

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/harold-arden-and-his-songs/>

Here are five key points extracted from the video:

1. ****Golden Age of American Popular Song****: The period from the 1920s to the 1960s is recognized as a golden age for American popular music, marked by legendary composers like George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, and Harold Arlen, who contributed significantly to Broadway, Hollywood, and the recording industry.
2. ****Harold Arlen's Notable Works****: Although primarily known for "Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz*, Arlen wrote nearly 500 songs, including other famous pieces like "Stormy Weather." His music, while perhaps less recognized than that of his contemporaries, is celebrated for its quality and innovation.
3. ****Collaboration with African American Artists****: Arlen had a significant and respectful collaboration with Black artists during a time of segregation. He worked at The Cotton Club and partnered with prominent singers like Ethel Waters and Lena Horne, establishing close relationships that highlighted his appreciation for the contributions of African American musicians.
4. ****Innovative Song Structure****: Arlen was known for breaking conventional song structures, often writing longer compositions (termed "tapeworm songs") that extended beyond the standard 32-bar format. This innovative approach allowed for greater musical expression, exemplified in songs like "Blues in the Night" and "The Man That Got Away."
5. ****Musical Legacy and Influence****: Despite his own success as a performer and composer, Arlen's influence reached generations of musicians, including Stephen Sondheim, who admired his craftsmanship and the emotional depth of his compositions. Arlen's background as a singer and arranger played a crucial role in his musical creations, reflecting his passion for the interplay between music and lyrics.