

Suggested music to understand WWII

Use these suggestions as background to better understand the situation of young Americans during the period of World War II. These selections are chosen for how that generation saw the war. This music was published during the war under conditions of high emotion, so some of it may be deemed unacceptable or politically incorrect today. However, they do reveal how the situation was perceived at the time and reactions of the war's participants. All of these are presented with free listening references on the internet. Find an entire Juke Box play list of free World War II songs at <http://www.6thcorpsmusic.us/>, and radio shows from that era at <http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/allshows.html>.

Popular Songs of World War II

- "Lilly Marlene." By Marlene Deitrich in 1939, written by Hans Leip, 1915, translated by Tommie Connor, 1944. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MO0IUXnAs-U&feature=related>
 - A haunting German song written during World War I, but made famous during World War II. One of the rare phenomenon in war where all sides sang the same song. In English it was "Lilly of the Lamplight," <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrKklmJbbOk&NR=1>
- "Tuxedo Junction." By Glenn Miller in 1938 written by Buddy Feyne, Erskine Hawkins, Bill Johnson, and Julian Dash. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBTYcqtaOiq>
 - A swing tune for dancing that became a number one hit in 1940. This was typical music before America went to war.
- "Ballad for Americans." By Paul Robeson in 1940 written by Earl Robinson and John Latouche <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnXyGr668wg>
 - This song became wildly popular after the start of World War II but before the United States entered the war. Sung by African-American Paul Robeson, the sentiment of the song fell out of favor during the communist scares that marked the Cold War.
- "In the Mood." By Glenn Miller in 1940, written by Wingy Manone, Andy Razaf, and Joe Garland. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAQgXPTekOU>
 - This classic big band song was number one for 13 weeks in 1940, was inducted in Grammy Hall of Fame in 1983, listed as one of the 100 most important works of the 20th century by National Public Radio in 1999.
- "Chatanooga Choo Choo." By Glenn Miller in 1941, written by Mack Gordon., and composed by Harry Warren. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzHln5S-RbY>
 - Another Big Band classic, this one so popular it became the first gold record that set the precedent for later gold and platinum records. Although it has racial overtones common in the time, it also reflects a simpler time in American history.
- "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy." By the Andrews Sisters in 1941, written by Don Raye and Hughie Prince. http://www.last.fm/music/The+Andrews+Sisters/_/Boogie+Woogie+Bugle+Boy
 - Written during 1941 before America's entry into the war but during a rapid expansion of the Army. Released in the Abbot and Costello film, *Buck Privates*. Voted #6 in *Songs of the Century* by the Recording Industry Association of America.
- "Good Bye Mama I'm Off to Yokohama." By Peggy Mann, Dick Judge and the Teddy Powell Orchestra, 1941, written by Fred Coots <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FePPDsMMnaM>
 - A lively song to rally the country against the Japanese. Recorded 16 December 1941.

- "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree." By the Andrew Sisters, written by Sam Stept, 1941. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5u8E4s57I0>
 - A love song of remembrance released by the Andrew Sisters in the 1942 movie *Buckaroo*, But also sang by many others, including the great band leader Captain Glenn Miller.

- "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition." Written by Frank Loesser and James Sanderson in 1942. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZs61VCJvTg>
 - The song describes a chaplain ("sky pilot") and sailors of the USS New Orleans under attack by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor. He is asked to say a prayer for the men who were engaged in firing at the oncoming planes. The chaplain puts down his Bible, mans a gun turret and begins firing back, saying, "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition."

- "Der Fuehrer's Face." By Spike Jones in 1942. <http://www.spike.com/video/der-fuehrers-face/2722387>; http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KU_V146wvXQ
 - Here is the original Spike Jones satire of Nazi Germany and its leader, and an equally sarcastic Disney cartoon version starring Donald Duck.

- "A String of Pearls." By Glenn Miller in 1942, written by Jerry Gray and lyrics by Eddie DeLange. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Qq2AV7Wx5w>
 - This big band jazz standard hit number one for two weeks in 1942.

- "Coming in on a Wing and Prayer." By Anne Shelton in 1943, written by Harold Adamson and Jimmy Hugh. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B69CquvLHgY>
 - During the war, the highest rates of American casualties were suffered by merchant marine sailors, submariners, and air crew. This tells of a bomber crippled in combat, limping home on one wing and a prayer. This video shows Canadian bombers, American allies.

- "Bell Bottom Trousers." By Guy Lombardo in 1944, written by Moe Jaffre. <http://new.music.yahoo.com/guy-lombardo/tracks/bell-bottom-trousers—1226086>
 - A very popular swing song by big band leader great Guy Lombardo. A love song that marks the sailor uniform of bell bottom trousers. Adapted from an old British sea shanty.

