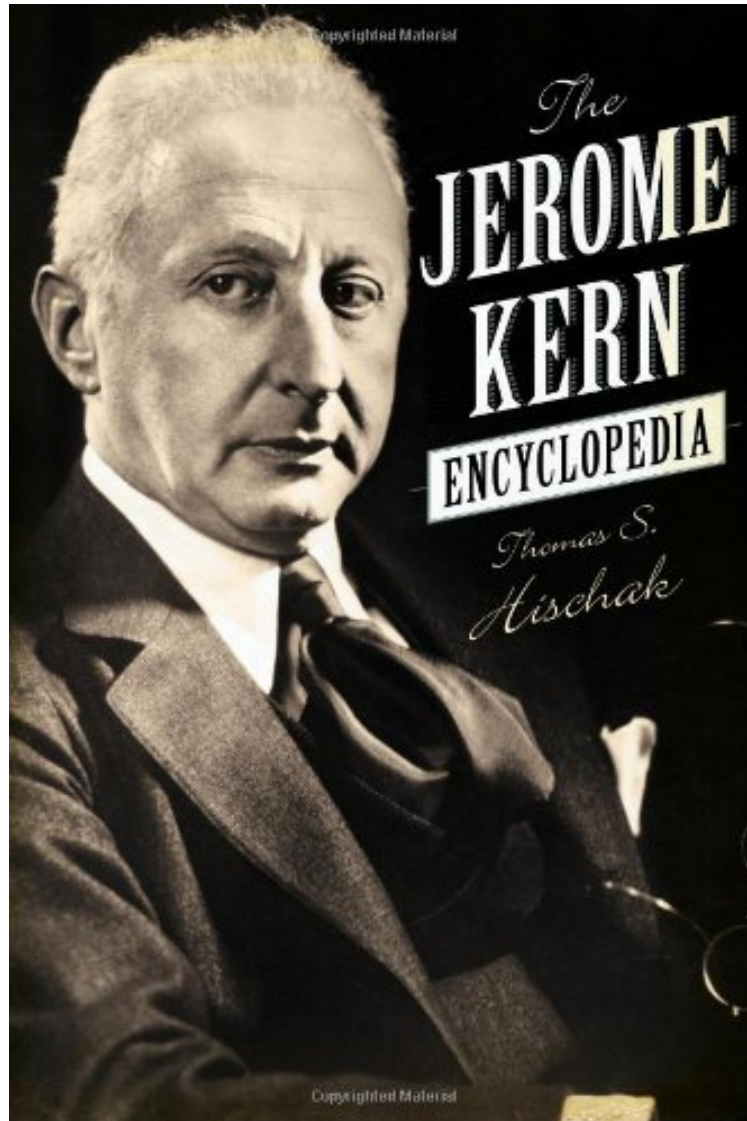


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## The Jerome Kern Encyclopedia

*Thomas S. Hischak*

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**Thomas S. Hischak : The Jerome Kern Encyclopedia** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Jerome Kern Encyclopedia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I think he has done an excellent job of gathering informationBy Neil EllenoffThe author knows his subject. I think he has done an excellent job of gathering information. Kern wrote a multitude of Broadway and London shows. He also did many movies. It couldn't have been easy to assemble all this information.bthis is an admirable job,0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very thorough, but not enough

about the man's personality ...By James A. HealeyVery thorough, but not enough about the man's personality, habits, likes and dislikes. But his musical accomplishments are well documented.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. BRILLIANT!By LORNA DALLASWhat a gem of a book! It has so many facts encapsulated...and from a fresh perspective and with even more astonishing facts about this wondrous composer!

Jerome Kern (1885-1945) is considered one of the most versatile and influential of all American theatre and film composers. His pioneer work in developing a truly American musical sound inspired many of the great songwriters of the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, and his songs include dozens of beloved standards still heard today, such as *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* and *The Way You Look Tonight*. The *Jerome Kern Encyclopedia* consists of entries on people, theatre and film musicals, songs, subjects, and themes related to the composer. Not only are all of Kern's stage and screen projects from 1904 to 1946 covered, but there are also entries on all the major librettists and lyricists with whom he worked, as well as producers, directors, actors, and other individuals who figured prominently in his career. Approximately 100 of Kern's most important songs are discussed, and other entries address awards, collaborations, working methods, song styles, and other related subjects. The encyclopedia also includes a brief biography of Kern, a chronology of his life and work, and appendices on recordings, interpolations, revivals, and remakes. The most complete work on one of America's greatest composers, this fascinating, readable, and extensive look at Kern will appeal to theatregoers, movie musical fans, students, teachers, and professionals in musical theatre.

From BooklistThis volume offers practically one-stop shopping for music students and Jerome Kern enthusiasts. The main body of the work includes entries for songs, stage works, films, and musical styles. Hirschak, a veteran musical-theater author, has added biographical sketches for many of Kern's collaboratorsincluding directors, performers, lyricists, and producerstaking care to put them in context with their work with Kern. A discography, a chronology, and an awards list are added value for this useful text. --Steven York Hirschak credits Kern in the preface with creating "the sound of the American musical," which is the case he attempts to make with this sorely overdue reference work. In prose that is not overly academic, articles cover Kern's musicals, songs, and collaborators, including performers with meaningful connections to the composer. Musical entries are consistently presented with information on style, author, lyricist, location and date of debut performance, run, alternate productions and revivals, and key performers; following is a summary of the plot and history of the production, highlighting songs important to the plot or to Kern's career. Overall, the entries about songs are nontechnical, but occasionally dabble in soft music theory. The author instead addresses the song's history: use in a production, notable performances, and appearances in other musicals or innominate interpolations. Hirschak introduces performers and collaborators by their connection to Kern, and then expands on their careers with further contextual information. Photographs appear throughout, with excellent captioning providing additional information unavailable in the accompanying article. The highly useful appendixes cover the chronology of Kern's awards, musicals, interpolations, and discography. Extensive bibliography and thorough indexing. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above. (CHOICE)This volume offers practically one-stop shopping for music students and Jerome Kern enthusiasts. The main body of the work includes entries for songs, stage works, films, and musical styles. Hirschak, a veteran musical-theater author, has added biographical sketches for many of Kern's collaboratorsincluding directors, performers, lyricists, and producerstaking care to put them in context with their work with Kern. A discography, a chronology, and an awards list are added value for this useful text. (Booklist)The author brings a wealth of experience. . . .on off-Broadway musicals, Broadway librettists and Disney songs. . . .The work is arranged alphabetically, taking in Kern's songs, his musicals, the stars who appeared in them, and collaborators and lyricists, producers, and directors. . . .The encyclopedia is aimed at - and will appeal to - the interested general reader as well as the specialist in the theater and film musicals, both cultural/musical historian and producer/director. . . .A reference work, then, of real value to any serious collection of musicals and that period and style of popular music. (Reference s)About the AuthorThomas S. Hirschak is the author or coauthor of more than twenty books, including *Theatre as Human Action* (Scarecrow Press, 2006), *Off-Broadway Musicals since 1919* (Scarecrow Press, 2011), and *The Disney Song Encyclopedia* (Taylor Trade, 2012). He is professor of theatre at the State University of New York College at Cortland.