

# Andre Kostelanetz

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**André Kostelanetz** (Russian: Андрей Костеланец, December 22, 1901 – January 13, 1980) was a popular [orchestral music conductor](#) and arranger, one of the pioneers of [easy listening music](#).

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## Biography

Born in [Saint Petersburg, Russia](#), Kostelanetz escaped in 1922 after the [Russian Revolution](#).<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> He arrived in the [United States](#) that year, and in the 1920s, conducted concerts for [radio](#). In the 1930s, he began his own weekly show on [CBS](#), *André Kostelanetz Presents*.

Kostelanetz was known for arranging and recording light [classical music](#) pieces for mass audiences, as well as orchestral versions of [songs](#) and [Broadway show tunes](#). He made numerous recordings over the course of his career, which had sales of over 50 million and became staples of [beautiful music radio stations](#).<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> For many years, Kostelanetz also conducted the [New York Philharmonic](#) in [pops](#) concerts and recordings, in which they were billed as **Andre Kostelanetz and His Orchestra**.

André Kostelanetz may be best-known to modern audiences for a series of [easy listening instrumental albums](#) on [Columbia Records](#) from the 1940s until 1980.

Kostelanetz actually started making this music before there was a [genre](#) called "easy listening"<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>. He continued until after some of his contemporaries, including [Mantovani](#), had stopped recording.

Outside the United States, one of his best known works was an orchestral arrangement of the tune "With a Song in my Heart", which was the signature tune of a long-running [BBC](#) radio program, at first called *Forces Favourites*, then *Family Favourites*, and finally *Two Way Family Favourites*.

He commissioned many works, including [Aaron Copland](#)'s *Lincoln Portrait*, [Jerome Kern](#)'s *Portrait of Mark Twain*, [William Schuman](#)'s *New England Triptych*, [Paul Creston](#)'s *Frontiers*, [Ferde Grofé](#)'s *Hudson River Suite*, [Virgil Thomson](#)'s musical portraits of [Fiorello La Guardia](#) and [Dorothy Thompson](#), [Alan Hovhaness](#)'s *Floating World*, and [Ezra Laderman](#)'s *Magic Prison*. [William Walton](#) dedicated his *Capriccio burlesco* to Kostelanetz, who conducted the first performance and made the first recording, both with the New York Philharmonic.<sup>[1]</sup>

Toward the end of his recording career, his name was more of a brand than a true representation of who actually made the music, because nearly all of his output in the 1970s was arranged by others.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> Some of the arrangers credited on 1970s Kostelanetz albums include [Teo Macero](#), [Torrie Zito](#), [Hank Levy](#), [Luther Henderson](#), [Jack Cortner](#), [Eddie Sauter](#), [Claus Ogerman](#), [Jack Pleis](#), [Tommy Newsom](#), [Harold Wheeler](#), [Bobby Scott](#), [LaMont Johnson](#), [Wade Marcus](#), [Patrick Williams](#), [Sammy Nestico](#), [Warren Vincent](#), [Dick Hyman](#), [Jorge Calandrelli](#) and [Don Sebesky](#).

Kostelanetz's last concert was *A Night in Old Vienna* with the [San Francisco Symphony Orchestra](#) at that city's [War Memorial Opera House](#) on December 31, 1979.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Personal life

He was the second husband of the soprano [Lily Pons](#); they were married from 1938 to 1958, when the marriage was dissolved.

## Death

He died in [Haiti](#) on January 13, 1980, aged 78.

## Discography

- *The Music of Victor Herbert*, Columbia Masterworks M-415
- *Tchaikovsky: Nutcracker Suite*, Op. 71a, 1956, Columbia Long Playing CL 730

