

# SONGWRITERS AND THEIR SONGS

from John Hoey

Songwriting is a difficult art. To write songs which have remained popular for many generations is a tribute indeed to those writers who managed to do so. Golden Days Radio playlists are alive with such songs and, by knowing something about the lives and modus operandi of the craftsmen and women who produced such timeless music and lyrics, we can gain a much better appreciation of their work.

For example, Irving Berlin's 'Always' has ever been a popular love song, yet it takes on another level of significance when you know Irving's situation at the time of its writing. In 1912 Irving married Dorothy Goetz. Tragically she contracted typhoid on their honeymoon and died shortly afterwards. Irving was naturally distraught, but in the early 1920s he fell seriously in love with Ellin Mackay. Ellin was the daughter of a very wealthy industrialist and, for the religious and social reasons which were prevalent at the time, her father was bitterly opposed to Ellin marrying Irving. So he banished Ellin to Europe for a year. But Irving persisted and, when Ellin returned, they eloped in 1926 much to the father's chagrin. Irving wrote 'Always' specifically for Ellin while they were separated, so now whenever I hear that song my mind wanders to the predicament he so resolutely faced, and also to the fact that he and Ellin had so many happy years together. 'What'll I Do' was written in the same period. Ellin died in 1988 aged 85, and Irving in 1989 aged 101. What a wonderful partnership. And finally — just to show the generosity of the man — significantly, he assigned all royalties from 'Always' to his father in law.

Irving Berlin and Cole Porter were somewhat unique in that they wrote their own music and lyrics. Most other songs had a composer, and a lyricist. In some cases they were married couples such as Alan and Marilyn Bergman, or two people married to others who had a long professional relationship — for instance Betty Comden and Adolph Green wrote together for six decades, including Leonard Bernstein's first forays into musicals. In a very large number of instances the songs may be extremely well known, but the originators are not.

Not all songs were written in such hopeful circumstances as 'Always'. For example take 'That Lucky Old Sun':

Haven Gillespie, sadly, had a very serious problem with alcohol. One day, while trying to kick start his day after a prodigious drinking bout, he saw the sun rising over some nearby church steeples. So he sat down and penned "Up in the morning, out on the job, work like a devil for my pay.

But that lucky old sun got nothin' to do, but roll around heaven all day." He also wrote 'Breezin' Along With The Breeze' and 'You Go To My Head' amongst others.

Haven may not be a person with a great public profile, but popular song history is full of characters in the unknown army of successful songwriters. William Zinsser wrote about Harry Warren (Affair to Remember, 42nd Street, Jeepers Creepers, I Had the Craziest Dream) "He is the invisible man, his career a prime example of the oblivion that cloaked so many writers who cranked out good songs for bad movies."

The vast majority of popular songs from the '20s to the '50s were the by-product of musical revues or Broadway musicals and Hollywood films. Some, as we have seen in Irving Berlin's early work, were just personal ideas and fantasies. One intriguing song in a relatively modern film is 'Windmills of Your Mind', written for a big scene from 'The Thomas Crown Affair'. Steve McQueen, trying to plan the big heist, takes himself aloft in a glider hoping to clear his mind of his anxieties. Lyricist Marilyn Bergman, an ex-student of psychology and English, used the vision of the glider — lazily spiralling in the thermals — to link to Steve's character contending with the never ending circles of questions and fears that pursue anxious people.

'Round — like a circle in a spiral, like a wheel within a wheel Never ending or beginning, on an ever spinning wheel...'

These lyrics, with Michel Legrand's haunting music, make for a very enigmatic and memorable song. Irving Berlin once said that a hit had to have a phrase that everybody remembered easily. For example one of his first hits was 'Alexander's Ragtime Band', and everyone knew the phrase 'Come on and hear ...' etc. So too for 'Windmills of Your Mind' with its opening 'Round — like a circle in a spiral...'

This has been just a tiny overview of the fascinating world of songs and songwriters. To paraphrase Paul Keating: 'It's just another bit of embroidery on the tapestry of popular song'.

**(John Hoey presents his program 'Cool, Calm and Composed' featuring a different songwriter each week, on Thursdays at 3pm — only on Golden Days Radio, 95.7FM)**

# GET INVOLVED!

There is a need for more of our listeners to "get involved" in the operation of Golden Days Radio.

