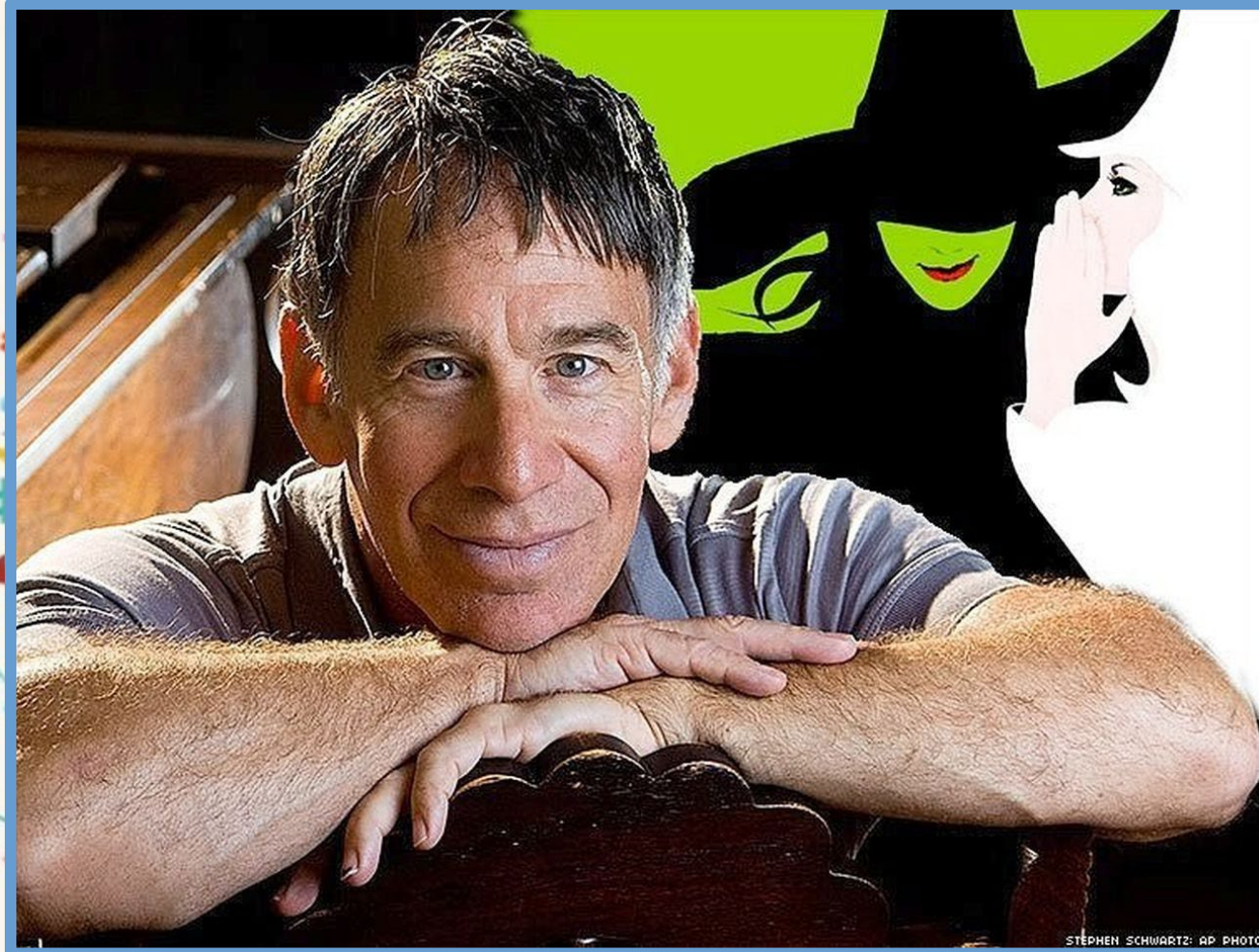




Stephen Schwartz

Composer of the Week



Stephen Schwartz
(1948-present)

