

It's All About YOU! Clues for Party Guests

People often wonder what goes on in a jazz musician's mind during improvisation. Even though these tunes are performed solo piano style, the lyrics played an important part inside my head and out of my fingers. I feel each of these songs has a wonderful melody to bounce off of, inspirational harmony to play around with, and clever lyrics by some of the greatest teams of composers and songwriters in history. I encourage you to check out the complete lyrics to these timeless tunes!

1. _____ (Stevland Morris 1973)

*Stevland Morris wrote this popular hit in 1973 – this is the most recent tune on this album – it was covered by Ella Fitzgerald (who took the line “apple of my eye” and segued into a different tune about green apples.)

2. _____ (Victor Schertzinger/Johnny Mercer 1941)

*‘I recall’ this song (and the next) make a nice romantic medley – both end with the word ‘You’. This tune plays immediately into track #3...

3. _____ (Hoagy Carmichael/Ned Washington 1938)

*These lyrics speak about being in close proximity to you.

4. _____ (Harry Warren/Mack Gordon 1942)

*You’ll always be unique to me – even though there will be more lovers!

5. _____ (George & Ira Gershwin/Dubose Heyward 1935)

*Passionate love song from the Gershwin Brothers’ opera (Pianist Debbie Denke’s personal favorite tune on this album.)

6. _____ (Jimmy Van Heusen/Johnny Burke 1944)

*This song gives advice like, “Don’t count stars or you might stumble” - So you better watch out, or else...

7. _____ (Gene de Paul/Don Raye 1941)

*A tragic ballad about the dark side of love, this tune debuted in a show with comedians Abbott & Costello called, “Keep ‘Em Flying”. This was one of Billie Holiday’s many tunes about love lost.

8. _____ (Cole Porter 1934)

*Originally sung by Ethel Merman, this Cole Porter show tune had an alternate set of non-drug reference lyrics. (During the first half of this tune Ms. Denke envisioned Liberace on too much caffeine.) Sesame Street featured puppet “Ethel Mermaid” singing this to a school of fish to teach the letter “U”.

*** INTERMISSION TIME ***

Host may serve dessert while guests discuss & learn titles to the first half.

9. _____ (Leo Friedman/Beth Slater Whitson 1910)

*The oldest tune on this album – its verse may be unfamiliar, but the chorus to this waltz is well known in barbershop quartet circles.

10. _____ (Leigh Harline/Ned Washington 1940)

*Jiminy Cricket sang this during Walt Disney's Pinocchio – (see if you can catch a few other twinkling references tossed in.)

11. _____ (George & Ira Gershwin 1928)

*Hugs go to Gershwin again for another lovely tune. This is Debbie Denke's salute to both her father Frank Denke and Errol Garner. Frank's handwritten transcription of Errol's arrangement is featured on the CD artwork. She says, "This rich ballad style sends me back in time to hearing my dad's piano flowing through The St. Francis Hotel."

12. _____ (Jimmy Van Heusen/Johnny Mercer 1939)

*This one starts with a chorus of improvisation before you get into this tune – The story behind this is composer Jimmy Van Heusen gave this catchy melody to lyricist Johnny Mercer who decided to work on the lyrics while taking a train trip. Instantly, the method of transportation gave birth to the first line of the lyrics, 'I took a trip on a train, and...'

13. _____ (J. Fred Coots 1938)

*A bartender's dream tune – "Like a summer with a thousand Julys – you intoxicate my soul with your eyes" & other lyrics describe the buzz both love and drinks may do to a person.

14. _____ (Cole Porter 1954)

*Cole Porter's wrote the following romantic 'stalker' lyrics: "I'd love to gain complete control of you, and handle even the heart and soul of you" for this tune from the musical *Silk Stockings*.

15. _____ (Cole Porter 1944)

*Most common thing said on Valentine's Day – Clever Cole Porter purposefully wrote satirically banal lyrics (and apologized for them) during the set-up for this tune from the stage musical, *Mexican Hayride*.

16. **It Had To Be YOU** _____ (Isham Jones/Gus Kahn 1924)

Debbie Denke –vocals, Robert Kim Collins – bass, Bones Howe – drums

Now's the time to get out your lyric sheets & sing along with the trio during the second half of *It Had To Be You*.