

# BING!

CROSBY AND AMERICAN CULTURE  
November 14, 15, 16, 2002

**F**or decades Bing Crosby was, as biographer Gary Giddins notes, "something more than a megastar. No one in the era of Madonna and Michael Jackson has quite the same station as the much-treasured crooner." By 1953 Crosby was undoubtedly the most popular and beloved entertainer in the world, known internationally by such nicknames as "Der Bingle," "El Bingo" and "Le Bing." He was the leading box-office actor for years and, of course, was a mainstay of Decca Records for two decades. An Academy Award winner, a major star of radio, a dedicated performer for the troops during World War II, and later a television star, Crosby exerted an influence on his time and the field of popular music second to no one. Bing Crosby became a living legend, a performer of timeless appeal and universal prominence. As we approach the centenary of his birth, we will examine his impact on American culture, for he was an artist whose achievements transcend the world of entertainment. We shall explore the reasons why he has been described as the first of the "universal common men."

Hofstra University will commemorate his life, his career and his international reputation with a scholarly and professional conference on November 14, 15, 16, 2002, on the University's campus.

We invite expressions of interest for the presentation of papers, special addresses and discussions from all sectors of the academic community, members of the entertainment world and entertainment law specialists, as well as from fans and friends.

In your expression of interest, please inform us of the topic you would present. Following are suggestions of subjects that may be considered (please feel free to suggest additional subjects):

- Bing's versatility as a vocalist
- Bing, the jazz singer
- Influences on his singing (Al Jolson, Mildred Bailey, Bix Beiderbecke, others)
- Bing and Louis Armstrong
- Bing and Russ Columbo
- Bing's followers (Perry Como, Dick Haymes, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin)
- The Rhythm Boys
- Bing and the Andrews Sisters
- Bing — the leading movie star and box-office attraction
- Bing, the light comedian and the dramatic actor
- The Road films (Bing and Bob Hope)
- Bing as American icon
- Bing and the Irish (Father O'Malley image)
- Bing on radio and television
- Bing and "girl" singers (Connee Boswell, Judy Garland, Peggy Lee, Rosemary Clooney)
- Bing's last concert years (1975-1977)
- Bing's London recordings
- Bing — the voice of Christmas — and "White Christmas"
- Bing's charitable activities
- Bing as sportsman
- Bing's Pro-Am golf tournament
- Bing's entertainment and war bond sales activities during World War II
- Bing's international reputation
- Bing as businessman

*We welcome topics on all aspects of Bing Crosby's personality, life and career, including but not limited to, his musical genius, his impact on the style and history of entertainment, and his influence on popular culture in America and internationally.*

***A letter of intent, along with a one-page abstract and copy of your curriculum vita, is requested by January 1, 2002.***

*The deadline for submission of completed papers (in duplicate) is June 30, 2002.*

*Previously published material should not be submitted. Presentation time for scholarly papers will be limited to 20 minutes (12-14 typed, double-spaced pages, excluding notes).*

***Selected papers will be published.***

Conference Director  
**Ruth Prigozy**  
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