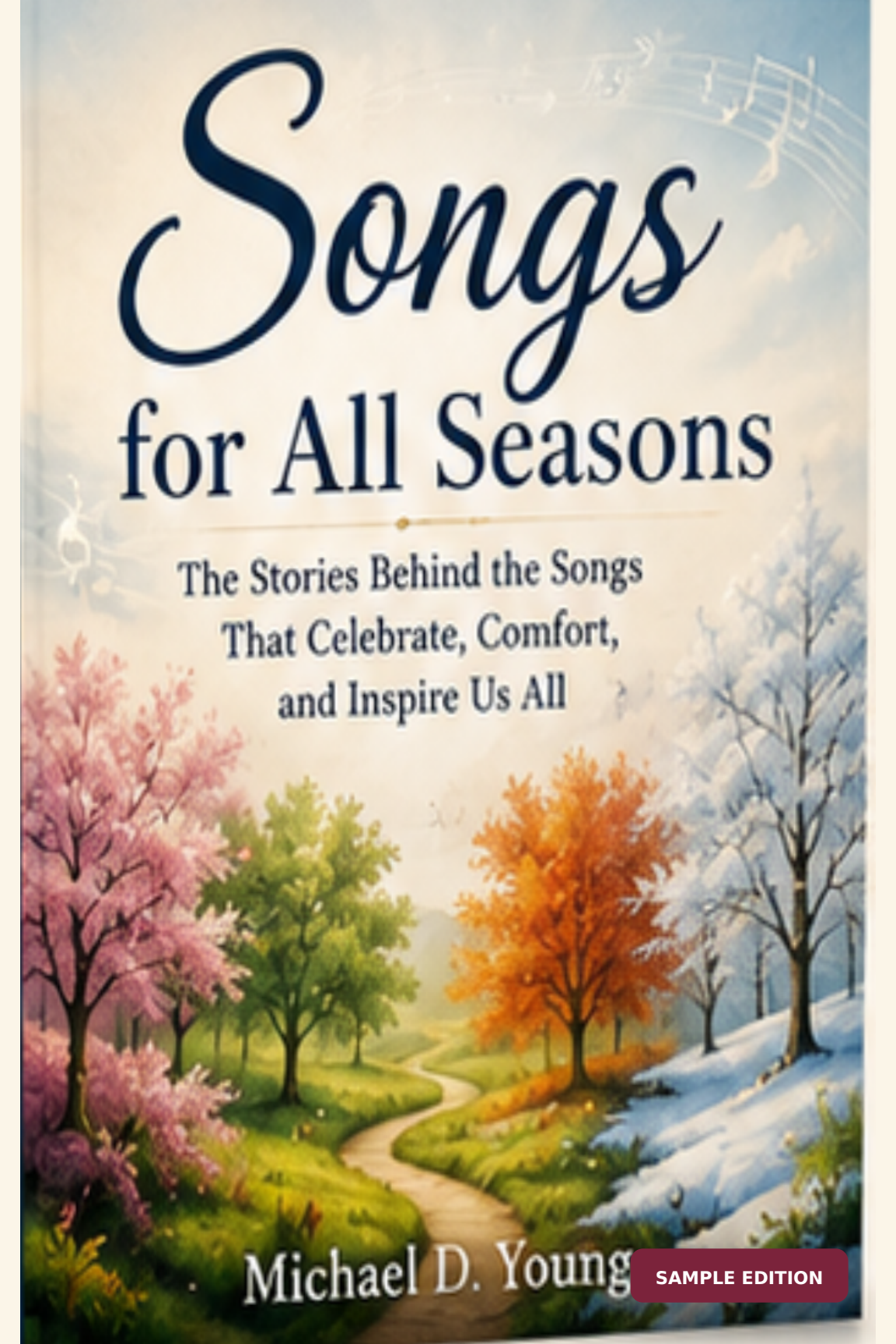




Songs for All Seasons

The Stories Behind the Songs
That Celebrate, Comfort,
and Inspire Us All

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SAMPLE EDITION

Every Song Has a Story

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Some songs have been around so long, barely anyone remembers how they got started. But surely, people haven't been singing "Happy Birthday" the same since the dawn of time, right? Every popular song started as the spark of an idea in someone's head and grew into something that can get stuck in many other heads.

In "Songs for All Seasons", I'll dive into the history of the most beloved songs for every season, seasons of celebration, seasons of gratitude, and seasons of anticipation. In each section, you'll read about the history of the song and then, copyright willing, will dive into a performance of the song. These are songs that define us, and now you are going to find out why.

Happy Birthday to You

Chances are, you are going to hear this song at least one a year. It has been translated into many languages, and groups of well-wishers spontaneously break out in singing it all over the globe. It has been recognized as the most recognized song in the English language, and it has been translated into many other languages, who often use it in conjunction with their own birthday traditions.

The tune that is used for “Happy Birthday” is easy to pin down, though it was originally set with other words. The song was called “Good Morning to All”, which was published in a collection put together by Patty and Mildred Hill in 1893. Some say that the sisters composed the tune themselves and others that they took the tune from someone else.

The original lyrics were:

THE ORIGINAL LYRICS (1893)

Good morning to you!
Good morning to you!
Good morning, dear teacher,
Good morning to all!



Happy Birthday to You



Both Mildred and Patty were passionate educators. Patty was a preschool and kindergarten teacher, and Mildred was a Sunday school teacher and composer. The song was originally meant to be sung with Patty's kindergarten students.

They did copyright "Good Morning to All", and even tried to sue a Broadway playwright later when they used "Happy Birthday to You" in a Broadway musical, called *The Band Wagon*, though they were not successful.

The song appeared with this melody and the lyrics that are similar to what we know today in 1912. But when it appeared, it wasn't credited to anyone. The lyrics were updated, and it was published in a songbook by Robert Coleman in 1924 and this time, it credited the Hill sisters. The Summy Company copyrighted the song in 1935, and it was bought again in 1988 by Warner/Chappell music, who made a lot of money charging other people to use it in movies and TV shows. This is actually why many restaurants have come up with their own unique birthday songs, so they would not have to pay royalties for using the song in public.

For a long time, it was assumed to be under copyright until the copyright claim was struck down in 2016, after a group of artists and filmmakers sued Warner/Chappell for the rights of the song. They won the settlement allowing it to enter the public domain.

Warner/Chappell also agreed to pay back over \$14 million they charged to other groups over the years for the use of the song.

The earliest published version of the words used the name "John" as a placeholder name that could be swapped out for the name of the birthday person. Today, you can finally sing it to whomever you want, wherever you want.

One tune. Millions of birthdays. A classroom greeting song became one of the most recognizable melodies in the world.

THE NEXT SONG IS WAITING

Continue Through Every Season

Keep exploring the songs you already know.

Patriotic favorites such as The Star-Spangled Banner, America the Beautiful, and Battle Hymn of the Republic; Easter hymns including Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Amazing Grace, and In the Garden; plus enduring songs such as Danny Boy, Auld Lang Syne, and How Can I Keep from Singing?.



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