

## Concept of Monthly Theme Concerts

Most of the themes for the monthly concerts have to do with special days (holidays or events) during the month, for example, Valentine's Day, the first day of spring, Cinco de Mayo, or the first day of autumn. There is a narrative (story line) that ties each tune on the program into the theme for the month. Using the Autumn Leaves concert as an example, many of the tunes such as *Autumn Leaves* (1947), *September in the Rain* (1937), *Autumn In New York* (1934), *September Song* (1938), and *Early Autumn* (1949) have an obvious connection to the autumn theme. Other tunes such as *I've Got the World on A String* (1932) and *Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams* (1931) do not have such an obvious connection. The narrative ties these tunes and all the tunes on the show into the autumn theme. (Note: The first day of autumn and the autumnal equinox usually occur on September 22 or 23.)

### Tributes to Composers of Classic American Popular Music

Some months such as October do not have a special day/event that will work for us for our theme for the month. For these months, we do tributes to significant composers of classic American popular music such as Jimmy Van Heusen who are little known to the general public today. In November, we do a tribute to Duke Ellington who has name recognition associated with jazz, but who is little known to the general public as a major contributor to classic American popular music. For similar reasons, we do a tribute to the Beatles in January. Of course, literally everybody has heard of the Beatles and their rock music, but many or most people do not know them as major contributors to classic American popular music.

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