

THE WIZARD OF OZ - Sheet 1

★ ★ ★ What is it all about? ★ ★ ★

Dorothy Gale of Kansas often dreams of what lies over the rainbow. When a tornado hits her farm and she falls, banging her head, she dreams that she is carried away over the rainbow to the **Land of Oz**. The **Munchkins**, who live in Oz, hail Dorothy a heroine when she arrives, for as her house landed in Oz it flattened the evil **Wicked Witch of the East**. Dorothy wants to return home but the kindly **Sorceress** tells her that only the **Wizard of Oz** can help her return to Kansas and she must go and see him in the **Emerald City**.

The **Wicked Witch of the West**, sister of the dead witch, vows revenge on Dorothy but is frightened away by a protective mark which the Sorceress placed on Dorothy's forehead. Dorothy sets out in search of the **Emerald City** and meets several characters on her journey, including the **Scarecrow**, **Tin Woodsman** and the **Cowardly Lion**. The Munchkins sing telling them to follow the yellow brick road to the Emerald City.

Meanwhile the Wicked Witch of the West attempts to stop the group making it to the Emerald City but they are rescued by the Sorceress. When they arrive at the city they are told that if they bother the Wizard with a foolish request he could destroy them just by snapping his fingers! When Dorothy and her friends do finally meet the Wizard he tells them that they must kill the Wicked Witch of the West before he will grant them their wishes. The Wicked Witch casts a spell on Dorothy and takes her away to her castle but her new friends perform a rescue mission, eventually managing to trap the evil witch and shrink her into nothing.

At the Emerald City the Wizard throws a party in honour of Dorothy and her friends. They discover that the great Wizard is in fact just an ordinary man. However, he is able to grant their wishes and Dorothy returns home to Kansas with her pet dog **Toto** to live happily ever after with her **Aunt Em**.



THE WIZARD OF OZ

Written by: E.Y. Harburg and Harold Arlen with L. Frank Baum

First performed: January 1903 (Original Show), 1939 (Movie) and May 15th 1997 (Musical - Revival)

Location: Broadway, New York

Theatre: Majestic Theatre

First run: 293 performances

Fact: The magical world of OZ was named after the alphabetical letters O - Z on the bottom drawer of L. Frank Baum's filing cabinet!



THE WIZARD OF OZ - Sheet 2

★★★★★ Listen to... ★★★★★

Somewhere Over The Rainbow

This song is sung by **Dorothy** at the very beginning of the musical as she dreams of escaping over the rainbow to a magical place where dreams can come true. The song is accompanied by strings, harp and flute.

Dorothy starts the song by saying that **it's not a place that you can get to by a boat or a train. It's far, far away beyond the moon, beyond the rain.** The music is light and dreamy almost floating away with Dorothy's words. The orchestral accompaniment echoes her thoughts with the flute playing a duet together with her melody line. Light percussion sparkles in the background during the chorus and title line.

This song has become one of the most popular movie and musical themes of all time and has been sung by many stars since Judy Garland originally sang it in the 1939 film.

The Merry Old Land of Oz

In this song Dorothy and her new friends have just arrived at the **Emerald City** and the song reflects their excitement and anticipation at finally making it there. The friends are taken to the **Wash and Brush Up Company** where the **Scarecrow** is stuffed with new straw, the **Tin Woodsman** is given a polish, and **Dorothy, Toto** and the **Lion** have their hair done; the Lion is even given a red bow to wear on his head!

The introduction starts gently before the brass and percussion sections join in and the song gets faster, changing it's mood. It becomes very jazzy and bouncy reflecting the feelings of the group.

The orchestra provides an entertaining accompaniment to the singers and the clarinet, brass section and piano all have jazzy solos in this song.

★★★★★ Things to do... ★★★★★

The Wizard of Oz was acclaimed by the critics when the film was first released in 1939, although audiences weren't quite as quick to warm it. This is rather ironic considering how popular it has become since. If you can watch the film version of The Wizard of Oz discuss what do you like and dislike about the film and the style of the music?

Musically Oz is quite varied ranging from dreamy, slow songs to jazzy ensembles. Which songs do you prefer? Listen to Somewhere Over The Rainbow and The Merry Old Land of Oz. How does the orchestra compliment and develop the mood of the songs? What are the differences in the instruments chosen for the two songs?

THE WIZARD OF OZ

GREASE - Sheet 1

★ What is it all about? ★

It is small town **USA** in the **1950's** with every cliché of the age. The boys have slicked-back hair and leather jackets while the girls wear tight trousers or long flared skirts and bobby socks. The story centres on **Danny Zuko**, a member of the gang **The Burger Palace Boys** and **Sandy Dumbrowski** who is new and just moved to the area.

Sandy has led a sheltered life so far at the **Immaculata School** and isn't really prepared for the antics of the **Rydell High School**. When she meets Danny at the beach in the summer holiday they fall in love, neither realising that they will both be at school together at the start of the new term.

When they do finally meet up at school Sandy realises Danny is in a gang and that he isn't quite the all-American boy she thought he was. She is both shocked and disappointed in Danny. His friends on the other hand don't think that Sandy is cool enough to hang around with them. **The Pink Ladies**, the female group that hang out with the boys from the Burger Palace gang, initially dislike and tease Sandy, making her feel quite miserable.

Eventually Sandy decides that she does want Danny and becomes a member of The Pink Ladies. With the help of the girls she changes her look from being conservative to the trendy fashions of the era. Danny, on the other hand turns up to the school dance in conservative clothing in an attempt to impress Sandy! Needless to say it all turns out well with the pair of them being together.

