

Write On, Irving Berlin: A Deep Dive into the Life and Legacy of a Musical Legend



Write On, Irving Berlin! by Christopher Anne Robinson-Easley

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

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Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 32 pages

Recaps : Included



: The Man Behind the Music

Irving Berlin is widely regarded as one of the most prolific and influential composers and lyricists in American history. His songs have been performed by countless artists worldwide and have become the soundtrack of countless lives. But who was the man behind the music? In her meticulously researched and engaging biography, *Write On, Irving Berlin*, author Christopher Anne Robinson Easley paints a vivid portrait of the legendary artist, exploring his early years, his rise to fame, and his enduring legacy.

Early Life and Influences

Irving Berlin was born Israel Baline in Temun, Russia, in 1888. His family immigrated to the United States when he was five years old, settling in the Lower East Side of New York City. Berlin's early life was marked by poverty and hardship, but he found solace in music. He began singing and playing the piano at a young age, and by his teens, he was writing his own songs.

Berlin's musical influences were diverse, ranging from traditional Jewish folk songs to the popular music of the day. He was particularly drawn to the music of Tin Pan Alley, a thriving music industry centered around New York City. In 1907, Berlin published his first song, "Marie from Sunny Italy," which became an instant hit. This success launched his career as a songwriter and music publisher.

Rise to Fame: Broadway and Hollywood

Berlin's early success as a songwriter led him to Broadway, where he wrote songs for a number of popular musicals and revues. In 1914, he composed the score for the musical *Watch Your Step*, which featured the hit song "Alexander's Ragtime Band." This song became one of Berlin's most famous and enduring compositions and helped to solidify his reputation as a leading composer.

In the 1920s, Berlin expanded his reach into Hollywood, writing songs for a number of films. His songs for the film *The Jazz Singer* (1927) are credited with helping to usher in the era of sound films. Berlin continued to write for films throughout his career, penning some of the most iconic songs in Hollywood history, including "White Christmas" (1942) and "God Bless America" (1938).

Personal Life and Legacy

Berlin was married twice, first to Dorothy Goetz in 1912 and then to Ellin Mackay in 1926. He had three children: Irving Berlin Jr., Mary Ellin Berlin, and Elizabeth Irving Berlin. Berlin was a private person who rarely gave interviews or spoke publicly about his personal life. However, he was known for his generosity and his commitment to his family and friends.

Berlin died in New York City in 1989 at the age of 101. He left behind a vast legacy of music that continues to be performed and enjoyed by people around the world. His songs have been translated into dozens of languages and have been used in countless films, television shows, and commercials. Berlin's music is a testament to his talent, his creativity, and his enduring love for his country.

: The Enduring Legacy of Irving Berlin

Irving Berlin was a true American original whose music has touched the lives of millions of people around the world. His songs are a reflection of the American experience, capturing the joys, sorrows, and aspirations of a nation. Berlin's legacy is one of creativity, innovation, and enduring popularity. His music will continue to be enjoyed for generations to come, reminding us of the power of music to inspire, uplift, and unite.

Christopher Anne Robinson Easley's *Write On, Irving Berlin* is a valuable addition to the literature on this legendary composer. Easley's meticulous research and engaging writing style make this book a must-read for anyone interested in Irving Berlin, American music, or the history of popular culture.



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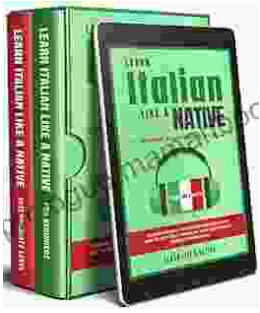
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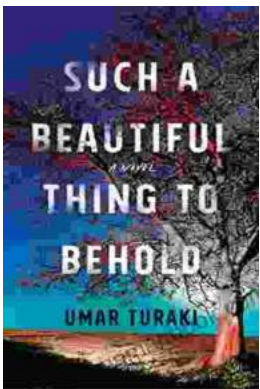
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