

# The Stories behind the Songs – with Rob Lutes

## Songs Are Good for Us

Songs provide the backdrop to our lives and bring richness to our experiences. Studies show that music also helps create a sense of belonging, promotes overall positive health, reduces stress, and according to many studies, can enhance memory and mood in seniors.

## Musical Storytelling Program Overview

- *What ragtime composer had America's first million-selling song?*
- *Which legendary songwriter wrote the best-selling song of all-time?*
- *Who was America's first professional songwriter? Why are his universally known songs controversial?*



*The Stories behind the Songs* is designed to break isolation and bring enjoyment to seniors through the sharing of musical memories and the fascinating stories behind songs they know and love. The program brings participants on a guided tour of the history of popular music, from its earliest iterations in America in the 18th century, through the flowering of genres like blues, ragtime, jazz, country, and Rock and Roll, among other musical movements. Content can be customized for specific tastes or groups.

## Session and Program Details

The program consists of 1 to 10 individual workshops, with each 50-minute session featuring the stories behind a series of well-known songs along with performances of each one. The program is conversational and highly engaging. Rob encourages participants to share memories, and in certain cases to sing or clap along.



## Virtual Sessions During Covid-19 Pandemic

Sessions are being held virtually through digital technology such as Zoom or Facebook Messenger. In-person sessions will be available in future.

## About Rob Lutes

Rob Lutes is an acclaimed songwriter and performer, a multiple Maple Blues Award and Canadian Folk Music Award nominee and recipient of the 2018 CFMA Contemporary Singer of the Year award. He has given workshops in schools and to seniors across Canada, is an active member of Quebec's Cultural Education Repertoire and Learn Quebec's *Artist's Inspire* roster and has taught in the Festival Blues-sur-Seine's (France) internationally recognized education program as well as the Ottawa Bluesfest Blues in Schools program.

## Testimonials

"I have done two art projects with Rob Lutes. He is an amazing teaching artist." Deidre Potash, ArtWill Studio

"Rob Lutes has offered deeply engaging Blues History and Songwriting workshops in partnership with ORA Loss & Living Program to create space for expressing grief, loss and hope. Highly recommended!"  
Judy Coffin, Program Coordinator, ORA Loss & Living

## Contact:

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