Black Hills of South Dakota. The most notable recording of the song was done by Doris Day, issued both on the soundtrack album of the film and as a single.

Doris Day (born Doris Mary Ann Kappelhoff, April 3, 1924) was an American actress, singer, and animal rights activist. With an entertainment career that spanned through almost 50 years, Day started her career as a big band singer in 1939, but only began to be noticed after her first hit recording, *Sentimental Journey*, in 1945. After leaving the Les Brown & His Band of Renown to try a solo career, she started her long-lasting partnership with Columbia Records, which would remain her only recording label. The contract lasted from 1947 to

1967, and included more than 650 recordings, making Day one of the most popular and acclaimed singers of the 20th century.

Track 11 Take Me Back to Dear Old Blighty

Take Me Back to Dear Old Blighty is a music hall song written by Arthur J. Mills, Fred Godfrey and Bennett Scott in 1916. It was popular during the First World War and tells a story of three fictional soldiers on the Western Front suffering from homesickness and their longing to return to "Blighty" - a slang term for Britain.

Stanley Kirkby (1878 – 30 October 1949) was an English baritone singer and variety artist of the early 20th century. Possessing a "pure baritone" voice and with "perfect diction," he was able to sing music from a wide range of genres. He sang ballads and popular songs of the Edwardian era, the First World War and the inter-War period. He sang mostly in music halls and variety theatres and was a popular recording artist.

Track 12 I Remember It Well

I Remember It Well is sung by Maurice Chevalier and Hermione Gingold in the Musical Gigi. Gigi is a 1958 American musical romantic comedy film directed by Vincente Minnelli. The screenplay by Alan Jay Lerner is based on the 1944 novella of the same name by Colette. The film features songs with lyrics by Lerner; music by Frederick Loewe, arranged and conducted by André Previn. The film is considered the last great MGM musical.

Born in Paris, **Maurice Chevalier** made his name as a star in musical comedy, appearing in public as a singer and dancer at an early age. In WW1 he was taken prisoner of war by the Germans and remained a prisoner of war for two years. He made his Hollywood debut in 1928 and signed a contract with Paramount Pictures and played his first American role in *Innocents of Paris*. During his years in Hollywood, Maurice had a reputation as a penny-pincher. When filming at Paramount, he balked at parking his car in the Paramount lot at ten cents a day. After bargaining, he managed to get five cents per day. When performing in English, he always put on a heavy French accent, although his normal spoken English was quite fluent and sounded more American. Chevalier appeared in the movie musical *Gigi* (1958) with Leslie Caron and Hermione Gingold, with whom he shared the song "I Remember It Well". The success of *Gigi* prompted Hollywood to give him an Academy Honorary Award that year for achievements in entertainment. He died in Paris, on New Year's Day 1972, aged 83.

Track 13 He'll Have To Go

He'll Have to Go is an American country and pop hit recorded in 1959 by Jim Reeves. Reeves recorded what became one of country music's biggest hits ever



after listening to a version recorded by singer Billy Brown. The song, written by Joe and Audrey Allison, was inspired after the couple was having difficulty communicating by telephone. Audrey had a soft voice and was unable to speak up so her husband could adequately hear her, so Joe would have his wife place the receiver closer to her mouth.

James Travis 'Jim' Reeves (August 20, 1923 – July 31, 1964) was an American country and popular music singer-songwriter. With records charting from the 1950s to the 1980s, he became well known as a practitioner of the Nashville sound (a mixture of older country-style music with elements of popular music). Known as "Gentleman Jim", his songs continued to chart for years after his death. Reeves died at age 40 in the crash of a private airplane.

Track 14 Everything's Coming Up Roses

A song from the 1959 Broadway musical *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*. Introduced in the musical's production by Ethel Merman, "Everything's Coming Up Roses" became one of Merman's signature songs.

Ethel Merman (January 16, 1908 – February 15, 1984) was an American actress and singer. Known primarily for her belting voice and roles in musical theatre, she has been called "the undisputed First Lady of the musical comedy stage." *Anything Goes* proved to be the first of five Cole Porter musicals in which Merman starred. In addition to the title song, the score included "I Get a Kick Out of You", "You're the Top". She was in the musical *Annie Get your Gun* which opened on May 16, 1946, at the Imperial Theatre, where it ran for nearly three years and 1,147 performances. During that time, Merman took only two vacations and missed only two performances because of illness.

Track 15 Battle of New Orleans

A song written by Jimmy Driftwood. The song describes the 1815 Battle of New Orleans from the perspective of an American soldier. The song tells the tale of the battle with a light tone and provides a rather comical version of what actually happened at the battle.