Can you help Golden Days Radio with a little time?

Yes, we are always on the lookout for Receptionists and Presenters but there are lots of other tasks around the Station that we could do with some help like;

## STATION TOURS

We need people to be Station Tour Guides. We will train you to be part of the Station Tour team. Each tour requires you to be available for approximately 2 hours to welcome, guide and then organise and participate in a cuppa with our guests.

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

We need people to talk about Golden Days Radio who are confident to be able to talk to groups like Probus and other public events.

## SENIORS WEEK

This is a very important part of our outreach into the wider community in a very public forum like at the "faux" broadcast at Federation Square where GDR people chat to existing and potential listeners

## CATERING

Morning and afternoon teas, light lunches, Volunteers Christmas Party, bar-tending, going to functions such as the GDR lunches and listeners meetings, being part of welcoming and seating at functions.

## DATA ENTRY

We need people who can help out in areas like programme scheduling, data collection, letter writing. Knowledge of Excel and Word would be handy.

## IT

Have you ever posted on a website or Facebook? Have you ever helped set up a systems manual. We have a dedicated group who would welcome help to update our manual and work with Engineering to construct a manual for instant recognition of issues once they are reported.

## MEDIA RESEARCH

We need people who could research to see for example which artists/shows are coming to Melbourne in the next 12 months? We need someone who can research and develop a calendar for the next 12 months. As part of this, can we find the artists manager and perhaps see if they could do an interview at GDR?

## TEAM LEADERS / PROJECT MANAGERS

There is always a project. If you can drive a small project either on your own or with a small team that would be for a limited period of time.

## GRANT WRITING

We need more funding to help, a person or two experienced in grant writing could be useful.

## MARKETING

Have you sold products or services? We need you on our sponsorship team.

## FUNDRAISING

Can you run a raffle, organise some prizes at the GDR lunches?

## TRAINING

Have you ever conducted training programs? Do you have interpersonal skills that would help GDR in areas like presenting and telephone etiquette.

## SCRIPT WRITING AND PRESS RELEASES

Have you been involved in writing? We need people to help in writing voice-overs, scripts and media releases.

## BASIC OFFICE DUTIES

We always need to do stationery ordering, bin tidying, filing, receiving emails and responding.

**If you can help in any of these duties, many of which only involve from a few hours a week to a few hours a month, then drop an e-mail to Committee of Management member Rex Swindel-Hurst at [rex@zartart.com.au](mailto:rex@zartart.com.au)**

## LISTENER'S MEETING

Listener's meetings are a great way to learn more about the station and how you can get involved. A listener's meeting will follow the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16th August 2017 and again on Wednesday 18th October. These are held at the Uniting Church Hall 495 Centre Road Bentleigh from 10am.



# THE GOLDEN BROADCASTER

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Newsletter of Golden Days Radio  
for Senior Citizens Inc.

Registered in Victoria No A.0025759L ABN 29 845 875 007



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We continue to be very busy each and every day at Golden Days Radio.

Earlier this year we saw the departure of Alex Hehr who has become an independent broadcaster. We wish him well and thank him for his efforts over many years.

The Committee of Management has begun a total review of the radio station structure. One of the first areas to be reviewed was that of Station Manager. While the review is on-going, it has been agreed to discontinue that role.

The various components of that role were investigated. It has been realised we need more people to get involved to work in various roles at the Station. We will also need to have double cover when holidays or sickness are around and this lends itself to succession planning — something we have tried to implement for many years but haven't got very far until now. Elsewhere in this edition of the Golden Broadcaster you will see an article looking for volunteers for a variety of positions arising from the Management Review and Restructure the Committee of Management will finalise in coming weeks.

Meantime, I'm pleased to say we now have a small production group which looks after recording of interviews, promotions, sponsorship announcements and the logging of the weekly programs into our studio computers so that the various pre-recorded programs can go to air.

We have also set up a sponsorship team who have the job to go out and talk to prospective clients about their products. The new team has been quite successful in the first few weeks of operation which in turn brings in valuable revenue to keep the station on air.

If you happen to use one of our sponsors please let them know that you heard their message on the radio. This will let them know that our sponsorship announcement is working for them. This in turn will help us at renewal time of their contract. You may also have a lead for a possible new sponsor. If you do please contact the station and leave the details with the sponsorship team for follow up.

