

A BIRD IN A GILDED CAGE

1900

Composer Harry Von Tilzer was born in Detroit, and by the year 1900 he had already run away to join a circus. Later he performed on the musical stage as a pianist and singer, in addition to composing several songs which achieved some popularity. But his musical setting of Arthur Lamb's words, "A Bird In A Gilded Cage," really started Von Tilzer on the road to fame and fortune as a songwriter. He had the good sense to start his own publishing company, which he headed for the rest of his life.

Arthur Lamb came from Somerset, England, was a minstrel show performer and wrote lyrics for several of the leading song composers of the time.

Although the words are sure to provoke a smile today, "A Bird In A Gilded Cage" tells a story whose message was one of the popular themes around the turn of the century. Other overly sentimental songs of the day included "The Mansion Of Aching Hearts," "She Is More To Be Pitied Than Censured" and "Take Back Your Gold." You'll want to put on your best striped vest and wax your handlebar mustache when you join voices on this old favorite.

Words by **ARTHUR J. LAMB**
(1870-1928)

Music by **HARRY VON TILZER**
(1872-1946)

VERSE:

The ball - room was filled with fash - ion's throng, It
shone with a thou - sand lights, And there was a

10 11 12 13 14
 wo - man who passed a - long, The fair - est of all the

15 16 17 18 19
 sighs. A girl to her lov - er then soft - ly

20 21 22 23 24
 sighed, There's rich - es at her com - mand; But she

25 26 27 28 29
 mar - ried for wealth, not for love, he cried, Tho' she lives in a

CHORUS:

30 31 32 33 34
 man - sion grand. She's on - ly a bird in a

35 36 37 38 39 to

gild - ed cage, A beau - ti - ful sight to see; ——— to

40 see; 41 42 43 44

see; You may think she's hap - py and free from care, She's

45 46 47 48

not, tho' she seems to be. ——— seems to be. 'Tis

49 50 51 52

sad when you think of her wast - ed life, For

53 54 55 56

youth can - not mate with age; ——— And her

57 58 59 60 61

8 beau - ty was sold for an old man's gold, She's a bird in a

REPRISE:

62 63 64 65 66

8 gild - ed cage. Her beau - ty was sold for an

67 68 69 70 71

8 old man's gold, She's a bird she's a bird in a gild in a

72 73 74 75 76

8 gild - ed cage, gild - ed cage.

Additional verse:

I stood in a churchyard just at eve
 When sunset adorned the west,
 And looked at the people who'd come to grieve
 For loved ones now laid at rest.

A tall marble monument marked the grave
 Of one who'd been fashion's queen,
 And I thought she is happier here at rest,
 Than to have people say when seen: