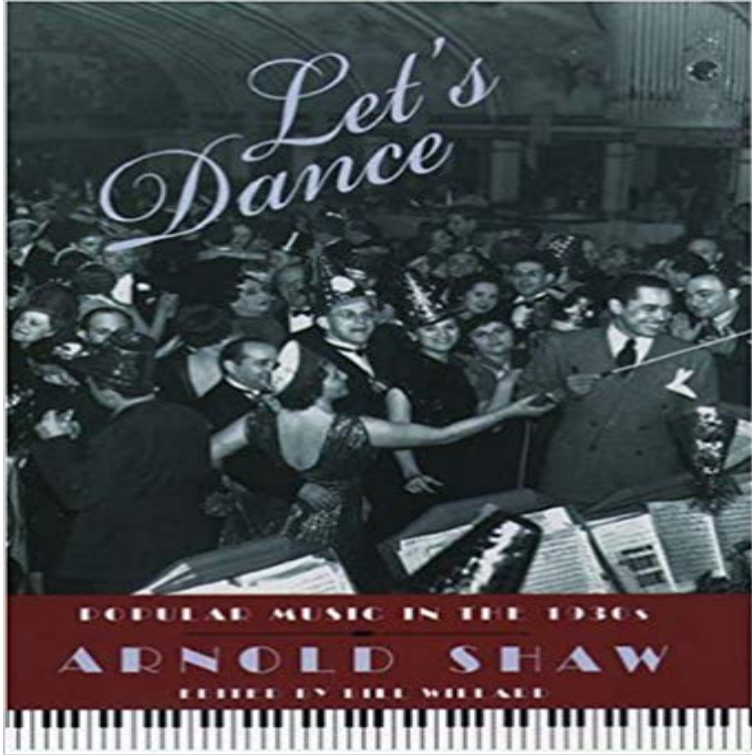


Lets Dance: Popular Music in the 1930s



In this exuberant sequel to his prize-winning *The Jazz Age*, Arnold Shaw captures virtually every aspect of popular music during the Depression. Here is a colorful year-by-year chronicle of music in the 30s, blended with chapters on broader topics--the jazz clubs on Swing Street, the Big Band boom--and spiced with interviews with major figures (such as Burton Lane and Lionel Hampton), who bring a vibrant first-hand feel to the narrative. Readers visit every corner of the music scene. We watch as the Hollywood musical takes off, highlighted by the brilliant Busby Berkeley and the luminous partnership of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. We read about the incredible popularity of radio shows such as *Your Hit Parade* and *Martin Blocks* make-believe ballroom, which brought music to households from coast to coast. And we experience once again the great Broadway musicals of the period--from *Girl Crazy* to *The Cradle Will Rock*--written by a whos who of American song: Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Rodgers and Hart, and Cole Porter. But above all, the 30s were the Swing Era--when swing bands dominated dance halls, ballrooms, radio broadcasts, and record sales--and Shaw provides superb portraits of Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey, and countless others. From Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* to Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, from Woody Guthrie to Ethel Merman, and from the Carioca to the Lindy Hop, here is an affectionate and informative account of this golden era of popular song.

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The history of popular music in the 1930s, a decade that boasted such eminent figures as Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Rogers and Hart, Jerome Kern and Harold Pop Music and

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