Anthony James "Lonnie" Donegan MBE (29 April 1931 – 3 November 2002) was known as the "King of Skiffle" and is often cited as a large influence on British musicians who became famous in the 1960s. With a washboard, a tea-chest bass and a cheap Spanish guitar, Donegan entertained audiences with folk and blues songs by artists such as Leadbelly and Woody Guthrie. He travelled to the United States, where he appeared on television on both the Perry Como Show and the Paul Winchell Show. Returning to the UK, Donegan recorded his debut album, *Lonnie Donegan Showcase*, in the summer of 1956, which featured songs by Lead Belly and Leroy Carr, plus "I'm a Ramblin' Man" and "Wabash Cannonball". The popular skiffle style encouraged amateurs to get started, and one of the many skiffle group.

Track 16 Great Balls Of Fire

Great Balls of Fire is a 1957 song recorded by Jerry Lee Lewis on Sun Records and featured in the 1957 movie Jamboree. It was written by Otis Blackwell and Jack Hammer.

Jerry Lee Lewis (born September 29, 1935) is an American rock and roll and country music singer-songwriter and pianist. He is known by the nickname "The Killer" and is often viewed as "rock & roll's first great wild man." An early pioneer of rock and roll music, his 1957 hit "Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On" shot Lewis to fame worldwide. He followed this with "Great Balls of Fire", "Breathless" and "High School Confidential". However, Lewis's rock and roll career faltered in the wake of his marriage to his 13-year-old cousin when he was 22. He had little success in the charts following the scandal and his popularity quickly faded. His live performance fees plummeted from \$10,000 per night to \$250. In the meantime, he was determined to gain back some of his popularity. His live performances at this time were increasingly wild and energetic. In 1968 Lewis made a transition into country music and had hits with songs such as "Another Place, Another Time". His No. 1 country hits included "To Make Love Sweeter For You", "There Must Be More to Love Than This", and "Me And Bobby McGee". In the 21st century Lewis continues to tour to audiences around the world and still releases new albums.

Track 17 Summertime Blues

A song co-written and recorded by American rockabilly artist Eddie Cochran.

Edward Raymond "Eddie" Cochran (October 3, 1938 – April 17, 1960) was an American musician. Cochran's rockabilly songs, such as "Summertime Blues", "C'mon Everybody", and "Somethin' Else", captured teenage frustration and desire in the mid-1950s and early 1960s. He was involved with music from an early age, playing in the school band and teaching himself to play blues guitar as well as piano, bass and drums. His image as a sharply dressed and good-looking young man with a rebellious attitude epitomized the stance of the 1950s rocker, and in death he achieved an iconic status. Cochran died aged 21 after a road accident in a taxi in Chippenham, Wiltshire, during his tour in April 1960. Though his best-known songs were released during his lifetime, more of his songs were released posthumously.

Track 18 Donald Where's Your Trousers by Andy Stewart

Is a comic song about a Scotsman who wears a kilt rather than trousers. It was written by Andy Stewart with music by Neil Grant. When performed by Andy Stewart and the White Heather Group, it was a hit in 1960, reaching #37 in the UK charts and #1 in Canada.

Andy Stewart was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1933, the son of a teacher. He moved to Arbroath as a child, and then trained as an actor at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. He had several international hit singles: "Come in-Come in", "Donald Where's Your Troosers?", "A Scottish Soldier", "Campbeltown Loch", "The Muckin' O' Geordie's Byre", "The Road to Dundee", "The Battle's O'er", "Take Me Back", "Tunes Of Glory", and "Dr. Finlay" (1965). He is also remembered for being the compere of The White Heather Club. This was a BBC Scotland television programme that existed as an annual New Year's Eve party (1957–1968), and also as a weekly early evening series (1960–1968).

Track 19 The Party's Over

The Party's Over is a popular song introduced in the 1956 musical comedy *Bells Are Ringing* by Judy Holliday. Shirley Bassey recorded the song for her first Columbia album "The Fabulous Shirley Bassey".

Dame **Shirley Veronica Bassey**, DBE (born 8 January 1937) is a Welsh singer. She was born above a brothel in a docklands slum in Tiger Bay Cardiff. She was of paternal Nigerian and maternal English descent. She found fame in the mid-1950s and has been called "one of the most popular female vocalists in Britain during the last half of the 20th century". In the US, in particular, she is best known for recording the theme songs to the James Bond films *Goldfinger* (1964), *Diamonds Are Forever* (1971), and *Moonraker* (1979).

Track 20 Little Sir Echo

A song sung by Vera Lynn.