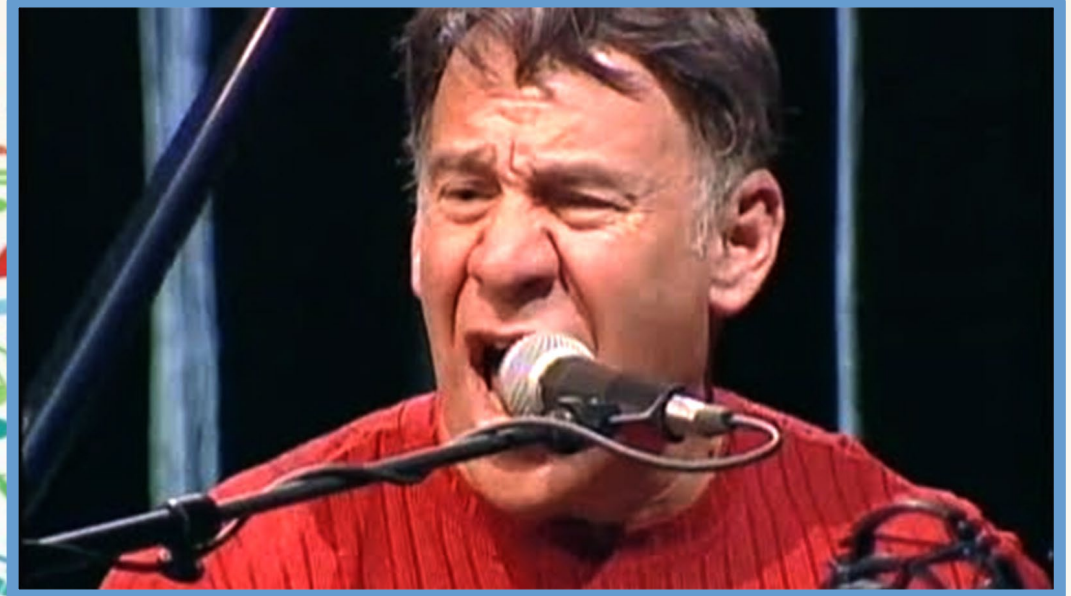




Born in New York
City, USA, on
March 6th 1948

Stephen Schwartz is an American composer and **lyricist** who has written some of the most beloved musicals of the past few decades.

A composer writes the music while the **lyricist** writes the **lyrics** (words) to the songs.





Stephen Schwartz was born in New York City in 1948. He attended his first **musical** on Broadway at the age of eight and fell in love with the theatre. He began studying piano at a young age and was admitted to the preparatory division of **Juilliard School**, to study piano and composition.

Musicals are plays with songs. They were originally simple stories, sometimes comic, used as a basis to link wonderful songs together. Musicals are theatrical performances which include spoken dialogue, acting and dance.



The **Juilliard School** is a performing arts conservatory in New York City. It was founded in 1905 and is one of the world's leading institutions for music and performing arts education.

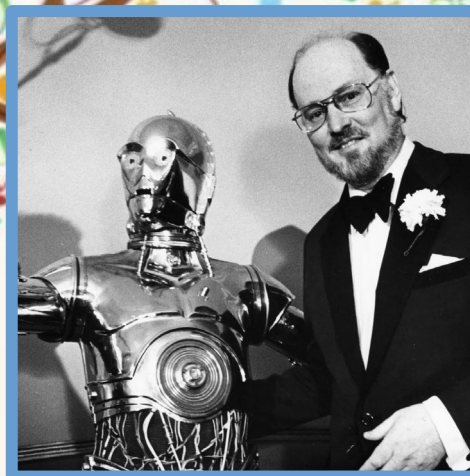
Some of the most famous performers in the world studied there.