Since winning the prestigious "Tony Staley Award" last year at the CBAA (Community Broadcasting Association of Australia) conference we have also participated in a webinar for that organisation. This is where members of any of the radio stations around Australia can join in on a topic and ask questions via the internet. I was asked to talk about finance and how important that is keeping a radio station on air. The session was very successful with many stations tuning in to have a listen and ask questions and discuss ideas.

We have the AGM coming along on Wednesday 16th August. The notice giving all the details is included with this mailout along with a copy of our current Program Schedule. I hope to see many of our members at this meeting.

Happy listening!

Larry James, President

## THREE NEW HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

We have three new Honorary Life Members. They are Avril Smith, Peter Every and Dennis Conway. All have given exemplary service to Golden Days Radio.

Apart from her Friday afternoon program, Avril has been active in preparing Presenter Logs for many years. Like most Presenters, Avril also spent time assisting with reception and other clerical duties in the formative years of the Station.

Peter Every has also had many tasks at the Station including Membership Secretary and his current role of program

rostering, ensuring the appropriate 'drop-in' programs are catalogued and rostered for Presenters presentation to listeners.

Dennis Conway has been not only a long-servicing Receptionist but also a member of the Committee of Management and Manager, Volunteer Services.

They will be presented with their Honorary Life Membership Certificates at the Annual General Meeting.

Golden Days Radio For Senior Citizens Inc.  
1st Floor, 1236 Glen Huntly Rd (PO Box 287) Glen Huntly, Victoria 3163 Phone: 03 9572 1466

## NEW LOOK WEBSITE

Golden Days Radio has launched a new look website.

With lots of information and news on station activities, the website now provides an interactive Program Guide where you not only get a wider information base of program content but also information on the Presenter.

It's simple, you just log on to [www.goldendaysradio.com](http://www.goldendaysradio.com)

You can also use the website to listen to the station via 'streaming' — listen to the current program wherever you are in the world. If travelling, it's a great way to hear the news from home, keep up with your favourite serial or just listen to the great Golden Days Radio music mix. If you don't have

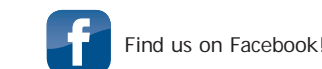
the means to look at the website at home, then perhaps ask another Member of the family, the grand kids will be able to help in a flash!

The IT Sub Committee — John Hoey, Duncan Campbell and Rex Swindel-Hurst — have done a mighty job to put the new website together.

If you don't have a computer or iPad, then you can have a look at the website by asking one of your visitors or one of the grandchildren, to show you the website on their device! If you want to print a new copy in a couple of month's time, then ask them to do it, or ask your neighbour or go to your local library and they will help.



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# CHICK HENDERSON

## 1912-1944

Do YOU Know The Real Chick Henderson...or is the name just one you have heard somewhere?

Former Golden Days Saturday Night Presenter Paul Mason reflects on the life of Chick Henderson.

One of the most popular, and most requested, artists on music stations, such as Golden Days Radio, Chick Henderson was a victim of German air raids on England in 1944, the date being the 25th of June.

His most famous recording, Begin the Beguine, as the anonymous vocalist with Joe Loss and his orchestra, was the only British Dance Band record to win a Gold Record for a million sales. This was awarded to Joe Loss because he was the only person named on the original 78 rpm issues "Joe Loss and his Orchestra" with a second line stating just "with vocal refrain".

Record sales in Australia played a major role in the award, because Begin the Beguine, from the first issue here in late 1939 (it was recorded in July of 1939) was never out of Australian record shops, firstly on the 78 rpm issue, then on EP and a series of LPs culminating with this country being the first in the world to issue a CD of Chick's recordings in 1991.

In a short recording career from 1936 until 1942, Chick made records of about 282 numbers, appeared as Joe Loss' vocalist on 4 or 5 short films, and there is just one known "air shot" of an English radio program.

Chick's birth name was Henderson Rowntree, the youngest of three boys in a family of nine children, at Hartlepool in the North East of England on 22nd November 1912, and known as Henny in the family. His mother called him little Chick, the nickname stuck, so he called himself Chick Henderson in his singing career.

He was noticed by the choir master at his church and asked to join the choir. He had a deep love for singing.

He was an apprentice at the Newcastle-On-Tyne shipyards, but when the apprenticeship was completed in 1933, the newly qualified Marine Diesel Engine Engineer found his employment had also ended due to the Great Depression and its mass unemployment.

