Unit Three: Song Identification Exercise

Consider the show you are modelling. Work through the song list and categorize the songs in the four song categories: ***Ballade, Charm Song, Comedy Song***, and ***Musical Scene***. If you are unsure about an ensemble number, use the fifth category, ***Ensemble***.

**What observations can you make about each type of song?**

* How does each song conform to the definition of a category?
* How does each song differ from the definition of a category?
* Do any songs seem to straddle two categories? If so, why?
* Do any songs seem to contain elements of three categories? If so, why?

**Other analysis of musical theatre songs considers the following:**

* *The Opening Number*
* *The Want Song*
* *The Eleven O’Clock Number*
* *The Finale*

*The opening number opens the show. The want song is nearly always the second song in the show where the main character states his or her desires or needs — the items which drive the plot. The eleven o’clock number is the song the main character sings at the climax at the show coming to terms with the journey he or she has made. In the golden age of musical theatre the timing of the shows with an eight o’clock curtain caused this number to happen right around eleven o’clock. The finale is the last number in the show.*

**Each of these four numbers can fit into one of the categories at the top of the page.**

* Can you identify these four songs in the score you selected?
* Are there similarities between the numbers?
* Are their differences?
* Do these four songs fit more into one category than another?