These Foolish Things (Remind Me of You)

'Spread It Abroad' is a long-forgotten musical revue from 1935 that had at least one memorable moment – **'These Foolish Things (Remind Me of You).' Eric Maschwitz,** the song writer, around 1936 wrote 'These Foolish Things' for
Anna May Wong.
Maschwitz wrote the song after having worked in America, he had a rather romantic and deep felt affair with Anna May Wong and then, after it broke up, returned to England to be Head of Variety at the BBC. He missed Anna May terribly and it inspired him, in a melancholy moment, to write 'These Foolish Things.'

These Foolish Things

In urgent need of a song for a radio revue, he ground out the words one Sunday morning and read them over the phone to composer, **Jack Strachey.** As Maschwitz recalled it, he went to sleep the night before the song was needed in a bit of a sweat with nothing specific in mind and somehow woke up with a title, "These Foolish Things," but nothing more. He did have in mind, however, a Cole Porter song ('You're the Top') in which Porter presents a list of many amusing qualities about the object of the singer's affections. Maschwitz explains, 'It (You're the Top)' was the first of what are now called romantic catalog songs (or list songs).

Eric Maschwitz

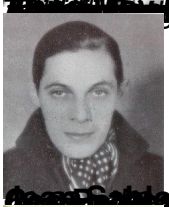
Perhaps it's hindsight, or hindhearing, but the tune sounds as if it were dictated by the words in more than the literal sense. It's a compelling melody but repetitious: compelling because repetitious. The principal task is to provide a long, wistful line to accompany each of the foolish things and - what Strachey does best - to build to a climax, philosophic or despairing as the singer chooses, on the final *'oh, how the ghost of you clings'.*

Jack Strachey

Singer actress Dorothy Dickson introduced ‘These Foolish Things’ in the 1936 British musical comedy 'Spread it Abroad.' A modest hit, the production opened at London’s Saville Theater on the first of April and ran for 209 performances. French actor Jean Sablon was originally chosen to sing ‘These Foolish Things,’ but the death of King George V in January meant the show was delayed. Dorothy Dickson never did record the song. In short time Jean Sablon did get an opportunity to sing the song, and in 1936 he recorded ‘These Foolish Things’ as **‘Ces Petites Choses.’**

These Foolish Things

LESTER YOUNG
These foolish things



STAN GETZ
THESE FOOLISH THINGS