

Congratulations to Marla Gibbs for Her Star Unveiled Later Today on the Hollywood Walk of Fame But Hollywood Chamber Continues to "Pass Over" the Installation of the Star Awarded to "Thanks for the Memory" Lyricist 31 Years Ago Yet Never Installed

SHERMAN OAKS, CA / ACCESSWIRE / July 20, 2021 / Leo Robin Music congratulates actress Marla Gibbs, who will have her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame unveiled at a ceremony later this morning. She is probably best known for her role as the sassy maid Florence Johnston on "The Jeffersons." She is an honoree from the Hollywood Walk of Fame Class of 2021 and was awarded the star in the television category.

Each year, Leo Robin Music awaits with great interest the release of the annual announcement by the Hollywood Chamber of the new class of honorees to have their stars unveiled and installed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame to see if the star awarded to lyricist Leo Robin 31 years ago but never installed finally appears on this list. For Leo Robin, this annual ritual is known as 'Pass Over.'

Charlie Parker performing "If I Should Lose You," composed by Ralph Rainger with lyrics by Leo Robin, on his Charlie Parker With Strings album in 1949 and Marla Gibbs singing "Easy Living," composed by Ralph Rainger with lyrics by Leo Robin, in the style of Billie Holiday on the NBC sitcom 227 episode entitled "Blues"

The contributions Leo Robin has made to The Great American Songbook are celebrated time and again with contemporary covers by artists including regularly by those appearing on the annual list of honorees. Marla Gibbs sang "Easy

Living" on her NBC sitcom, 227 episode entitled 'Blues' in the style of Billie Holiday. "Easy Living" was written for the Paramount film of the same name in 1937 and was recorded that same year by Billie Holiday. It became a hit and would be forever associated with Lady Day starting her on a journey and establishing her as one of the important building blocks of American jazz music. The song has become immortalized through covers by many of the greatest jazz artists such as vocalists Ella Fitzgerald and Peggy Lee and trumpeter Miles Davis and pianist Bill Evans and numerous more, and in romantic drama films such as Clint Eastwood's *The Bridges of Madison County* in 1995 and Todd Haynes *Carol* in 2015.

Another honoree from the Hollywood Walk of Fame Class of 2021, in the category of recording, jazz saxophonist Charlie Parker, who performed "Hallelujah" and "If I Should Lose You," was awarded a posthumous star. Charlie Parker, nickname Yardbird or simply Bird, recorded in 1949 his first *Charlie Parker With Strings* album, consisting of six songs total, all of which were standards one of which was 'If I Should Lose You,' and this would become his most popular sellers. It was Yardbird's version of this song that brought it to the attention of pianists George Shearing and Oscar Peterson and vocalists Frank Sinatra and Nina Simone. A multitude of jazz artists have also recorded this song.

In a Facebook live session on June 17, 2021 radio host Ellen K., who serves as the Walk of Fame's Selection Panel Chair, announced the honorees from the Hollywood Walk of Fame Class of 2022. "The Walk of Fame Selection Panel is pleased to announce 38 new honorees to the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Selection Panel, made up of fellow Walk of Famers, hand-picks a group of honorees each year that represent various genres of the entertainment world," said Chair and Walk of Famer Ellen K. "The Panel did an amazing job choosing these very talented people. We can't wait to see each honoree's reaction as they realize that they are becoming a part of Hollywood's history with the unveiling of their star on the world's most famous walkway!" Ellen K added.

While Leo Robin Music congratulates all these performers for the honors, we are woefully reminded of the fact that the star awarded to Leo Robin in 1990 was never installed. Ashley Lee from the Los Angeles Times first broke on May 23, 2019 this fascinating story, [Leo Robin never got his Walk of Fame star. Now his grandson is fighting for it](#), about his grandson's serendipitous discovery of Leo's long-lost star. Leo Robin's wife, Cherie Robin, and actor, Bob Hope, sponsored Leo for a star in 1988 but, sadly, Mrs. Robin passed away slightly more than one year before the letter was sent out from the Hollywood Chamber announcing that

her husband had been awarded the star and so, unfortunately, it was never installed.

In the wake of the release of this story by The Times, Leo Robin Music was appalled to learn what happened 31 years ago. Ms. Lee reported, "The envelope was returned to its sender and has since remained in the Chamber of Commerce's records." She also tweeted, "at first I didn't believe that Leo Robin's star had really slipped through the cracks" with a photo of that acceptance letter and the envelope stamped 'RETURN TO SENDER.' Ms. Lee also reported "That means no follow-up letters and no calls to co-signers, even if Robin's application was co-signed by (Bob) Hope, who has four stars on the Walk."

Ellen K. has a perfect pitch voice on her morning radio program on KOST 103.5 FM. as well as the voice of the Grammy Awards and the Academy Awards. The recent announcement by Ellen K. would be tantamount to announcing a winner at the Academy Awards or the Grammy Awards and then not giving the winner an Oscar or a Grammy. Can one imagine if multi-Oscar winner Robert De Niro winning for Best Actor the Oscar in 1980 for the film *Raging Bull*, which used a few songs with lyrics by Robin including "Prisoner of Love" performed by Perry Como (1946), "Prisoner of Love" performed by Russ Columbo (1934) and "Bye, Bye Baby" performed by Marilyn Monroe (1953) but not being given the Oscar to take home or multi-Grammy winner Tony Bennett winning the Grammy Award for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Performance in 1997 for his album *Here's to the Ladies*, which theme of the album was songs made famous by female singers and included "My Ideal" with lyrics by Robin to pay tribute to Margaret Whiting for performing her theme song but not being given the Grammy to take home.

Throughout the past sixty years, the Hollywood Chamber has successfully kept track of 2,698 honorees and has seen to it that each and every one of them received a star and had it successfully installed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame with their name on it - except for Leo Robin. Unfortunately, one can't help but conclude that Robin has been treated unjustly by the Hollywood Chamber. Upon the passing of Johnny Grant on January 9, 2008, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said, "Angelenos will always remember Johnny as the heart of Hollywood Boulevard, the dignified guardian of its gilded prestige and the human shine behind every one of its stars..." Johnny Grant, who was Chairman of the 1990 Walk of Fame Committee and signed the acceptance letter addressed to Mrs. Robin, must be looking down contemptuously at the Hollywood Chamber's unjust treatment of Robin and spurning the decision by the 1990 Walk of Fame Committee to award a star to Leo Robin.

While the honorees from the Hollywood Walk of Fame Class of 2022 along with their families and friends celebrate the installation of their star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Robin's family must endure their annual ritual known as 'Pass Over.' It's time for the Hollywood Chamber to respect the decision made by the 1990 Walk of Fame Committee and honor its obligation to put Leo's long-lost star in its rightful place on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

For more information, visit the official website of Leo Robin at <http://leorobin.com/>.

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