

# George Gershwin

## Resources Used:

*America, I Hear You: A Story About George Gershwin* by Barbara Mitchell

## Selections:

1. [Rhapsody in Blue](#)
2. [An American in Paris](#)
3. [I Got Rhythm](#) (video of Gershwin actually playing - watch this one!)  
[Swanee](#)
4. [3 Preludes](#)
5. [Porgy and Bess Symphonic Picture](#) - you may wish to read the history of this version in the description of the linked video. This one was selected for the sake of time.
6. [Cuban Overture](#)

## Afternoons/Optional:

Books: *Summertime from Porgy and Bess*, illustrated by Mike Wimpe; *Rhapsody in Blue* by Anna Calenza; *George Gershwin* by Mike Venezia.

[Classics for Kids](#)

[Porgy and Bess Opera \(1993 version\)](#) - optional for teacher's education, possibly older forms.

*Content considerations:* drug and alcohol use, violence, mild profanity, romance, etc.

## Overview:

In the early 1900s, jazz was not considered an acceptable form of serious music. Fortunately, George Gershwin changed that concept by composing jazz that could not be ignored. Through his creative genius and dedication to American music, Gershwin created some of the most popular music of all time. George Gershwin was a delightful, sensitive man who, in his short lifetime, created such masterpieces as *Rhapsody in Blue*, *An American in Paris*, and *Porgy and Bess*.

*(from the America, I Hear You dust jacket)*

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## Example Schedule

<p>Week 1 - +Read <i>Overview</i> aloud +Listen to <i>Rhapsody in Blue</i></p>	<p>Week 2 - +Read <i>America, I Hear You</i> Ch. 1 +Listen to <i>Rhapsody in Blue</i></p>	<p>Week 3 - +Listen to <i>An American in Paris</i></p>	<p>Week 4 - +Read <i>America, I Hear You</i> Ch. 2 +Listen to <i>An American in Paris</i></p>
<p>Week 5 - +Listen to <i>I Got Rhythm</i> and <i>Swanee</i></p>	<p>Week 6 - +Read <i>America, I Hear You</i> Ch. 3 +Listen to <i>I Got Rhythm</i> and <i>Swanee</i></p>	<p>Week 7 - +Listen to 3 <i>Preludes</i></p>	<p>Week 8 - +Read <i>America, I Hear You</i> Ch. 4 +Listen to 3 <i>Preludes</i></p>
<p>Week 9 - +Listen to <i>Porgy and Bess</i></p>	<p>Week 10 - +Read <i>America, I Hear You</i> Ch. 5 +Listen to <i>Porgy and Bess</i></p>	<p>Week 11 - +Listen to <i>Cuban Overture</i></p>	<p>Week 12 - +Listen to <i>Cuban Overture</i></p>

*“I think that all children, not just the musically inclined ones, should learn to appreciate music... If children are started early, it's amazing how even those who seem to have no musical 'ear' can develop one, and can learn to listen to music with understanding and enjoyment.”*

*-Charlotte Mason, Philosophy of Education*

# George Gershwin

Rhapsody in Blue



3 Preludes



An American in Paris



Porgy and Bess Symphonic Picture



I Got Rhythm (watch!)



Swanee



Cuban Overture