Yo-Yo Ma



Itzhak Perlman

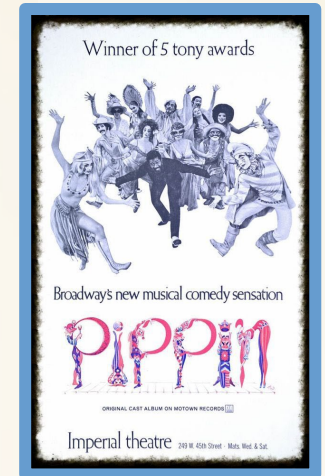
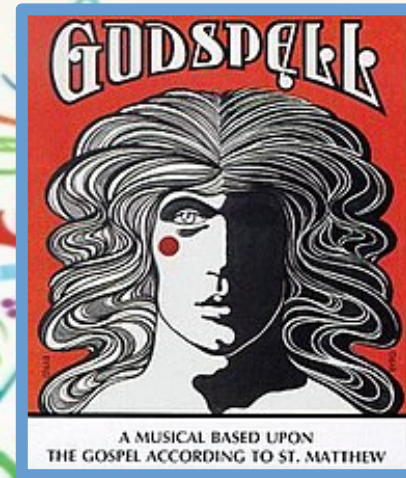


John Williams



Henry Mancini

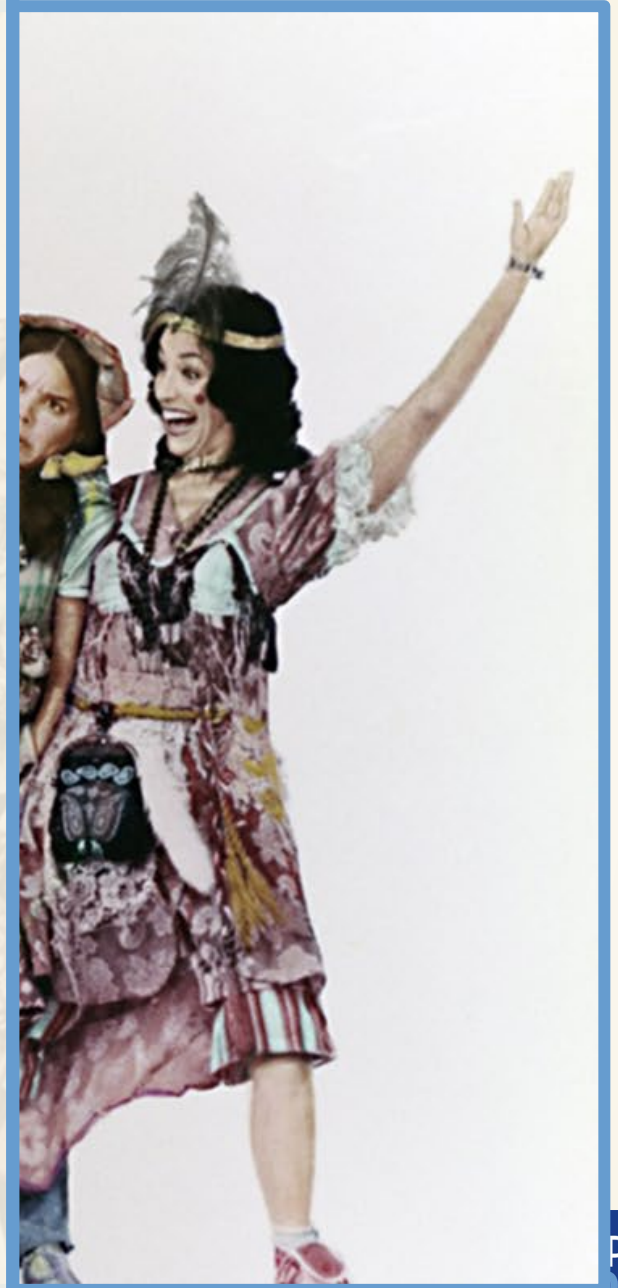
Stephen Schwartz's first major success came with the musical "**Godspell**," which he wrote in 1971. He went on to write several other hit musicals, including "**Pippin**", "**The Magic Show**" and "**Children of Eden**."





"Godspell", is a musical based on the Gospel of Matthew and won several awards, including two Grammys. It was an immediate hit and is still performed today.

