

George Gershwin (September 26, 1898 – July 11, 1937)

George Gershwin was an influential American composer and pianist, known for his innovative fusion of classical and popular music. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Gershwin showed early musical talent and began working as a professional songwriter in his teens.

Gershwin's early successes in popular music include numerous hit songs and Broadway shows, such as *Lady, Be Good!* (1924) and *Oh, Kay!* (1926). His ability to blend jazz, blues, and classical elements set him apart and established him as a leading figure in American music.

One of Gershwin's most celebrated works is the orchestral suite *Rhapsody in Blue* (1924), which combined classical structure with jazz influences, reflecting the vibrancy of American urban life. His opera *Porgy and Bess* (1935) is another landmark work, notable for its integration of jazz and blues with classical operatic forms. The opera's notable pieces include "Summertime" and "It Ain't Necessarily So," which have become jazz standards.

Gershwin's career was tragically cut short when he died at the age of 38 from a brain tumor. Despite his brief life, his innovative contributions to music have left a lasting impact, influencing a wide range of musical genres.