- *Music of Irving Berlin*, 1950, Columbia Masterworks 4314
- "The Music of Stephen Foster, 1941, 3 LP Set Columbia Masterworks M-442 78's
- *The Music of Chopin*, 1949, Columbia Masterworks MM 840
- *Music of Cole Porter*, 1951, Columbia Masterworks 2014
- *Music of George Gershwin*, 1951, Columbia Masterworks 2026
- *Black Magic*, 1955, Columbia CL 712
- *Prokofiev, Peter and the Wolf & Saint-Seans, Carnival of the Animals*, 1955, Columbia CL 720
- *Music of Vincent Youmans*, 1955, Columbia CL 734
- *Verdi: Aida*, 1956, Columbia CL 755
- *Bravo!*, Columbia CL 758
- *Vienna Nights*, Columbia CL 769
- *Music of Fritz Kreisler, Music of Sigmund Romberg*, 1955, Columbia CL 771
- *You and the Night and the Music*, 1956, Columbia CL 772
- *Music of Jerome Kern*, 1956, Columbia CL 776
- *The Lure of the Tropics*, 1956, Columbia CL 780
- *Stardust*, 1956, Columbia CL 781
- *Kostelanetz Conducts...*, Columbia CL 786
- *La Boheme for Orchestra*, 1953, Columbia CL 797
- *La Traviata Verdi*, Columbia CL 799
- *Strauss Waltzes*, Columbia CL 805
- *Cafe Continental*, Columbia CL 863
- *Broadway Spectacular*, 1957, Columbia CL 865
- *Tender Is the Night*, 1957, Columbia CL 886
- *The Romantic Music of Rachmaninoff*, 1957, Columbia CL 1001
- *Blues Opera*, Columbia CL 1099
- *Encore!*, Columbia CL 1135
- *The Columbia Album of Richard Rodgers*, 1958, Columbia CL 1140
- *Theatre Party*, 1958, Columbia CL 1199
- *The Romantic Music of Tchaikovsky, Vol. 1*, 1958, Columbia CL 1208
- *The Romantic Music of Tchaikovsky, Vol. 2*, 1958, Columbia CL 1209
- *Romantic Arias for Orchestra*, 1959, Columbia CL 1263
- *Music from Flower Drum Song*, 1959, Columbia CL 1280/CS 8095
- *Great Waltzes*, 1959, Columbia CL 1321
- *The Lure of Paradise*, 1959, Columbia CL 1335/CS 8144
- *Strauss Waltzes*, 1959, Columbia CL 1354/CS 8162
- *Gypsy Passion*, 1960, Columbia CL 1431/CS 8228
- *Joy To The World*, 1960, Columbia CL 1528/CS 8328
- *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, 1960, Columbia CL 1576/CS 8376
- *Kostelanetz Favorites* Columbia ML 4065
- *The Nutcracker Suite*, 1961, Columbia Masterworks 6264
- *The New Wonderland Of Sound*, 1961, Columbia CS 8457
- *Star Spangled Marches*, 1962, Columbia CL 1718
- *Broadway's Greatest Hits*, 1962, Columbia CL 1827
- *Fire and Jealousy*, Columbia CL 1898
- *Music from "Mr. President"*, 1962, Columbia CL 1921
- *Wonderland of Golden Hits*, 1963, Columbia CS 8839
- *Wonderland of Christmas*, 1963, Columbia CL 2068/CS 8868
- *New York Wonderland*, 1964, Columbia CL 2138
- *I Wish You Love*, 1964, Columbia CL 2185/CS 8985
- *New Orleans Wonderland*, 1964, Columbia CS 9050

- *The Romantic Strings of Andre Kostelanetz*, 1965, Columbia Masterworks 6711
- *Wishing You a Merry Christmas*, 1965, Columbia Masterworks 6779
- *Romantic Waltzes by Tchaikovsky*, 1965, Columbia Masterworks 6824
- *Today's Golden Hits*, 1966, Columbia CS 9334
- *The Shadow of Your Smile*, 1966, Columbia CS 13285
- *The Kostelanetz Sound of Today*, 1967, Columbia CS 9409
- *Scarborough Fair*, 1968, Columbia CS 9623
- *For the Young at Heart*, 1968, Columbia CS 9691
- *Traces*, 1969, Columbia 13282
- *Greatest Hits of the '60s*, 1970, Columbia CS 9973
- *I'll Never Fall In Love Again*, 1970, Columbia CS 9998
- *Everything Is Beautiful*, 1970, Columbia 30037
- *Sunset*, 1970, Columbia Masterworks 30075
- *And God Created Great Whales* ([Hovhaness](#)), 1971, Columbia 30390
- *Love Story*, 1971, Columbia 30501
- *For All We Know*, 1971, Columbia 30672
- *Plays Chicago*, 1971, Columbia 31002
- *Plays Cole Porter*, 1972, Columbia 31491
- *Love Theme From "The Godfather"*, 1972, Harmony 31500
- *Last Tango In Paris*, 1973, Columbia 32187
- [Moon River](#), 1973, Columbia 32243
- *Plays Great Hits of Today*, 1973, Columbia 32415
- *The Way We Were*, 1974, Columbia 32578
- *Plays Michel Legrand's Greatest Hits*, 1974, Columbia 32580
- *Musical Reflections of Broadway And Hollywood*, 1974, Columbia 33061
- *Plays "Murder on the Orient Express"*, 1975, Columbia 33437
- *Never Can Say Goodbye*, 1975, Columbia 33550
- *I'm Easy*, 1976, Columbia 34157
- *Dance With Me*, 1976, Columbia 34352
- *Plays Broadway's Greatest Hits*, 1977, Columbia 34864
- *You Light Up My Life*, 1978, Columbia 35328
- *Theme From "Superman"*, 1979, Columbia 35781
- *Various Themes, 1980, Columbia 36382*
- "Andre Kostelanetz & his Orchestra Carmen LP #693cl735 Columbia 1950 U.S.A.

## Bibliography

- Kostelanetz, André, with Gloria Hammond, *Echoes: Memoirs of André Kostelanetz*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981. ([ISBN 0151273928](#)).

## References

1. <sup>^</sup> Liner notes from *Musical Evenings: André Koselanetz*, mfp Classics, CFP 4074
2. <sup>^</sup> <http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2008/08-171.html>;  
<http://andrekostelanetz.com/timeline/top.htm>