

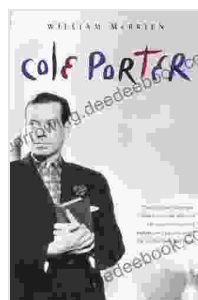
# Cole Porter William McBrien

In the annals of American music, few composers have left an indelible mark on both jazz and Broadway as Cole Porter William McBrien. With his sophisticated lyrics, witty melodies, and urbane demeanor, Porter crafted songs that continue to captivate audiences worldwide. His compositions not only defined the Great American Songbook but also pushed the boundaries of musical theater, revolutionizing the genre with his groundbreaking works.

## Early Life and Musical Influences

Cole Porter was born on June 9, 1891, in Peru, Indiana, into a wealthy and musically inclined family. Encouraged by his parents to develop his natural musical talent, Porter began piano lessons at an early age. As a teenager, he attended the prestigious Worcester Academy in Massachusetts, where he excelled in music and theater.

Porter's musical influences were diverse, ranging from classical opera to popular ragtime. His love for music was further cultivated during his years at Yale University, where he studied with some of the most renowned musicians of the era, including Horatio Parker and Edgar Stillman Kelley.



## Cole Porter by William McBrien

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3862 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 480 pages



## **Jazz and Broadway Breakthroughs**

After graduating from Yale in 1913, Porter moved to Paris, where he immersed himself in the bohemian art scene. It was here that he first encountered jazz, which would become a significant influence on his later compositions. In 1916, Porter wrote his first jazz standard, "The Red, Red Robin," which became an instant hit and launched his career as a professional songwriter.

In 1928, Porter made his Broadway debut with his first full-length musical, "Paris." The show was a critical and commercial success, establishing Porter as one of the leading composers of his time. Over the next three decades, he would write some of the most iconic musicals in Broadway history, including "Fifty Million Frenchmen" (1929), "Anything Goes" (1934), "Kiss Me, Kate" (1948), and "Can-Can" (1952).

## **Sophisticated Lyrics and Witty Melodies**

Porter's songs were renowned for their sophisticated lyrics and witty melodies. His lyrics often featured clever wordplay, double entendres, and references to high society and current events. His melodies were equally inventive, combining elements of jazz, classical music, and popular songs to create a distinctive and memorable sound.

Porter's songs have been interpreted by countless artists over the years, from Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald to Nat King Cole and Tony Bennett. His compositions have also been featured in numerous Hollywood films,

including "High Society" (1956), "Kiss Me, Kate" (1953), and "Born to Dance" (1936).

## **Influence on Musical Theater**

Porter's contributions to musical theater cannot be overstated. He was instrumental in breaking away from the traditional operetta format, introducing elements of jazz, comedy, and satire into his works. His musicals featured strong, independent female characters and dealt with contemporary social issues, making them not only entertaining but also culturally significant.

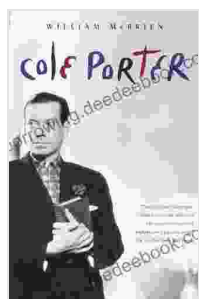
Porter's influence on musical theater extends beyond his own compositions. His groundbreaking works inspired countless composers and lyricists, who followed in his footsteps to create a new generation of sophisticated and innovative musicals.

## **Later Years and Legacy**

In later years, Porter continued to write songs and musicals, although his output diminished due to health problems. Despite suffering from spinal injuries and a partial paralysis, he remained active in the music industry, mentoring young composers and contributing to the American Songbook.

Cole Porter died on October 15, 1964, at the age of 73. His legacy as a musical genius continues to inspire and entertain audiences worldwide. His songs have been translated into dozens of languages and have become timeless classics in the repertoires of singers, musicians, and theater companies.

Cole Porter William McBrien was a visionary composer whose contributions to jazz and Broadway left an indelible mark on American music. His sophisticated lyrics, witty melodies, and innovative musicals continue to delight and inspire audiences of all generations. As a true pioneer of musical theater, Porter's legacy will endure for centuries to come, ensuring that his name and music will forever be etched in the annals of American cultural history.



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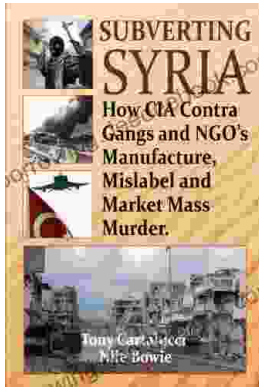
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