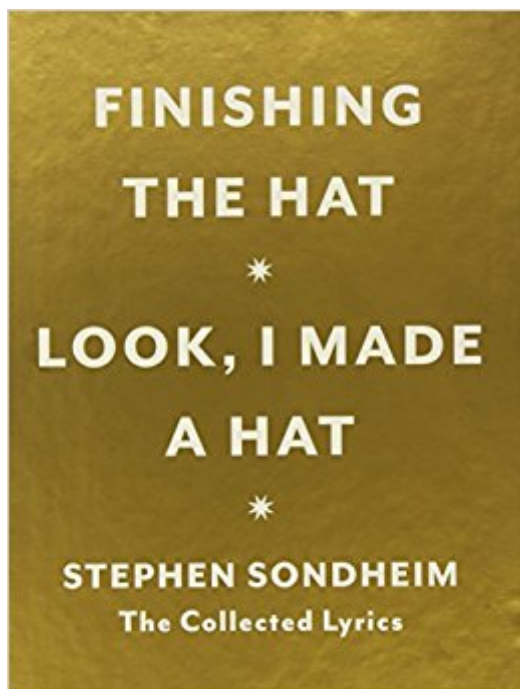


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# Hat Box: The Collected Lyrics Of Stephen Sondheim



## Synopsis

In *Hat Box*, Stephen Sondheim presents his complete collected lyrics from the acclaimed *Finishing the Hat* and *Look, I Made a Hat*. This box set includes lyrics from Sondheim's most popular shows like *West Side Story*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Into the Woods*, richly annotated with anecdotes, pointed observations, and invaluable advice from one of the greatest songwriters of our time. This handsomely designed package is essential reading for any fan of the theater or this living legend's work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Stephen Sondheim has written award-winning music and lyrics for theater, film and television. He is also the coauthor of the film *The Last of Sheila* and the play *Getting Away with Murder*. Sondheim is on the council of the Dramatists Guild of America, having served as its president from 1973 to 1981. He lives in New York City.

If you agree with Tom Lehrer that Stephen Sondheim is the best lyricist of the 20th Century (I do but I would remove the temporal limitation), then these two books are an absolute must. It's very interesting to see how Sondheim's lyrics have grown in sophistication from the days of *West Side Story* to his later works, such as *A Little Night Music*. The man is a genius, and these two volumes attest to it.

If you want in-depth insight into Sondheim's writing process, you need this book. If you enjoy Sondheim's shows, you need this book. If you enjoy musical theater and want to know more about it, you need this book. Buy this book. Sondheim details the writing process for his later shows and it is a thrill to read. There are not only pictures of him and the cast, but of his own manuscripts! If only every great artist would put together a book describing their process. But they don't, so take the wonderful opportunity here to learn!

The ultimate master class in lyric-writing, from the best musical theatre writer of all time. Not only do you get the full librettos for each of Sondheim's brilliant shows, along with revisions, alternate/cut numbers, etc., but brilliant asides by the man himself, including personal observations, recollections and annotations to the lyrics make this set absolutely indispensable for any lover of musical theatre or potential lyricists out there. Not to be missed.

A real treat for those who enjoy Sondheim's lyrics. A look into the creative process embellished with entertaining show biz stories. The large format of the book provides space for reproductions of the composer/lyricist's notebook pages with corrections and alternative lyrics. Production and rehearsal photos abound, as well as programs.

I love these two books. They are very thorough and helpful to the writer of music. There's an abundance of examples on tremendous songs and the evaluation of these songs is priceless. I encourage all writers of music to read these two books. This truly explains the art of writing music.

One of the best books for musical theatre lovers. This book will enhance your experience and appreciation for theatre. After seeing Stephen Sondheim's shows many times, this book will give a whole new perspective and more insight into the process.

Fascinating look at Sondheim's lyrics and his philosophy about theater and lyric writing -- who his big influences were, etc. If you are a Sondheim fan, or like or write musicals, you'll probably find it very interesting. I think it's relatively difficult to get these two books in a slip jacket -- Vol 1 and Vol 2 did not come out at the same time -- so I'm glad I bought this particular product, with the slipcase.

This book was exactly what I was looking for. It provides fantastic insights on Stephen Sondheim's works on all his musicals/collaborations. The reason I only gave it 4 stars is because I wish the book

provided more information about his musical thought process, i.e. how he approaches different keys, chord progressions, if he prefers writing lyrics first vs. music first, if he struggled to marriage the two together, how involved the writers (such as James Lapine) were in the song-writing process, etc. I will still be going back to purchase the other volume.

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