

# Jerome Kern



Born: 1885

Died: 1945

- Was born in New York City.
- At the age of 17, he tried his hand at a business career working for his father, but an incident involving his accidentally ordering 200 pianos from an Italian dealer instead of two — the number he was supposed to purchase — helped him get his start in music.
- Enrolled in the New York College of Music in 1902 and in 1903 went abroad to study music in Germany.
- Hired in 1904 to adapt one of these shows, “Mr. Wix of Wickham,” for the Broadway stage by “Americanizing” some of the numbers and by writing some additional songs of his own.
- In 1915 Kern began writing musicals for the Princess Theatre in New York.
- In the 1940s Kern moved to Hollywood and devoted the rest of his career to writing music for films.
- Most of Kern’s manuscripts were assumed for decades to be lost, but in 1982 hundreds of manuscripts by Kern and other Broadway composers were found in a warehouse in Secaucus, New Jersey.