Grease

Written by: Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

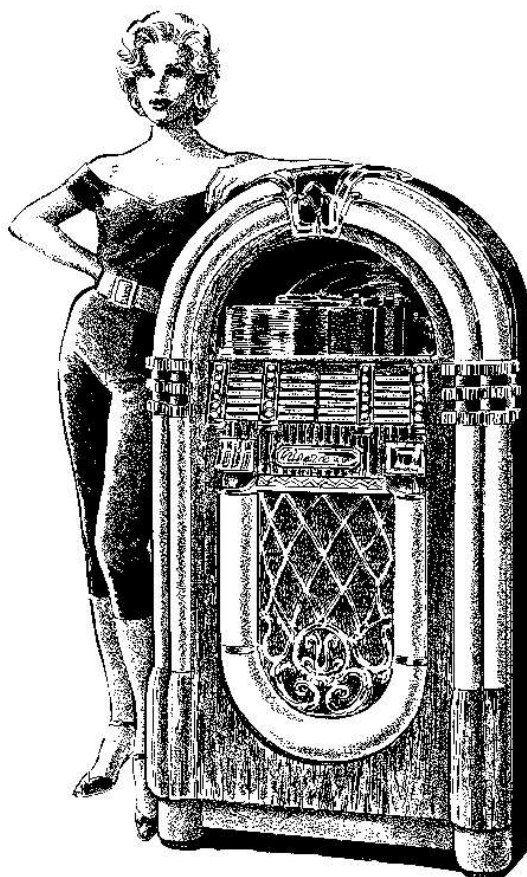
First performed: 14th February 1972

Location: New York, USA

Theatre: Eden Theatre

First run: 3,388 performances

Fact: Grease was made into a movie in 1978 starring Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta. The musical itself was a surprise hit and had a record breaking run in its day.



GREASE - Sheet 2

★★★★★ Listen to... ★★★★★

You're The One That I Want

This song is written for electric guitar, piano, brass and percussion and is an energetic celebration of song and dance! Originally it was not in the musical but was added to the score of the **1978** film version of **Grease** and appears right at the end of the show as the pair get together. Since then it has become one of the most immediately recognisable songs from the musical. It is a duet between Sandy and Danny with Danny starting off the first verse before Sandy joins in. The chorus is sung by them together with the other singers providing a typically 50's vocal backing track.

**Sandy**

In the songs **Sandy** and **Hopelessly Devoted To You** we are exposed to Danny's and Sandy's feelings for one another. Again these songs were added to the score for the film version of Grease. In contrast to many of the songs in the musical this song is relatively simple and straight-forward. **Danny** has been stood up at the drive-in by **Sandy** and wonders why she has left him. The descending figure on the word **Why?** is very characteristic of music from the 1950's.

Hopelessly Devoted To You

Sandy sings of her feelings for **Danny** and of how her head thinks she should have nothing to do with him while her heart is hopelessly in love with him. The saxophone, which features in this song, gives the piece a blues feel. Sandy is also accompanied by the strings, percussion and keyboard and she finishes the song on a high sustained note.

★★★★★ Things to do... ★★★★★

Listen to the songs Sandy and Hopelessly Devoted To You. **How are the feelings of these two very different characters presented in the music? What instruments are used? Both characters are singing about love and the tempo of the songs is quite slow. Compare this with the exuberance of You're The One That I Want. How does the music of this song differ and show a resolution of the characters feelings for each other?**

If possible watch the movie version of Grease starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. How does the dance and music help to develop the story? Do you think musicals work best on film or on stage. What are the advantages and disadvantages of both mediums?

Grease

BOUBIL & SCHÖNBERG

★★★★ Who are they? ★★★★★

Alain Boubil and **Claude-Michel Schönberg** are one of the most popular partnerships in modern musical theatre. They are best known for the smash hits **Les Misérables** and **Miss Saigon** but they have also had hits with **La Révolution Française** and **Martin Guerre**.

Alain Boubil was born in **1941** in **Tunis**. He became hooked on musicals at an early age when he went to see a production of *West Side Story* in 1959. Initially he worked in publishing but after attending a performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar* he decided he would like to write a rock-opera based around the French Revolution. He enlisted the help of **Jean-Max Riviere**, **Raymond Jeannot** and **Claude-Michel Schönberg** and **La Révolution Française**, which was staged at the Palais des Sports in France, went on to sell **350,000** records.

Boubil went on to write a musical version of the **Victor Hugo** book **Les Misérables** and this show also premiered at the Palais des Sports but in 1980. It took two years to write but has

proved to be one of the most successful shows in modern musical theatre and is still running in the West End today.

Claude-Michel Schönberg was born in **1944** and is a distant relative of the Austrian composer Arnold Schönberg. His parents were Hungarian and were very musical themselves, encouraging him to develop his talents. Schönberg was working at **Pathé-Marconi** records in Paris when he first met Alain Boubil.

Multi-talented Schönberg is also a singer as well as a composer. He released a hit album in France in 1974 as well as singing in the production of **La Révolution Française**. It was with **Les Misérables** that his music became really well known around the world.

Les Misérables has received many awards; a total of seven Tony Awards and a Grammy for the cast recording. **Miss Saigon** in 1989 and **Martin Guerre** in 1996 have also proved to be huge hits with audiences around the world.

★★ Things to do... ★★

The musicals of Boubil and Schönberg tend to deal with the epic themes of war, love and betrayal.

*Choose one character from **Les Misérables** and one from **Miss Saigon**. Look at how they are both portrayed in their songs. Do the themes of love and betrayal occur in both characters? Compare the characters with each other and write a paragraph about their similarities and differences.*



MARTIN
GUERRE

Les Misérables