

COLE
PORTER

Cole Albert Porter was born in Peru Indiana on June 9th, 1891. At the age of eight he began studying piano in Marion, Indiana at Indiana's Marion Conservatory. By age ten, he began to compose songs, and his first song was entitled "Song of the Birds".

Porter's mother was instrumental in introducing him to the arts, but like most parents, they wanted their child to pursue something more stable ... like law. Cole graduated from Yale in 1913 with a BA degree and attended Harvard Law School from 1913 to 1914 and the Harvard School of Music from 1915 to 1916.

Unlike contemporaries such as George Gershwin and Irving Berlin, Cole Porter did not succeed on Broadway in his early years and proved his parents concern accurate. Dismayed by rejection, he moved to Europe, living for some time in Paris and Venice. He was not idle, however, and continued to write with great tenacity. Many of the songs from this period would later be hits. In fact, Cole Porter's lyrics, clever rhymes helped him eventually become one of the greatest contributors to the Great American Songbook.

In 1934, his hit "Anything Goes" appeared on Broadway. During the show's hectic rehearsal Porter once asked the stage doorman what he thought the show should be called. The doorman responded that nothing seemed to go right, with so many things being taken out and then put back in, that "Anything Goes" might be a good title. Porter liked it, and kept it. Cole Porter worked with Bob Hope, Jimmy Durante, Ethel Merman and many of the greats as they sang his lyrics and performed his works.

Cole Porter wound up being one of America's premier composers and song writers and produced such classic songs as "Let's Do It" in 1928, "You Do Something To Me" in 1929, "Love For Sale" in 1930, "What Is This Thing Called Love?" in 1929, "Night and Day" in 1932, "I Get A Kick Out Of You" in 1934, "Begin the Beguine" in 1935, "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" in 1938, "Don't Fence Me In" in 1944, "I Love Paris" in 1953, "I've Got You Under My Skin", "In the Still of The Night", "You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To", "True Love", "Just One Of Those Things", "Anything Goes", "From This Moment On", "You're The Top", "Easy to Love" and many, many more.

Who would have ever imagined that a small 8 year old boy, who learned how to play the piano in Marion Indiana, would create legendary music for Broadway, movies and television and provide work for countless dancers, singers, producers, crew members, record labels, restaurants, etc all over the world ... ?

Cole Porter, followed his passion despite his parents protective discouragement and the obvious insurmountable odds and disappointments of the business. However, recognizing artists and nurturing them at an early stage could eventually produce massive economic growth to those around them. James Dean, Jim Davis and Cole Porter all fit that mold.

Cole Albert Porter (June 9, 1891 – October 15, 1964)