

If Music Be the Food. . .

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A passion for food has been reflected in the songs of countless cultures for centuries. Food as sacred or secular metaphor fills western music. From bawdy tavern songs of the Renaissance to Baroque oratorio; from ethnic folk songs to contemporary hymns; food images are often the vehicle by which the composer expresses the inexpressible; longing, faith, love, humor or lust!

As a theatrical device, food is frequently used in song to establish mood, time, or place. From Grand Opera to Musical Theater, feasting and celebration is often the backdrop upon which the greater drama can unfold.

Today, popular songs are loaded with the four food groups: fruits and vegetables parade through scores of children's songs, and all manner of sizzling dishes provide plenty of innuendo in jazz and popular ballads.

Tonight we are delighted to present an evening of songs about food and food customs chosen from the great Musical Theater of America and Britain. Please join us as we celebrate such wonderful musicals as "She Loves Me," "Carousel," "The Boys from Syracuse," and "The Fantastiks" to name a few. We hope you find these songs rich in imagery, humor and sweetness. Some sublime, some ridiculous, they are delicious treats by some of the most beloved composers of the past century.