Songwriter Johnny Mercer, a native of Savannah, Georgia, was best known as a lyricist who collaborated with such composers as Harry Warren, Harold Arlen, Henry Mancini, Hoagy Carmichael, Jerome Kern, and Duke Ellington. He wrote the lyrics for many great American standards, including "Moon River," "Blues in the Night," "Satin Doll," "That Old Black Magic," "Hooray for Hollywood," "The Summer Wind," and "The Days of Wine and Roses." Four of his songs won Academy Awards for Best Song from a Motion Picture In addition to the lyrics, Johnny also wrote the music for some of his biggest hits, including "Dream." As a singer, Johnny Mercer was one of the top recording acts of the 1940s, and he was well-known in Hollywood as the founder of Capitol Records.

"Dream" was written in 1944 as the theme of a radio show which Johnny hosted. The song was almost immediately recorded by several singers including Frank Sinatra. The most famous recording of the song was by the vocal group, the Pied Pipers, which went to #1 on the charts in 1945. Three other recordings of the song, including Sinatra's, also made the charts in 1945. "Dream" has been recorded by hundreds of artists, including Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary Clooney, and George Shearing.

The Pied Pipers, a quartet of three men and one woman, are recognized as one of the first vocal jazz groups to achieve popular success. The Pipers performed "Dream" at a very slow tempo of about quarter note = 68, and it is often sung at that slow tempo by vocal groups. This arrangement takes the song somewhat faster although it may certainly be performed at the slower tempo. The long vocal lines in "Dream" are perfect for working on blend, tone, and breath control. No wonder singer Mel Tormé has called it "the national anthem for group singers."

## **DREAM**

for S.A.B. voices and piano with optional SoundPax and SoundTrax CD\*

Arranged by **JAY ALTHOUSE** 

Words and Music by JOHNNY MERCER



<sup>\*</sup> Also available for S.A.T.B. (27133) and S.S.A.A. (27135). SoundTrax CD available (27136). SoundPax available (27137), includes score and set of parts for Guitar, Bass, and Drumset.

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