

The P G Wodehouse Society (UK)

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Revision 1

Musical Comedies with Lyrics Written by P G Wodehouse

The difficulties which arise in trying to prepare a comprehensive list of productions to which Wodehouse contributed lyrics come mainly in deciding whether to include shows in which a lyric appeared almost by chance: a lyric which had not been written for that purpose. His best-known song, *Bill*, falls into that category, its second appearance (in *Showboat*) being far more memorable than its first, in the pre-Broadway try-out of *Oh, Lady! Lady!!*. On the other hand, the mere appearance of one of his lyrics in a 1964 production in Texas entitled *To Broadway With Love* barely warrants inclusion.

This list is essentially restricted to shows in which new, or substantially revised, Wodehouse lyrics appear for the first time. Because of the relevance of the original production of *Very Good, Eddie* to Wodehouse's involvement with American musical theatre, its successful 1970s revival, which included two Wodehouse interpolations has also been included.

P G Wodehouse always preferred the term 'lyrist' to the more common 'lyricist'.

SHOWS TO WHICH PGW CONTRIBUTED VIRTUALLY ALL THE LYRICS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Composer</i>
1917	<i>Have a Heart</i>	Jerome Kern
1917	<i>Oh, Boy</i>	Jerome Kern
1917	<i>Leave It To Jane</i>	Jerome Kern
1917	<i>Miss 1917</i>	Jerome Kern
1918	<i>Oh, Lady! Lady!!</i>	Jerome Kern
1918	<i>See You Later</i>	Jean Schwartz & William F Peters
1918	<i>The Girl Behind the Gun</i> <i>[Kissing Time]</i>	Ivan Caryll
1918	<i>Oh, My Dear</i>	Louis A Hirsch
1919	<i>Oh, Joy</i>	Jerome Kern
1919	<i>The Rose of China</i>	Armand Vecsey
1924	<i>Sitting Pretty</i>	Jerome Kern
1927	<i>The Nightingale</i>	Jerome Kern
*	<i>Betting on Bertie</i>	Robert Wright & George Forrest

* A production entitled *Leave It To Jeeves* with book by Bolton and Wodehouse (based on the play *Come on Jeeves*) and lyrics by Wodehouse was planned in

1971, but was put into abeyance when Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice produced the original version of the musical *Jeeves*. The composers have been working on a revised version during the late 1990s retitled *Betting on Bertie*. It is understood that substantial changes have been incorporated in the text and musical content, so it is unclear whether, if a production is put on, it will be solely Wodehouse lyrics.

SHOWS TO WHICH PGW CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE LYRICS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Composer</i>	<i>Fellow Lyrist</i>
1914	<i>Nuts and Wine</i>	Frank E Tours and Melville Gidson	Charles H Bovill
1916	<i>Miss Springtime</i>	Jerome Kern and Emmerich Kalman	Herbert Reynolds
1917	<i>Kitty Darlin'</i>	Rudolf Friml and Otto Harbach	Otto Harbach
1918	<i>The Canary</i>	Ivan Caryll, Irving Berlin and Harry Tierney	Anne Caldwell
1921	<i>The Golden Moth</i>	Ivor Novello	Adrian Ross
1922	<i>The Cabaret Girl</i>	Jerome Kern	George Grossmith and Anne Caldwell
1923	<i>The Beauty Prize</i>	Jerome Kern	George Grossmith
1928	<i>Rosalie</i>	George Gershwin and Sigmund Romberg	Ira Gershwin
1960	<i>Oh, Kay (Revival)</i>	George Gershwin	Ira Gershwin

It is reported that Wodehouse also contributed lyrics to the 1916 production *Pom Pom*, with music by Hugo Felix and lyrics also by Anne Caldwell.

SHOWS TO WHICH PGW CONTRIBUTED JUST ONE OR TWO LYRICS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Composer</i>	<i>Principal Lyrist</i>
1904	<i>Sergeant Brue</i>	Liza Lohmann and Frederick Rosse	J Hickory Wood
1906	<i>The Beauty of Bath</i>	Herbert E Haines and Jerome Kern	Charles H Taylor
1907	<i>My Darling</i>	Herbert E Haines	Charles H Taylor
1907	<i>The Girls of Gottenberg</i>	Ivan Caryll and Lionel Monckton	Adrian Ross and Basil Hood
1907	<i>The Hon'ary Degree</i>		
1907	<i>The Gay Gordons</i>	Guy Jones	Arthur Wimperis
1917	<i>Hello, America</i>	Jerome Kern	Multiple
1920	<i>Sally</i>	Jerome Kern	Clifford Gray
1925	<i>The City Chap</i>	Jerome Kern	Anne Caldwell
1926	<i>Hearts and Diamonds</i>	Bruno Granichstaden	Graham John
1927	<i>Showboat</i>	Jerome Kern	Oscar Hammerstein

1928	<i>The Musketeers</i>	<i>Three</i>	Rudolf Friml	II Clifford Gray
1934	<i>Anything Goes</i>		Cole Porter	Cole Porter
1941	<i>The Wild Rose</i>		Jerome Kern	Clifford Gray
1975	<i>Very Good Eddie (Revival)</i>		Jerome Kern	Schuyler Greene

UNPRODUCED SHOWS TO WHICH PGW CONTRIBUTED LYRICS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Composer</i>	<i>Fellow Lyrist</i>
c1918	<i>Ladies Please</i>	Jerome Kern	
1921	<i>The Blue Mazurka</i>	Jerome Kern and Franz Lehar	
1922	<i>Pat</i>	Jerome Kern	Billy Rose

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