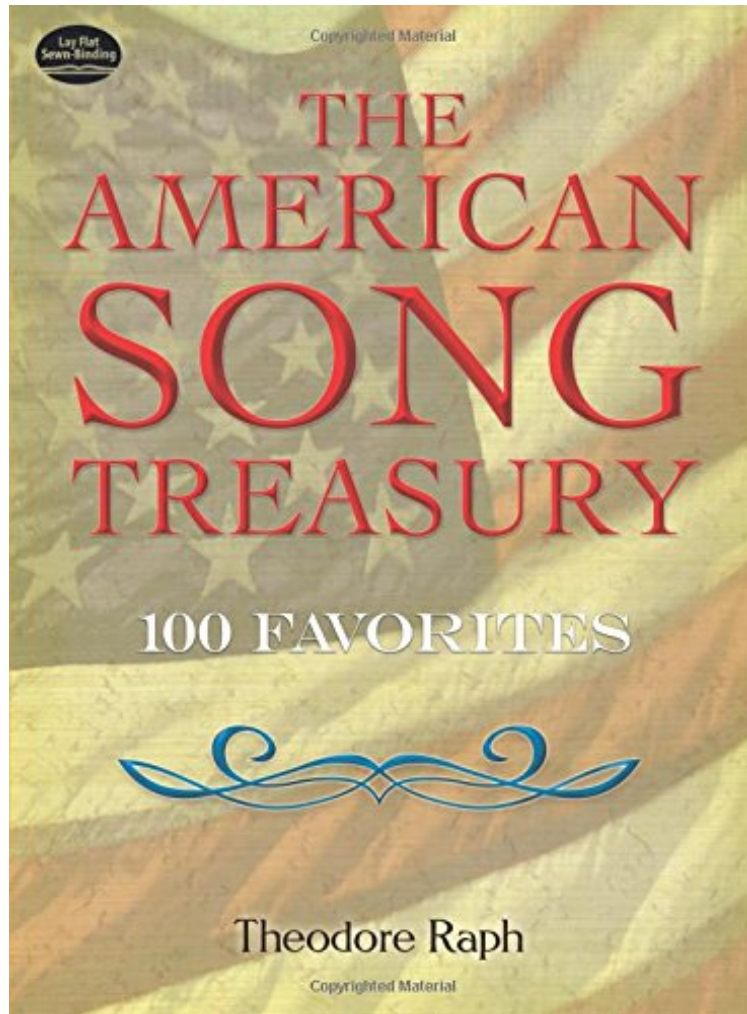


[PDF] The American Song Treasury: 100 Favorites (Dover Song Collections)

## The American Song Treasury: 100 Favorites (Dover Song Collections)

*Theodore Raph*

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**Theodore Raph : The American Song Treasury: 100 Favorites (Dover Song Collections)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American Song Treasury: 100 Favorites (Dover Song Collections):

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. A fantastic guitar book, too By Studs Kreitzer This is probably the best bargain you'll ever run into. I got it under a week ago and am still swooning at how many new things I've learned in so short of time. I play a Les Paul Standard electric guitar, but have gotten rusty over the years. This songbook has completely reawakened my interest in the instrument as well as in singing. I have no idea if it works well for pianists,

but can vouch that it's one of the best guitar books I've ever encountered. Ages ago, I would pick up a songbook of some sort or other, and I (like many people) got used to finding all kinds of errors or cheesy chord approximations. This book has nothing but good stuff throughout. If you don't believe me, try playing Cohan's "You're a Grand Old Flag" exactly as shown. The inversions there are brilliant, especially if you use a plectrum and alternate the bass notes in a Luther Perkins style. There are several places where these lower notes within the chords quite magically provide a wonderful counterpoint to what the voice is doing. As a rough estimate, I'd say that I want to learn at least 80 of these songs--that's how good the selection is and how rich the arrangements are. Even if I never play these songs for anyone, I'll be learning valuable guitar and vocal techniques, I think. Just as one example, there are tons of guitarists who dink around with nothing more than a small collection of major and minor chords. But this book is filled with tons of neat chords you might never run into otherwise. Even if you're familiar with diminished and augmented chords, I predict you'll find something here you've never seen before. As one example, I found a wild one in "After the Ball is Over" which I recognized by ear but had never played before (anyone for a C-seventh with a flatted fifth?) And there's lots of others. Someone ought to make a list of every guitar chord used in this collection. So, what I'm getting at is that this is a fantastic book for learning valuable guitar technique in the context of songs you probably already know unconsciously or from childhood. My interests lie primarily in acid rock and hard rock from the sixties, but seriously this is the book I'm getting the most out of. Finally, I've just got to comment on what a couple other reviewers have mentioned. First, the key of F makes sense guitar-wise for many of these songs. A brief strum-though will show you why; the various open chords used sound ideal and aren't some sort of chintzy approximation. And then, one person complained that the book won't lie flat on the music stand. Well, notice the emblem on the top-left of the cover. It reads: "Lay Flat, Sewn Binding." That says it all. This book, like everything from Dover is a quality production using sewn signatures throughout. (I've done business with Dover for nearly forty years, first as a mathematician, then as magician and now as a musician). Do the old thing we all learned in grade school a half-century ago, where you break in a new book by degrees. Anyway, it lies flat on my music stand perfectly well so I don't know what this person was seeing. As for an odor, well, I have an overly acute sense of smell and haven't noticed anything untoward. My suggestion would be not to store it by the kitty litter box in between rehearsals. Whew! This turned out longer than I expected. But I'm so enamored with the book that I wanted to share my delight with others (my first review ever for ). In a nutshell, this is the perfect guitar songbook for learning the instrument, I think. And at a bargain price, too. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice Collection of American Songs By William Struse A fine collection of American folk music and songs. Each piece has a informative description about the history of the song. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. American Song Treasury falls short By Jacques D'Enfield This compilation is a decent cross-section of USA songs, but not as comprehensive as I expected.

"Besides innumerable good old tunes running in our heads, [there's] a sense of having actually lived in the years [covered by] this book." The International Musician Music has always played an important part in American life from the hymns sung in colonial days, to partisan songs that supported independence, and war songs that boosted morale. Immigration, westward movement and industrialization all helped contribute to America's musical archives. This outstanding collection of 100 all-time favorite songs offers an unbeatable combination: the music and lyrics of well-known tunes in easy-to-sing keys, together with equally entertaining background information on each song. Assembled by noted composer, arranger and musical director Theodore Raph, this impressive volume spans 300 years from the haunting strains of Greensleeves to songs that reached new peaks of popularity in the 1950s (He's Got the Whole World in His Hand). Perfect for party sing-alongs or for one's own enjoyment, these appealing songs all made past his parades. Yankee Doodle was "on the charts" during the Revolutionary War; Clementine and Sweet Betsy from Pike were widely hummed, sung, whistled and played in the mid-19th century. She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain and Wabash Cannonball heralded the era of transcontinental railroad construction; and regional songs such as My Old Kentucky Home, On the Banks of the Wabash, and Home on the Range became nationwide favorites. Easy-to-play piano accompaniments, guitar chords and complete lyrics make these familiar melodies ideal ice-breakers on picnics, boating excursions, camping trips and a host of other group activities. Because they're in the public domain, these tunes are also desirable for professional and commercial use. Singers, pianists, students, teachers songsters at all levels of expertise will be delighted with these musical moments from bygone eras.