

# Guy Lombardo's Royal Canadians with Al Pierson



"The sweetest music  
this side of heaven"

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Countless people remember with nostalgia the tradition of Guy Lombardo with his Royal Canadians playing at New York's Waldorf Astoria on New Year's Eve. Since the death of Guy Lombardo in 1977, Auld Lang Syne has continued to be performed by various bands before enthusiastic audiences throughout the world. Those who look back to remember that distinctive recognizable style – the exaggerated saxophone vibratos the clipped brass phrases and a vocal styling that immediately identifies the orchestra as Guy Lombardo's. Guy was a master at picking the exact correct tempo, and his steady succession of beats made it a real pleasure to take your partner out for a swing on the dance floor.

It was a wonderful band. If you could move your legs at all, you could dance to the music of Guy Lombardo. It was the kind of band that you could just sit and listen to with friends as it never played so loud you couldn't hear when someone asked you a question. But the most important ingredient of the Lombardo band was its consistency in playing wonderful tunes like Seems Like Old Times, Boo Hoo, Coquette, and Sweethearts on Parade, all written by Carmen Lombardo. Johnson Rag, Bye Bye Blues, Enjoy Yourself, and Ain't She Sweet are also some of it's recognizable tunes.

Guy Lombardo's music lives on. The baton and responsibility, with the blessings of the Lombardo family, passes on to Al Pierson to continue playing "The sweetest Music This Side of Heaven".

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