"Godspell" is known for its catchy tunes and upbeat energy, and its message of love and acceptance has made it a favorite of audiences for decades.







"**Pippin**" is a musical that tells the story of a young prince trying to find meaning in his life.

"**Pippin**" premiered on Broadway in 1972 and was a critical and commercial success. The show has been revived several times and has become a beloved classic of musical theater.

"**Pippin**" is known for its innovative staging and its catchy songs, including the hit song "**Corner of the Sky**".



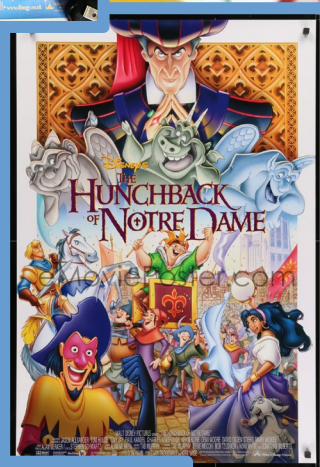
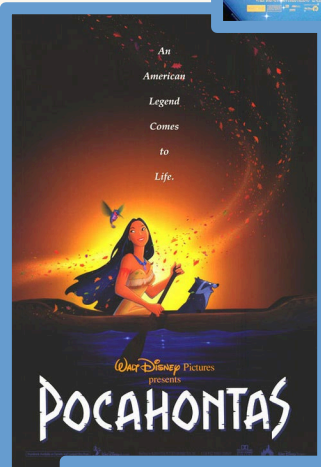


"Wicked" is based on the novel "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West" by Gregory Maguire.

The story reimagines the story of **"The Wizard of Oz"** from the Wicked Witch of the West's perspective.

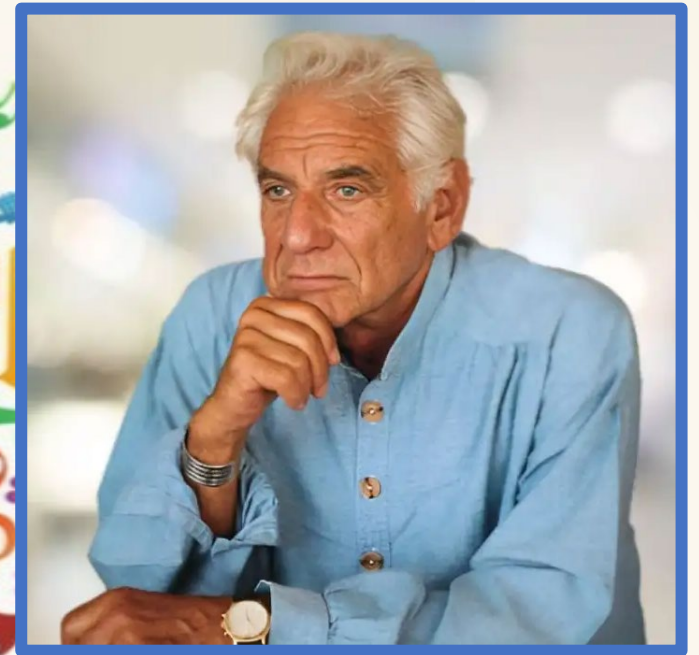
"Wicked" premiered on Broadway in 2003 and has become one of the most successful musicals of all time, winning numerous awards, with productions all around the world.