Dame Vera Lynn, widely known as "the Forces' Sweetheart", was an English singer of traditional pop, songwriter and actress, whose musical recordings and performances were enormously popular during the Second World War. During the war she toured Egypt, India, and Burma as part of ENSA, giving outdoor concerts for the troops. The songs most associated with her are "We'll Meet Again", "The White Cliffs of Dover", "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" and "There'll Always Be an England". She remained popular after the war, appearing on radio and television in the UK and the US and recording such hits as "Auf Wiederseh'n Sweetheart" and her UK Number one single "My Son, My Son". Her last single, "I Love This Land", was released to mark the end of the Falklands War. She released the album *Vera Lynn 100* in 2017, to commemorate her centennial year, and it was a number 3 hit, making her the oldest recording artist in the world and first centenarian performer to have an album in the charts. She died on the 18th June 2020.

Track 21 September Song

This is an American pop standard composed by Kurt Weill, with lyrics by Maxwell Anderson, introduced in the 1938 Broadway musical *Knickerbocker Holiday*. It has since been recorded by numerous singers and instrumentalists. It was also used in the 1950 film *September Affair*.

Walter Thomas Huston was a Canadian-born American actor. He was the father of actor and director John Huston, the grandfather of Pablo Huston, Walter Anthony (Tony) Huston, Anjelica Huston. He began his career in vaudeville but once talkies began in Hollywood, he achieved fame in both character roles and as a leading man. Huston remained busy throughout the 1930s and 1940s, both on stage and screen (becoming one of America's most distinguished actors); he performed "September Song" in the original Broadway production of *Knickerbocker Holiday* in 1938.

Track 22 With A Song In My Heart

With A Song In My Heart is a show tune from the 1929 Rodgers and Hart musical *Spring Is Here*.

Doris Day (born Doris Mary Ann Kappelhoff, April 3, 1924) was an American actress, singer, and animal rights activist. With an entertainment career that spanned through almost 50 years, Day started her career as a big band singer in 1939. She made more than 650 recordings, making Day one of the most popular and acclaimed singers of the 20th century. Over the course of her career, Day appeared in 39 films. She was ranked the biggest box-office star, the only woman on that list, for four years (1960- 1964). She received an Academy Award nomination for her performance in *Pillow Talk*. Day made her last film in 1968.

Track 23 Jerusalem

This song is a short poem by William Blake. The date of 1804 on the title page is probably when the plates were begun, but the poem was printed around 1808. Today it is best known as the anthem "**Jerusalem**", with music written by Sir Hubert Parry in 1916. Upon hearing the orchestral version for the first time, King George V said that he preferred "Jerusalem" over "God Save the King" (the national anthem). "Jerusalem" is considered to be England's most popular patriotic song.

Track 24 'A' You're Adorable

Released in 1948 this was one of Perry Como's most popular hits.

Pierino Ronald "Perry" Como (May 18, 1912 – May 12, 2001) was an American singer and television personality. "Mr. C.", as he was nicknamed,

sold millions of records and pioneered a weekly musical variety television show, which was one of the most successful in television history. Como was seen weekly on television from 1949 to 1963. His television shows and seasonal specials were broadcast throughout the world. Como's appeal spanned generations and he was widely respected for both his professional standards and the conduct in his personal life. His life was summed up in these few words: "50 years of music and a life well lived. An example to all." One of the many factors in his success was Como's insistence on his principles of good taste; if he considered something to be in bad or poor taste, it was not in the show or broadcast. Another was his naturalness; the man viewers saw on the screen was the same person who could be encountered behind a supermarket shopping cart, at a bowling alley, or in a kitchen making breakfast.

Track 25 The Girl That I Marry

The Girl That I Marry is a song from the 1946 musical *Annie Get Your Gun*, written by Irving Berlin. *Annie Get Your Gun* is a 1950 American musical comedy film loosely based on the life of sharpshooter Annie Oakley. Betty Hutton played Annie with Howard Keel (making his film debut) as Frank Butler and Benay Venuta as Dolly Tate.

Raymond Middleton, (February 8, 1907 – April 10, 1984), was an American character actor. Born in Chicago, Illinois, Middleton was the first actor to play Superman in public, which he did on July 3, 1940, during the 1939 New York World's Fair's "Superman Day". In 1946, he co-starred with Ethel Merman in the original Broadway production of *Annie Get Your Gun*.

Track 26 Let's Call The Whole Thing Off

'Let's Call the Whole Thing Off' is a song written by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin for the 1937 film *Shall We Dance*, where it was introduced by Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers as part of a celebrated dance duet on roller skates. The plot shows Peter P. Peters (Fred Astaire), dancing for a ballet company in Paris. Peters secretly wants to blend classical ballet with modern jazz dancing, and when he sees a photo of famous tap dancer Linda Keene (Ginger Rogers), he falls in love with her.

