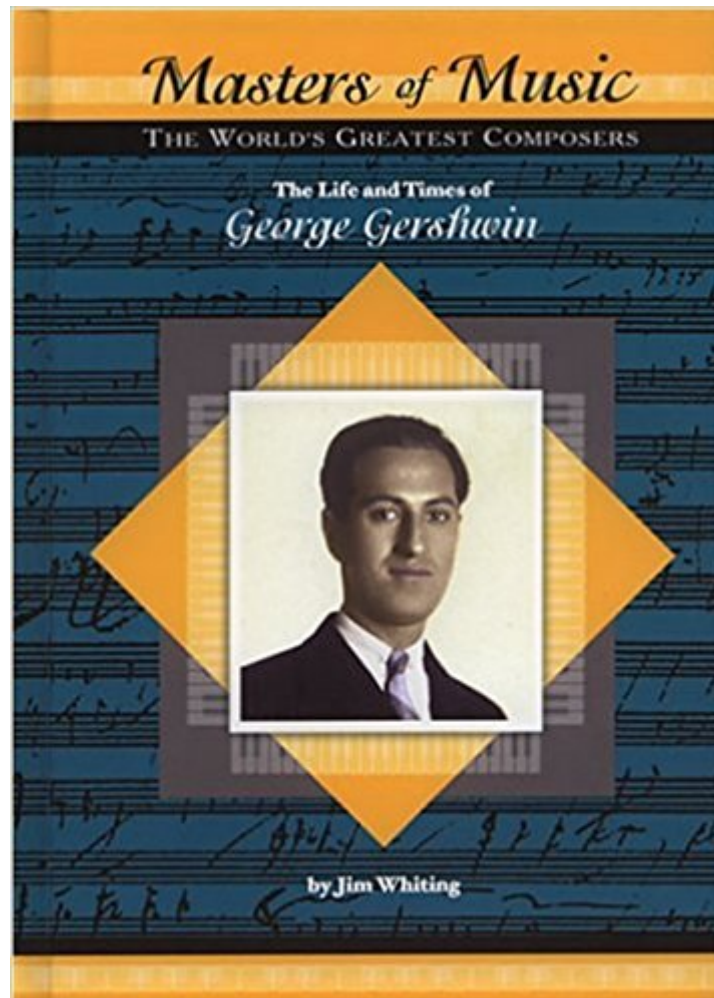




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# The Life And Times Of George Gershwin (Masters Of Music)



## Synopsis

George Gershwin couldn't seem to stay out of trouble when he was a boy. He was a tough kid who got in a lot of fights and frequently skipped school. When his family bought a piano, his life was transformed. He quickly mastered it, and then dropped out of school when he was fifteen to become a musician. Within a year, he had sold his first song. When he was 20, he wrote his first big hit. Five years after that, *Rhapsody in Blue* catapulted him to international fame. With his brother Ira as lyricist, he went on to compose some of the most famous musicals of the twentieth century and also wrote several movie scores. But he died tragically when he was only 38.

## Book Information

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Grade 4-6 – Brief looks at the lives of two well-known and important composers. In their quest for musical careers, both Gershwin and Verdi faced numerous challenges and struggles. Through persistence and determination, they realized great success – Gershwin with musicals and Verdi in opera – but also disappointment and heartache in their personal lives. Each title consists of six succinct chapters highlighting important events in the composer's life, followed by an "FYInfo" page that provides additional information relative to the previous chapter or about cultural and political developments. These help give historical perspective to the composers' lives. The layout of the books, with blue-and-gold highlights, black-and-white and color photos, and reproductions, adds to their overall appeal and accessibility. Personal chronologies, historical time lines, detailed indexes, and other back matter make these books ideal for research. – Susan Shaver, Hemingford Public Schools, NE Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of

Jim Whiting has been a journalist, writer, editor, and photographer for more than 20 years. In addition to a lengthy stint as publisher of Northwest Runner magazine, Mr. Whiting has contributed articles to the Seattle Times, Conde Nast Traveler, Newsday, and Saturday Evening Post. He has edited more than 100 Mitchell Lane titles in the Real-Life Reader Biography series and Unlocking the Secrets of Science. A great lover of classical music, he has written many books for young adults, including The Life and Times of Irving Berlin and The Life and Times of Frédéric Chopin (Mitchell Lane). He lives in Washington state with his wife and two teenage sons.

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