

= My Kind of Town =

" My Kind of Town " or " My Kind of Town ( Chicago Is ) " is a popular song composed by Jimmy Van Heusen , with lyrics by Sammy Cahn . It was originally part of the musical score for Robin and the 7 Hoods , a 1964 musical film starring several members of the Rat Pack . It was nominated for the 1964 Academy Award for Best Original Song but lost to " Chim Chim Cher @-@ ee " from Mary Poppins . Although the song predated the Grammy Award Best Original Song for a Motion Picture category , the entire score was nominated for the 1964 Grammy Award in the category Best Original Score Written for A Motion Picture , but it lost to the eponymously titled Mary Poppins score .

Frank Sinatra recorded several versions which have appeared on many of his albums . Also , many artists have performed the song as a tribute to Sinatra in posthumous tribute albums . In addition , the song had been recorded by many other artists prior to Sinatra 's death . The lyrics , which praise the city of Chicago for its people and institutions , repeat the title phrase several times , usually in a line that says " My kind of town , Chicago is " .

= = Versions = =

The original context of the song , in the film Robin and the 7 Hoods , is the mob boss Robbo ( Sinatra ) having just been acquitted of murdering the sheriff , a crime for which he had been framed . He walks out of the courthouse and joyously sings the song in gratitude to the gathered crowd of Chicagoans . The people eventually join in the singing . Instrumental versions of the song make up the opening and closing credits , and a dance band also plays the song in Robbo 's speakeasy .

Popularized by Sinatra , " My Kind of Town " was originally recorded on April 8 , 1964 in Los Angeles , California . The official B @-@ side song was " I Like To Lead When I Dance " . The song was recorded as a 45 on Reprise Records . The sheet music was copyrighted and published by Sergeant Music Co . , Glorste Inc. and Van Heusen Music Corp. The music is written in the key of A @-@ flat , in 2 / 2 meter ( known as cut time ) with an allegro tempo .

Sinatra recorded " My Kind of Town " twice in a studio setting , and two live versions were officially released , on Sinatra at the Sands ( 1966 ) and The Main Event ? Live ( 1974 ) . One of the more famous bootleg recordings is a concert of May 22 , 1968 at the Oakland Coliseum . On the 1966 album Sinatra at the Sands , the song appears both as the 20th and 22nd ( final ) track . However , the final track is merely a one @-@ minute reprise . On the 1994 album Duets II , Sinatra sings with his son , Frank Sinatra , Jr . , as the 13th of 14 tracks with a length of 2 : 36 .

Sinatra would occasionally alter the lyrics slightly . In early versions , when the Union Stock Yards ( which closed in 1971 ) still existed , one of the final lines was " The Union Stock Yards , Chicago is ... " . In later versions , this line is replaced with " The Chicago Cubbies , Chicago is " . The song also appears on The Ultimate Rat Pack Collection : Live & Swingin ' , a 2003 DVD and CD release of the 1965 " Frank Sinatra Spectacular " benefit concert . However , since the concert takes place in St. Louis , Missouri , the lyrics were altered to reflect St. Louis as the town in Sinatra 's affections .

Although some sources say the song was arranged by Nelson Riddle ( who had scored Robin and the 7 Hoods ) , the " Sinatra Reprise : Very Good Years " Album Cover credits Billy May as the arranger .

The following is a list of notable compilation albums with Sinatra 's versions of the song :

Sinatra : Vegas

Oakland Coliseum Concert : May 22 , 1968

A Man and His Music

Sinatra at the Sands

The Reprise Collection

Frank Sinatra in Hollywood 1940 @-@ 1964

Robin and the 7 Hoods

The Complete Reprise Studio Recordings

The Main Event ? Live

## Duets II ( DVD )

= = Awards = =

= = = Academy Awards = = =

The song was one of 26 for which Cahn was nominated for an Academy Award as a writer and one of 14 for which Van Heusen was nominated as a composer . Both won 4 Academy Awards and 3 of them as a team . The April 5 , 1965 37th Academy Awards was the last of four times Cahn was nominated for two songs in the same year , and the second of two times for Van Heusen . It was the only time that they had two songs nominated as a team , with the other being " Where Love Has Gone " from Where Love Has Gone sung by Jack Jones . In addition to the winner , " Chim Chim Cher @-@ ee " from Mary Poppins , other songs nominated in 1964 were " Dear Heart from Dear Heart and " Hush ... Hush , Sweet Charlotte " from Hush ... Hush , Sweet Charlotte .

= = = Grammy Awards = = =

The Grammy Awards did not have a Best Song Written for a Motion Picture category until 1988 . However , the entire score was nominated for Best Original Score Written for A Motion Picture or Television Show in the April 13 , 1965 7th Grammy Awards ceremony for 1964 musical accomplishments where it lost to the Mary Poppins score . Other credited vocalists on the score were Dean Martin , Bing Crosby , and Sammy Davis , Jr . It also competed against A Hard Day 's Night , Goldfinger and The Pink Panther in this category .

= = In popular culture = =

In the 1979 film Buck Rogers in the 25th Century , Buck sings the song while he returns to Earth . In the 2012 series Lilyhammer , Steven Van Zandt sings the song , albeit switching the lyrics ' " Chicago " with the titular city of Lillehammer . During the 2012 Chicago Summit , the LED displays of police @-@ chartered CTA buses read " CHICAGO IS ... MY KIND OF TOWN . "

= = Related songs = =

Aaron Tippin sings a song with different lyrics by the same name . Frank Sinatra sings a popular version of " Chicago ( That Toddlin ' Town ) " that charted and was the B @-@ side to the 1957 Academy Award for Best Original Song winner , " All the Way " .

On Ruby Braff 's 1981 tribute album , Very Sinatra he does a medley called " New York , New York / My Kind Of Town ( Chicago Is ) " . On Barry Manilow 's 1998 album Manilow Sings Sinatra , he includes a 3 : 00 version of the song .

Jack Jones , who won two Grammy Awards in the 1960s and charted dozens of songs including the theme from The Love Boat , recorded an album entitled My Kind of Town with a title track by the same name . Among the other artists who have recorded versions of the song are Ray Anthony , Count Basie ( twice ) , Ray Conniff , Marvin Gaye , Jackie Gleason , Jeff Harnar , Biréli Lagrène , Steve Lawrence , Julie London , Frankie Randall ( several times ) , and West of Eden . In addition several albums by the Rat Pack , multiple karaoke albums and dozens of Frank Sinatra albums have versions of the song .

The lyric , " Each time I roam / Chicago is calling me home " is echoed in a 1985 song , written and perform by Paul David Wilson , and featuring artist by Lee Montgomery called " Calling Me Home , Chicago " , [ 1 ] which includes the line " Chicago is calling me home " . Unlike the lively " My Kind of Town " , " Calling Me Home , Chicago " is a leisurely paced ballad .

In 1966 , then Baltimore County Executive and future Vice President of the United States Spiro T.

Agnew used a variation , substituting the lyric " My Kind of Man , Ted Agnew is ... " as a campaign song during his successful run for Governor of Maryland .