



## About Our Guest: Charles Strouse

Charles Strouse's music has been an integral part of American culture for over 40 years. His first Broadway musical, *Bye Bye Birdie* (written with longtime collaborator Lee Adams), won him a Tony Award for best score and paved the way for his next show, *All American* (book by Mel Brooks). In 1964, *Golden Boy* (starring Sammy Davis, Jr.) earned four Tony Award nominations, and in 1970, *Applause* (starring Lauren Bacall) won him his second Tony.

Mr. Strouse's 1977 hit, *Annie*, became a worldwide phenomenon and garnered another Tony and two GRAMMY Awards.

Other musicals include *It's a Bird ... It's a Plane ... It's Superman*, *Dance A Little Closer* (lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner), *Charlie and Algernon* (Tony nomination), *Rags* (Tony nomination) and *Nick & Nora* (Tony nomination). Film scores include *Bonnie & Clyde*, *There Was a Crooked Man*, *The Night They Raided Minsky's*, and *All Dogs Go to Heaven*.

He also wrote the theme song "Those Were the Days" for the groundbreaking television show, *All in the Family*.

Mr. Strouse has written orchestral works, chamber music, piano concertos, and opera. His *Concerto America* premiered at the Boston Pops in 2004, and his opera *Nightingale* (starring Sarah Brightman) had a long, successful run in London's West End.

Mr. Strouse studied under Aaron Copland and Nadia Boulanger. In 1977, he founded the ASCAP Musical Theatre Workshop in New York. He is the recipient of both the Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein awards and a member of the Theater Hall of Fame and Songwriters Hall of Fame. His autobiography, *Put on a Happy Face: A Broadway Memoir*, was released in June 2008.