For over 12 months he was not employed but found casual work as a singer with dance bands around Newcastle. London bank leader, Jan Ralfini and his band, appeared at the Hippodrome in West Hartlepool and included a Grand Talent Spotting Contest. Chick entered the contest and won it hands down. Ralfini asked him to join the band and he went with them for the remainder of the organized tour. The band broke up before it returned to London due to Ralfini's money problems.

He was lucky to obtain a job as Marine Engineer in a factory near to London and, at weekends and at night, scoured the city looking for singing work. Chick approached Harry Leader who signed him up for evening jobs which allowed him to keep working as an engineer.

His contract with Leader allowed him to accept vocal work when not needed by the Leader band. His first records were on the 8 inch Eclipse label on 15th June 1953, one of the four tunes recorded being The Little Golden Locket.

In August band leader, Bobby Howell, used him on a broadcast on the BBC. This was his first broadcast and was heard by another band leader who liked his voice, Joe Loss. With Harry Leader's consent, Chick was able to join the Loss band with Loss agreeing that Leader could use Chick on recordings for the same time period that Chick had been originally contracted for, and this arrangement was continued for another could of years.

After Begin the Beguine was released, music lovers wondered who was the unknown vocalist on the record? Eventually Chick was identified and there was considerable discussion in the press and in music circles as to the merits or otherwise of the record. A critic of that time wrote: "What's all the fuss about apropos Chick's Begin the Beguine with Joe Loss? I must confess that the record is among my favourites. When I listen to it I get the feeling that this was a session when everything went right, just right! A memorable song, built in an unusual sequence, pulsating rhythm from the Joe Loss band with those "barking" chords backing the vocalist, and Chick Henderson himself singing a difficult song with beautiful control. All adding up to what I consider a memorable record".

Another critique ran ".....on the subject of Chick Henderson who has a voice of greater range than almost all of his colleagues in the dance bands' vocal department. Chick's distinctive voice is as mellifluous as those of Bowly, Plant and Denis, and as powerful as that of Sam Browne and of a greater range than most others".

Chick received a recording fee for three songs sung at the July 1939 recording session but, as "with vocal refrain", he did not receive any of the extra royalties received for Begin the Beguine. He approached Joe Loss for extra money, rightly claiming that his vocal was the reason for the record's great appeal to record buyers. Loss refused the request.

Chick was so annoyed that in mid 1940 he left the Loss band and joined Harry Roy's band. At that time he recorded with Harry Ross (8 numbers), The London Piano-Accordion Band (4 numbers) and The Organ, The Dance Band and Me (3 numbers). In 1940 he was called into the Royal Navy as an Engine Room Artificer and went to sea.

He was twice rescued when his Navy vessel was lost at sea.

He received a commission and in June 1944 was at Southsea undertaking a course which was to have led to him taking command of his own ship. However, on the 25th June, an air raid on Southsea saw him killed instantly as he made his way with others to an air raid shelter. He was only 31.

# 20 YEARS SERVICE RECOGNISED



Avril Smith with Patron Peter Smith OAM after the presentation of the award

I do it to be with the music...words of Avril Smith who has been a volunteer at Golden Days Radio for more than 20 years.

Patron Peter Smith OAM presented a special 20-year award to Avril to recognise her at the Christmas Lunch.

Avril has no previous radio experience. She heard an appeal for volunteers as the station was getting off the ground all those years back so she decided to go along and see what it was all about. First she attended to clerical matters and acted as a receptionist before starting to

assist with the preparation of the Presenter logs.

She then became a Presenter and for more years than she cares to remember, she has presented the 2-5pm program Fridays.

"It's filled a great void in my life not to mention the love of the music", she says.

In a further recognition of her service to Golden Days Radio, Avril has just been made an Honorary Life Member.

# NEW PRESENTERS



**MICHAEL LYNCH**  
Saturday Matinee — 2pm to 5pm

Michael first became a radio announcer at 20-years-old, working the next three decades as a broadcaster and news journalist in Australia and New Zealand. When the opportunity presented itself to join the presenting team at Golden Days arose, he jumped at it.

Michael sees himself as a guest in any of his listeners' homes, simply chatting to them and playing music he hopes relate to them as much as to himself.



