

Composer Study, April 22-24, 2020

Narrate what you know about Rodgers and Hammerstein and three musicals we have studied—*Oklahoma*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, and *The Sound of Music*.

We are now studying *Cinderella*. Julie Andrews's, the very first Cinderella, provides the backstory to this production. Try to watch the first three minutes of the first video on our playlist. It may be something to [watch on family movie night](#) to see what television was like sixty years ago.

After the black-and-white version disappeared into the archives, Rodgers produced a [color version in 1965](#).

Since Hammerstein had died, Rodgers found a new partner who tweaked the script to be closer to the original Cinderella tale. After the original broadcast, it was aired every year for eight years. Rodgers died and the musical was modernized for a [new audience in 1997](#). The musical has also been performed on stage in the United States and Europe.

We will listen to two versions of two songs from Act I. Try to notice the similarity and differences in the music and style in the songs, “In My Own Little Corner” and “Impossible!”

The first song requires Cinderella to act out what she is imagining. The 1965 version has formal singing and

traditional orchestration. It looks like a stage. The 1997 version has a pop style of singing. After the introduction, percussion instruments add a modern beat. The instruments illustrate what Cinderella is imagining by reacting with her. The Disney influence is clearly heard if you listen carefully. The set looks more realistic.

The 1965 version of the second song has limited special effects and looks like a stage. The singing and background instruments have a more traditional sound. The 1997 version has the Disney magic and a more modern style of singing and rhythm, not to mention better special effects and a wider selection of instruments.