

"Happy Days Are Here Again"

By Jack Yellen & Milton Alger

"Happy Days Are Here Again" is a song copyrighted in 1929 by Milton Ager (music) and Jack Yellen (lyrics). The song was recorded by Leo Reisman and His Orchestra, with Lou Levin, vocal (November 1929), and was used in the 1930 film *Laughing Rainbows*. Today, the song is probably best remembered as the campaign song for Franklin Delano Roosevelt's (FDR) successful 1932 Presidential campaign. Since FDR's use of the song, it has come to be recognized as the unofficial theme of the Democratic Party. The lyrics suggest optimism and buoyancy.

Matthew Greenwald characterized it, "A true saloon standard, Happy Days Are Here Again is a Tin Pan Alley standard, and had been sung by virtually every interpreter since the 1940s. In a way, it's the pop version of Auld Lang Syne."

The song is #47 on the Recording Industry Association of America's list of "Songs of the Century."

[Instrumental Introduction]

Happy days are here again,
The skies above are clear again
Let us sing a song of cheer again --
Happy days are here again

All together, shout it now --
There's no one who can doubt it now
So let's tell the world about it now
Happy days are here again

Your cares and troubles are gone --
There'll be no more from now on!

Happy days are here again,
The skies above are clear again
Let us sing a song of cheer again --
Happy days are here again

[Instrumental Repeat]

**“Happy Days Are Here Again”
Song Analysis**

Describe the tone and lyrical content of the song.

How does the song reflect the mood of America in 1932? Identify two things that the song tells you about life in the country at the time it was produced.

What is the tone or mood of this recording?

How well did the song reflect the feelings of those supported Franklin D. Roosevelt?

Explain how the tone of the song was symbolic of Roosevelt’s campaign.