Leroy Anderson

An arranger, orchestrator, musician, conductor, and songwriter, Leroy Anderson (1908–1975) is best known for writing the holiday staple "Sleigh Ride," which is included in this collection. Along with dozens of other so-called "light classical" favorites, the works of this modest man from Cambridge, Massachusetts, have had a prodigious effect on American popular music. Very few individuals can be credited with inventing a particular style of music, but Anderson's highly innovative, infectious, and delightful "pops miniatures" combined classical and popular music in a way that had not been done until he arrived on the scene in the 1930s.

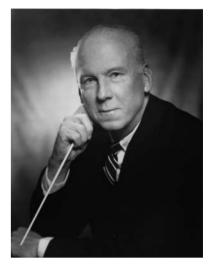
Although better known as a composer of instrumental works, Anderson initially wrote lyrics as well. In the early 1950s, Anderson collaborated with lyricist Mitchell Parish to produce vocal versions of seven of his best-known compositions. In fact, if it weren't for Parish's lyrics, "Sleigh Ride" would most likely not be ranked alongside "White Christmas," "Silent Night," and "Jingle Bells" as one of the most familiar and beloved songs performed during the Christmas season.

In commemorating the centennial of Anderson's birth, Alfred Publishing has assembled 33 of Anderson's songs for this collection. Included are all seven songs combining Anderson's melodies with Mitchell Parish's lyrics plus songs from Anderson's one and only Broadway musical, the 1958 production of *Goldilocks*. As an added "bonus," two previously unpublished songs are included that Anderson wrote toward the beginning of his career, along with one song from an abandoned musical based on the Civil War saga *Gone With the Wind*.

Early Years

Franklin Leroy (pronounced "luh-ROY") Anderson was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on June 29, 1908, to Swedish immigrants who had arrived in America in the late 19th century. Both of Leroy's parents were musical; his father sang and played mandolin while his mother played organ at a Covenant church near their home. Young Leroy enjoyed the folk songs his family brought over from Sweden as well as popular music of the day. Much of the latter he picked up from listening to radio, which was first becoming prevalent in the 1920s.

While growing up, Anderson learned a variety of instruments, including piano, organ, string bass, tuba, and trombone, the latter instrument as the result of his father's desire to see his son play someday in the Harvard University Band. Anderson's gift for arranging and orchestrating came early, and by the time he entered Harvard as a freshman in 1925, he had already begun writing music, having composed, orchestrated, and conducted his high school class song.



Anderson in the 1960s.

Bror and Anna Anderson with their two children, Franklin Leroy (standing) and Russell (seated).

Anderson as a trombone student at Harvard.

THE LEROYANDERSON SONGBOOK A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Contents

Title	Page
Leroy Anderson Biography	2
Mitchell Parish Songs	
Belle of the Ball	16
Blue Tango	
Forgotten Dreams	
Serenata	
Sleigh Ride	31
The Syncopated Clock	
The Waltzing Cat	
Selections from "Goldilocks"	
Bad Companions	47
The Beast in You	57
(Give the Little Lady) A Great Big Hand	63
Heart of Stone (Pyramid Dance)	68
I Can't Be In Love	72
I Never Know When (To Say When)	79
Lady in Waiting	
Lazy Moon	87
No One Will Ever Love You	91
The Pussy Foot	95
Save a Kiss	99
Shall I Take My Heart and Go?	103
There Never Was a Woman	107
Two Years in the Making	112
Who's Been Sitting in My Chair?	121
Deleted Songs from "Goldilocks"	
Come to Me (Go and Catch a Falling Star)	126
Guess Who	131
He'll Never Stray	135
Hello	139
If I Can't Take It with Me	142
Little Girls Should Be Seen	148
My Last Spring	156
Tagalong Kid	160
Unpublished Songs	
The Music in My Heart (1935)	167
What's the Use of Love? (1935)	
This Lovely World (from Scarlett O'Hara) (1961)	173

SLEIGH RIDE



Sleigh Ride - 6 - 1