**ANNABELLE BROWN**  
Monday Matinee — 2pm to 5pm

Annabelle just happened to tune into the FM band and found Golden Days Radio playing familiar music.

Apart from enjoying the music she recognised the social interaction between the volunteers and the listeners and decided to become part of it, first as a Receptionist and now as a Presenter.

**FRANK FORMICA**  
Tuesday Night with Frank — 8.00pm to 11.00pm

Frank was looking for a radio station that played nice easy-listening music, as there wasn't a commercial station playing the style of music he wished to listen to. He found GDR. It met his expectations. Then as secretary of Southern Suburbs Orchid Society, he saw an opportunity for the club to become a community group member, be publicised on radio and attract new members or visitors to the club.

He responded to a call for Receptionists, then his thoughts of being a radio Presenter kicked in. This and the combination of too much free time or stress in his life after retirement, he has taken the challenge hoping listeners enjoy the music he is playing, feeling it is played for them.

# NEW PROGRAMS

A number of new programs have either just gone to air or go to air over coming weeks. In addition, some programs are being re-presented in different time spots.

They include:

**Monday's 9am: Happy Music With Peggy Lee**  
Presented by Carol Farman the program traces the music of Peggy Lee over her singing career

**Friday's at 3pm: The Glenn Miller Story**

**Saturday's at 9.45am: The Smell of Terror**  
Chronicles the adventures of Major Gregory Keen as he deals with exciting, dangerous problems and escapades while living on a West Indies Island ruled by a despot.

**Sunday's at 3pm: Music of the Knight**  
When the current season of The World of Operetta concludes in August, it will be followed by a 13-part program researched and produced by our own Graham Cook and presented by Fay Thorn featuring music performed by artists who have been Knighted by the Queen, maybe for their contribution or music, the performing arts or charity like Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Elton John, Sir James Galway, Sir Leonard Bernstein or Sir Oscar Petersen.

# IN PRODUCTION

New programs are always on the agenda at GDR. Two in particular are in production at the moment and will go to air soon.

Presenter Peter Thomas has written a 5-part, 5 minute, radio play Adventures on the Glen Huntly Tram.

Set in the 1950's it has a cast of GDR personalities and several players from various amateur theatre companies who Joan Krutil has brought together.

Be sure to watch for the series.

David Pollock has written a 20-part History of The Seekers featuring the groups music along with the story of their career from its beginnings through to their 50th anniversary. It will slip into his Saturday Breakfast program at 9am about September.

# MID YEAR LUNCHEON

The mid-year highlight on the Golden Days calendar is the Mid Year Luncheon held on 21 June, 2017.

With 150 in attendance, it was again a great opportunity for many of our listeners to meet the face of the voice they hear on air or speak to at reception when they call the Station.

Two of our volunteers received 10 Year Service Awards with presentations of a Certificate and 10 Year badge to engineering department volunteer Alan Cosstick and Wednesday 8pm-11pm Presenter Ian McLeod.

Entertainment was provided by Loretta Hodson and her accompanist, Christina Boyd, who stepped in at the last minute when our promoted entertainer, Irish Tenor Vincent O'Connor lost his voice!



Ten Year Service Award recipients Ian McLeod and Alan Cosstick with President Larry James.



Loretta Hodson and long-term sponsor Frank Penballuriack as she sings 'Cheek to Cheek!'



L to R: Receptionist Shirley Nathan (Sundays 10.30am-2pm), John Amor (Presenter Sundays 11am-1pm), Joan Inman of Kew and Avril Smith (Fridays 2-5pm).



L to R: Brian Young (Wednesdays 5-8pm), Ian Hodge, Elizabeth McQuire. Middle Brighton and Philip Douse, Receptionist Wednesdays 7-11am).



Jenny Cooper, Presenter Frank Formica (Tuesdays 8-11pm), Percy Cooper OAM of Bentleigh and his wife Bev.



L to R: Denis Read of South Yarra, Sandra Ellemor (Receptionist Mondays 7-11am), Diane McCance (Receptionist Mondays 11am-2pm), Ruth and Owen Denmead-Lewis of Harwotborn East.



Receptionist Ken Vosper (Mondays 8-11pm and Thursdays 2-5pm), Presenters Julie Bastow (Fridays 11am-2pm), John Clarke (Mondays 8-11pm) and Joan Krutil (Mondays 5-8pm).