

As Thousands Cheer: The Life of Irving Berlin

Irving Berlin was one of the most successful and influential songwriters in American history. His songs have been sung by millions of people around the world, and they have become an enduring part of our culture. In *As Thousands Cheer*, Laurence Bergreen tells the story of Berlin's life and career, from his humble beginnings as a Russian immigrant to his rise to stardom as the "King of Tin Pan Alley." Along the way, we learn about the personal struggles and triumphs that shaped Berlin's music, and the enduring impact of his songs on American culture.

A Russian Immigrant in America

Irving Berlin was born in Tyumen, Russia, in 1888. His family immigrated to the United States when he was five years old, and they settled in New York City's Lower East Side. Berlin's father was a cantor, and his mother was a homemaker. Berlin began singing and playing the piano at a young age, and he soon began writing his own songs. He dropped out of school at the age of 14 to pursue a career in music.



As Thousands Cheer: The Life Of Irving Berlin

by Laurence Bergreen

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

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Screen Reader : Supported



The Tin Pan Alley Years

Berlin's first job in the music industry was as a song plugger for a music publishing company. He would sing and play his songs for potential buyers, and he soon became known for his catchy melodies and clever lyrics. In 1907, Berlin wrote his first hit song, "Marie from Sunny Italy." The song was a huge success, and it launched Berlin's career as a songwriter. Over the next few years, Berlin wrote a string of hit songs, including "Alexander's Ragtime Band," "Oh, How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning," and "God Bless America."

Broadway and Hollywood

In the 1920s, Berlin began writing songs for Broadway musicals. His first Broadway show, *Watch Your Step*, was a huge success, and it ran for over 500 performances. Berlin went on to write songs for many other Broadway shows, including *The Cocoanuts*, *Face the Music*, and *Call Me Madam*. In the 1930s, Berlin began writing songs for Hollywood films. His first film score was for the 1935 film *Top Hat*, and he went on to write songs for many other films, including *Follow the Fleet*, *Swing Time*, and *Holiday Inn*.

The Legacy of Irving Berlin

Irving Berlin died in 1989 at the age of 101. He left behind a legacy of over 1,500 songs, many of which have become American classics. Berlin's songs have been sung by everyone from Frank Sinatra to Elvis Presley to Barbra Streisand. They have been featured in countless films, television

shows, and Broadway musicals. And they continue to be enjoyed by people all over the world.

As Thousands Cheer is the definitive biography of Irving Berlin. Laurence Bergreen has written a captivating account of Berlin's life and career, and he has provided a rich and nuanced portrait of the man behind the music. This book is a must-read for anyone who loves Irving Berlin's music, or for anyone who is interested in the history of American popular music.

Free Download Your Copy Today

As Thousands Cheer is available now from all major booksellers. Free Download your copy today and learn the story of one of the most successful and influential songwriters in American history.



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