



FRANK SINATRA (1915-1998)

Birth Name: Francis Albert Sinatra
Place of Birth: Hoboken, New Jersey



Career Highlights: Before Beatlemania in the 1960s, there was Sinatramania in the 1940s, when crowds of adoring “bobby soxers” (named for the ankle socks they wore) crowned Frank Sinatra the nation’s first teen-idol superstar. Born to Italian immigrants in New Jersey, Sinatra got his start singing with a local vocal group called the Hoboken Four. By the early 1940s, his live appearances were marked by near riots by female fans. Sinatra embarked on a successful acting career, winning an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor in *From Here to Eternity* (1943) and starring in numerous films throughout the 40s, 50s and 60s. Known for his wide vocal range and a relaxed, seemingly effortless style of singing, Sinatra continued as a successful concert and television performer in later decades; in fact, many of the songs he’s best known for were recorded relatively late in his career, such as “My Way” (1969), often thought of as his “signature song,” and “New York, New York” (1979). He remains one of the best selling recording artists in American history.

Recording: “Five Minutes More” (1946)

Questions to Consider:

- What type of image does Sinatra present in the picture above?
- How would you describe Sinatra's vocal style? Why do you think he was so popular with young women in the early stages of his career?
- What does Sinatra's popularity with young American women suggest about the country's attitudes toward Italian-Americans in the 1940s?



Sinatra fans, mid-1940s