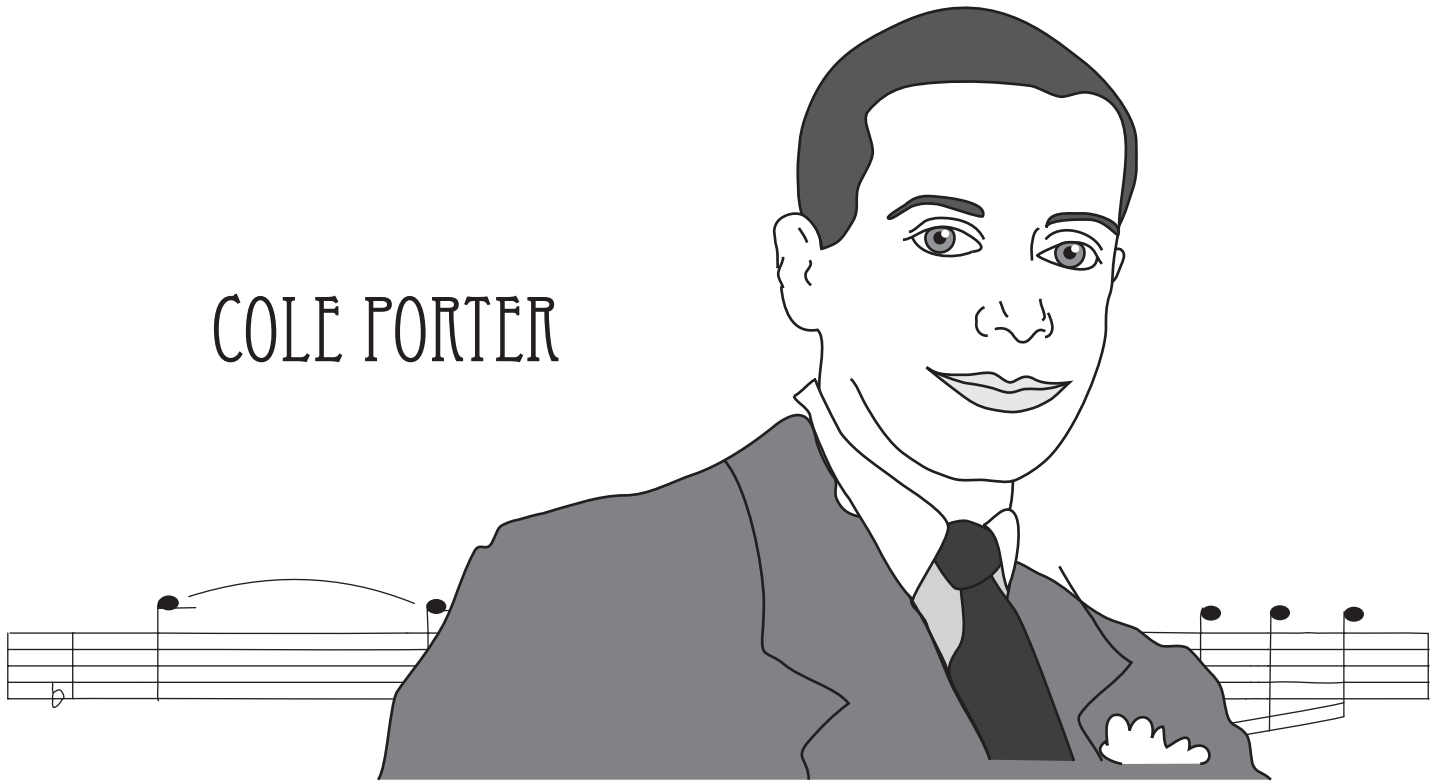


COLE PORTER



Cole Porter was born in Indiana in 1891. At a young age, he was enrolled in music lessons, but his family wanted him to be a lawyer. He enrolled in Yale as a young man, where he sang in the school's glee club and wrote many songs, including the school's fight song which is still sung today. He moved on to law school after Yale, but soon realized he would rather pursue his passion for music. He continued his studies of music and by 1913 had his first song performed on Broadway.

He moved to Paris a few years later and used his experiences there to write the musical *Paris*, which debuted in 1928 and became his first successful Broadway show. Work slowed down as the Depression took hold of the country, but in the mid-1930s he was approached to write a musical comedy about the goings-on between the passengers of a luxury ocean liner. The show, *Anything Goes*, was an immediate success and is still a favorite musical to this day. *Anything Goes* contains many classic songs of his, including "Let's Misbehave", "You're the Top", and "I Get a Kick Out of You". Shortly after the success of *Anything Goes*, he was hurt while horseback riding, which affected his work. He wrote the scores for a few movie musicals, but made his triumphant return to Broadway with *Kiss Me, Kate*, a musical comedy based on Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. It grew to be his biggest hit, running for over 1,000 performances on Broadway and 400 in London. However, in the years after *Kiss Me, Kate*'s success, his injuries began to cause complications and he retired from songwriting. He is remembered for writing some of the most famous American songs that have been performed over and over, including "Night and Day", "Begin the Beguine", and "I've Got You Under My Skin".



The majority of the Cole Porter songs we still sing today are known as “standards”. These are songs that were written a long time ago, but many people know, and many musicians still perform to this day. Name three other “standards” that you know.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Cole Porter was known for having a great command of language and rhythm. His lyrics not only seemed to match the mood and melody of his songs, but they were witty and meaningful, and used a wide range of vocabulary.

On the lines below, write a short poem in the style of one of Cole Porter’s songs. Use the words below as inspiration. Don’t forget to exercise your sense of humor, and try you best to make it rhyme!

Oh, my dear, you _____

You’ve always _____

But when you _____

That’s why _____ !

