

## Recorder music: The Man I Love

Former ARS Board member Richard Carbone writes about a great song, in David Goldstein's great SATB version

In 1924, the Gershwin brothers—George the composer and Ira the lyricist—published a new song, at that time called *The Girl I Love*. They wanted to feature it in their musical on Broadway, *Lady, Be Good*, but it was subsequently rejected as not fitting the mood of the show.

They tried again over the next four years, and the same thing happened. The song was eliminated in rehearsals. By that time, the Gershwins had given the song a new title and the lyrics we know today, *The Man I Love*.

Later, at a party, George was at the piano playing his pieces, as he often loved to do. Lady Edwina Mountbatten, a member of the highest British society, heard and admired *The Man I Love*. She asked for a copy, which she took home and persuaded her favorite dance bands there to feature. Soon it became a sensational hit in London and Paris.

In America, it became a pop and jazz standard played by big band instrumentalists such as Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw, and first sung by vocalists like Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, Lena Horne,

Billie Holiday and later Julie London, Diana Ross and Cher.

We recorder players are fortunate that David Goldstein (1918-2003) made an SATB quartet arrangement of *The Man I Love*. His original manuscript is undated, but the prolific arranger could have created it in the early 1980s. As was his habit, he sent out copies to friends—people who had heard about his version of the piece—as well as to groups around the U.S.

The beauty of Goldstein's treatment is typical of all his work—everybody gets a good part and nobody drones! The melody starts in the soprano and is taken up by the tenor. Then the alto joins in, leading to the finish. Even the bass has jazzy syncopation. The key is C major, which will appeal to players of a wide ability range. Also the tempo is marked Andantino: ♩ = 90 or even slower, to swing the dotted notes.

In 2020, *The Man I Love* entered the public domain—good news that this musical gift, of an outstanding piece and treatment, can be brought to ARS members in *American Recorder*. ❁

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### LINKS OF INTEREST:

- Memories of David Goldstein in the May 2004 AR: "David Goldstein (1918–2003)": <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmay04body.pdf>
- PDF of the original one-page arrangement in Goldstein's hand, c.1980s: <https://americanrecorder.org/extra>
- George Gershwin: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Gershwin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Gershwin)
- Ira Gershwin: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ira\\_Gershwin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ira_Gershwin)
- The Man I Love: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Man\\_I\\_Love\\_\(song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Man_I_Love_(song)); there are many versions available on YouTube.

*Andantino*

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

S

A

T

B

S

A

T

B

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**The Man I Love**, by **George Gershwin**. Arranged for SATB recorders by David Goldstein. Original in Goldstein's hand:  
<https://americanrecorder.org/extra>. Two-page version in AR typeset by Sylvia J.S. Burke (dedicated to her late husband).

18

S

A

T

B

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25

S

A

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B

25

29

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1.

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