Louis Armstrong was an American trumpeter, composer, singer and occasional actor who was one of the most influential figures in jazz. With his instantly recognizable gravelly voice, Armstrong was also an influential singer, demonstrating great dexterity as an improviser, bending the lyrics and melody of a song for expressive purposes. He was also very skilled at scat singing. Armstrong is renowned for his charismatic stage presence and voice almost as much as for his trumpet playing. Armstrong's influence extends well beyond jazz, and by the end of his career in the 1960s, he was widely regarded as a profound influence on popular music in general. Armstrong was one of the first truly popular African-American entertainers to "cross over", whose skin

color was secondary to his music in an America that was extremely racially divided at the time.

Ella Fitzgerald was an American jazz singer often referred to as the First Lady of Song, Queen of Jazz, and Lady Ella. She was noted for her purity of tone, impeccable diction, phrasing and intonation, and a "horn-like" improvisational ability, particularly in her scat singing. In 1993, Fitzgerald capped off her fifty-nine year career with her last public performance. Three years later, she died at the age of 79, following years of decline in her health. After her death, Fitzgerald's influence lived on through her fourteen Grammy Awards, National Medal of Arts, Presidential Medal of Freedom, and tributes in the form of stamps, music festivals, and theatre namesakes.

Track 27 September In the Rain

September in the Rain is a popular song by Harry Warren and Al Dubin, published in 1937. The song was introduced by James Melton in the film *Melody for Two*. It has been recorded by many artists since.

Sarah Lois Vaughan (March 27, 1924 – April 3, 1990) was an American jazz singer, described as having "one of the most wondrous voices of the 20th century." Nicknamed "Sassy", "The Divine One" and "Sailor" (for her salty speech), Sarah Vaughan was a Grammy Award winner. At the age of 18 she was immediately thrust into stardom after a winning amateur night performance at Harlem's Zeus Theater. She gave concerts and toured right up till the time of her death, playing with many famous jazz musicians. She won the highest honour in jazz the Jazz Masters Award in 1989.

Track 28 Runaway

Runaway is a number-one Billboard Hot 100 song made famous by Del Shannon in 1961. It was written by Shannon and keyboardist Max Crook, and became a major international hit. It is on the list of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.

Del Shannon (born Charles Weedon Westover; December 30, 1934 – February 8, 1990) was an American rock and roll and country musician, and singer-songwriter who is best known for his 1961 No. 1 billboard hit 'Runaway'. Shannon followed with *Hats Off to Larry*. *Runaway* and 'Hats Off to Larry' were both recorded in a day. After these hits, Shannon was unable to keep his momentum in the U.S., but continued his success in England, where he had always been more popular. In 1963, he became the first American to record a cover version of a song by the Beatles: his 'From Me to You' charted in the US before the Beatles' version.

Track 29 There's Always Room At Our House

A hit for Guy Mitchell released in 1951.

Guy Mitchell, born Albert George Cernik (February 22, 1927 – July 1, 1999) was an American pop singer, successful in his homeland, the U.K. and Australia. As an international recording star of the 1950s he achieved record sales in excess of 44 million units and this included six million-selling singles. In the fall of 1957, Mitchell starred in his own ABC variety show, The Guy Mitchell Show.

Track 30 The Loveliest Night of the Year

The Loveliest Night of the Year is a popular song. The music was first published as a waltz called "Sobre las olas" ("Over the Waves") in 1888 written by Juventino P. Rosas. In 1950 the music was adapted by Irving Aaronson with lyrics by Paul Francis Webster for the movie The Great Caruso. It was sung by Mario Lanza and became one of the most popular songs of 1951.

Mario Lanza (January 31, 1921 – October 7, 1959) was an American tenor, actor, and Hollywood movie star of the late 1940s and the 1950s. After appearing at the Hollywood Bowl in 1947, Lanza signed a seven-year contract with MGM's head, Louis B. Mayer, who saw his performance and was impressed by his singing. His movie debut was in *That Midnight Kiss* (1949) with Kathryn Grayson and Ethel Barrymore. The following year, in *The Toast of New Orleans*, his song "Be My Love" became his first million-selling hit. In 1951, he played the role of Enrico Caruso his tenor idol, in the biopic, *The Great Caruso*, with the song "The Loveliest Night of the Year". Lanza was known to be "rebellious, tough, and ambitious", and during most of his film career, he suffered from addictions to overeating and alcohol which had a serious effect on his health and his relationships with directors, producers and cast members. Hollywood columnist Hedda Hopper writes that "his smile, which was as big as his voice, was matched with the habits of a tiger cub, impossible to housebreak". She adds that he was the "last of the great romantic performers". He died at only 38.