

Saloon to Salon  
Frank in the Wee Small Hours  
Mr. Goodman  
Period 1

This is not your father's Sinatra. Well, okay, it *is* your father's Sinatra, but it will be **your** Sinatra as well. Frank's music is robust and vital and relevant, and this class is designed to explore and invite and invigorate. This man had a habit of inciting excitement, and we will delve into the reasons behind the excitement by looking at the world in which he lived and sang: what was he singing about, what was going on *when* he was singing about it, and why did (and does) it matter? More than just a 'saloon singer (his own words), Sinatra was a storyteller, and through his music he shared his own version of struggle, sorrow, heartache, and eventual acceptance and resolution. And while he was singing about his struggles and his triumphs, the world was moving along with him. We will look at that the world Frankie was singing in and about, how it influenced him and how he influenced **it**. We'll also be looking closely at the *language* of Sinatra. Frank never wrote a song, but he personally chose every song he sang. We'll look at some of the people whose words Frank sang.

"Strangers in the Night"? 1966? Frank topples the Beatles in the charts? And he hated the song! Why? Let's find out.

In 1971, Frank called it quits, and performed one last concert as a farewell. (The 'retirement' only lasted a few years.) He hand-picked the 11 songs that made up the set list, feeling that these songs best represented his career and told his 'story'. We will study these songs and dig into what they meant to Frank and his world at the time. And then we'll move along to his 'un-retirement' party at Madison Square Garden, the "Main Event", and the slew of Grammys and 'Duets' albums after that. From a teen-hearththrob-bobby-soxer-scream-machine to the elder statesman of pop music, Frank Sinatra is a wild ride, and in this class we will buckle up and take that ride with him. It ain't just 'New York, New York' after a Yankees game!

Cuba anyone? We'll also be taking a deep dive into the Buena Vista Social Club scene. Frank spent a wild weekend down there, cavorting with 'the boys', but we'll spend more time than that digging into those Caribbean melodies and rhythms.

Frank was a pioneer in so many areas, but perhaps the most original and long lasting of his ideas was the 'Concept Album'. In this class we will explore the nature of 'concept' and for our final project we will assemble our own individual concept albums, using music from the past, present and maybe original music too!

As always, we will also work on pieces of our own to perform throughout the year at the Arts House Café and other arenas.