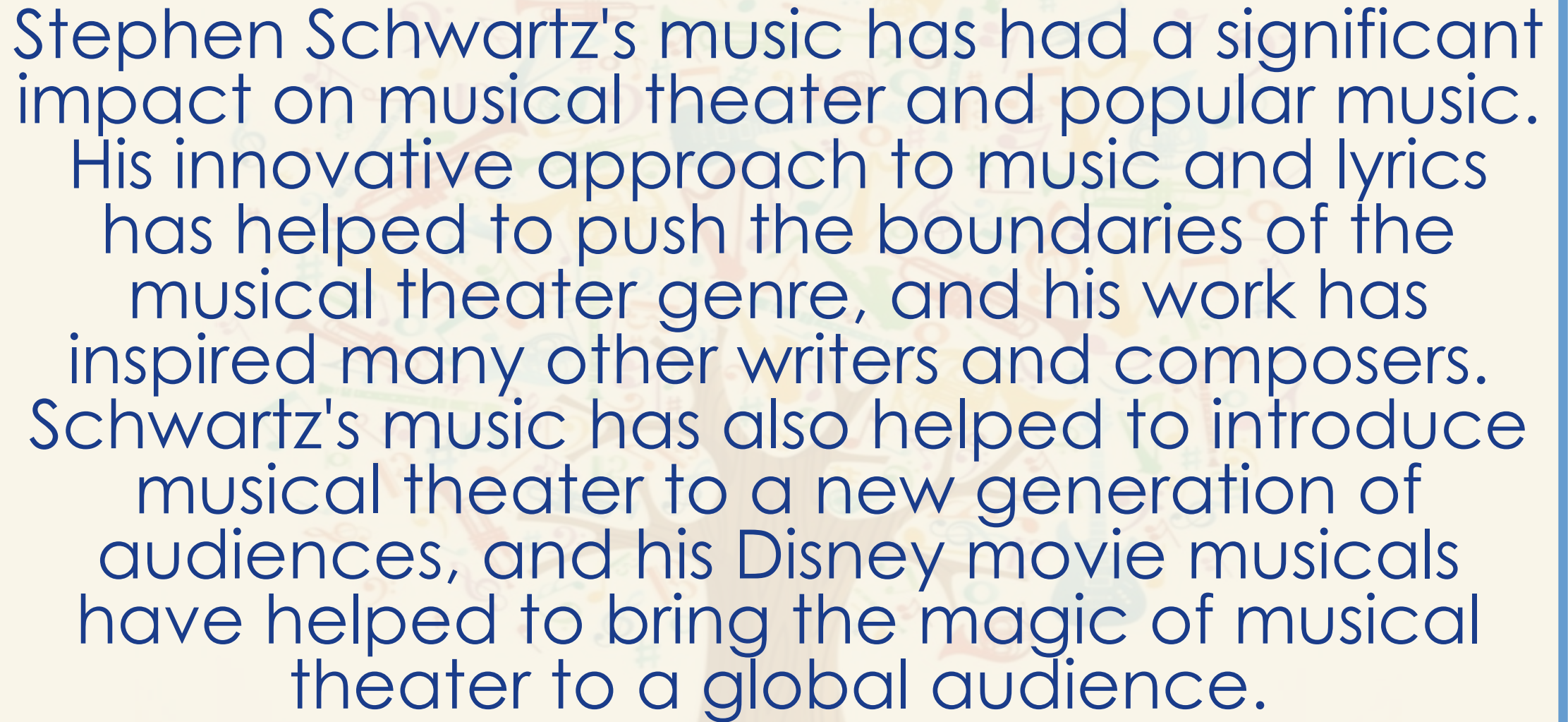


Schwartz also wrote the lyrics for the Disney movies "**Pocahontas**", "**The Hunchback of Notre Dame**", and "**Enchanted**", and he has won several Academy Awards and Grammy Awards for his work.

He also worked with another composer we have looked at. He helped write some of the lyrics for **Leonard Bernstein's** **Mass**.



Stephen Schwartz's music is known for being catchy and fun to listen to. His songs often tell stories and have a message to them.

The background features a light beige color with several colorful musical notes (green, blue, orange) scattered across the top. A brown tree trunk is visible at the bottom center, extending upwards behind the text box.

Stephen Schwartz's music has had a significant impact on musical theater and popular music. His innovative approach to music and lyrics has helped to push the boundaries of the musical theater genre, and his work has inspired many other writers and composers. Schwartz's music has also helped to introduce musical theater to a new generation of audiences, and his Disney movie musicals have helped to bring the magic of musical theater to a global audience.