- "Appalachian Spring." Written by Aaron Copeland, 1944, 9:50 min. http://video.search.yahoo.com/video/play;_ylt=A2KLqITrYPNQ_GgAHR77w8QF;_ylu=X3oDMTBvMGQzcTByBHNIYwNzcgRzbGsDdmIkBHZ0aWQDVjEzMg--?p=Aaron+Copland++%22Appalachian+Spring%22&vid=a4c14939cf49d467b99c38138811c30c&l=9%3A50&turl=http%3A%2F%2Fts2.mm.bing.net%2Fth%3Fid%3DV.4894111767855161%26pid%3D15.1&rurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D7U7hPHSkNJo&tit=Copland%26%2339%3Bs+%26%2339%3BAppalachian+Spring%26%2339%3B%2C+conducted+by+Geoffrey+Moull&c=1&sigr=11a40h4jm&&tt=b
 - Aaron Copeland is the best known classical American composer. Here he uses an orchestral suite to portray a spring celebration by 19th century Pennsylvanians. He won a Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1945 for the tune based in part on an 1800s Shaker melody.

- "When the Lights Go on Again." By Vera Lynn in 1945, written by Eddie Seller and Sof Marcus. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzIFaY0s_QI
 - During the war every belligerent country practiced nation-wide black outs as anti-air-raid measures. When the lights go on again expresses the hope that the world will return to normal some day

- "Kiss Me Once, Kiss Me Twice." By Bing Crosby in 1945, written by Cahn Styne.
<http://www.bing.com/videos/watch/video/bing-crosby-its-been-a-long-long-time/038137a0f461725a8800038137a0f461725a8800-167392510416?q=kiss%20me%20once,%20kiss%20me%20twice,%20kiss%20me%20once%20again&FORM=VIRE4>
- A war time love song by one of the great crooners of all time. It hit number 1 on the Billboard charts the month after the war ended, when America anticipated the return of her troops from war.

Radio Shows during World War II

- *Your Army Air Forces* – 1942-1945, radio show dramas, 30 min segments
http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/radio/159/Drama/Your_Army_Air_Force.html
 - This is an official government radio show, familiarizing the public with air operations through a news magazine format that includes music by Air Force bands, and singing. It gives updates on the Army Air Force including music, scientific breakthroughs, and human interest stories about airmen.
- *World War II Shows* – 1937-1946, actual reports of many different events that occurred.
http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/radio/158/Drama/World_War_II_Shows.html
 - This web site has hundreds of live broadcasts from a wide variety of topics from the bombing of London, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Midway, North Africa, Italy, Normandy, parachutists, gliders, Iwo Jima, Burma, VE Day, VJ Day, Nurnberg Trials, US elections, and industry. A treasure of information from when it was news.
- *Soldiers of the Press*. Series of weekly current events of reporters from front lines, 20 min.
http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/radio/148/Drama/Soldiers_of_the_Press.html
 - A series about 20 minutes each highlighting the reporters who accompanied the soldiers and airmen of the US Army in a docudrama format. Each week a new correspondent was featured.
- *Glenn Miller*. Series of weekly music shows from the Glen Miller band in 15 minutes parts.
http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/radio/31/Comedy/Glenn_Miller.html
 - Covers time from 1939 when Glen Miller was a famous civilian big band leader, to his service as a captain and conductor of the Army Air Force Training Command band. Capt Miller died in service in a plane crash while entertaining the troops in Europe.
- *GI Journal* – 1943-1945, 30 min each. 30 minute segments.
http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/radio/29/Comedy/GI_Journal.html
 - Radio journal of the American Expeditionary Force. Mainly inputs from the GIs overseas, lots of light hearted skits
- *Dick Tracy* – 1934-1948, 30 min each, Detective, Bob Burlen, Barry Thomson, Helen Lewis
http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/radio/63/Detective/Dick_Tracy.html
 - Adapted from the famous comic strip. It was first cancelled with World War II started, but was brought back and incorporated life in America during World War II.
- *Soldiers of the Press* – 1943-45, 15 min each, Documentary, famous reporters including Walter Cronkike, Harrison Salisbury, and Ann Stringer.
https://archive.org/details/OTRR_Soldiers_Of_The_Press_Singles

- Reporters telling the stories of military members at war. Broadcast on Sunday afternoons, 39 of 148 episodes are available.
- *Hop Harrigan* – 1942-1948, 30 min each, Drama, Charles Stratton, Ken Lynch, Gail Nolan
http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/radio/126/Drama/Hop_Harrigan.html
 - Hop Harrigan started as an All-American Comics character but was recruited into the war effort in this radio show. The character was an aviator of renown. often defeating Axis enemies.
- *Life of Riley* – 1944-1951, 30 min each, Comedy, William Bendix, Grace Coplin,
http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/radio/41/Comedy/Life_Of_Riley.html
 - This popular show offers a glimpse of America during the War years and afterwards. It became a movie and a television show.

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