



Wartime Songs

Many popular songs were composed in response to the outbreak of war, especially during the Second World War. The majority of these songs expressed people's views on wars and became an important tool to keep morale high in hard times. Entertainers such as George Formby wrote funny songs to get a laugh from his crowd.

Not everyone understood the original intentions of some of these songs. "Don't Let's be Beastly to the Germans" was a song which was highly controversial in Britain during the Second World War due to its apparent support of the enemy. According to the singer Noël Coward, the song was:

"a satire directed against a small minority of excessive humanitarians who, in my view, were taking a rather too tolerant view of our enemies"

Despite the song being banned on the BBC, the song did become popular. It was rumoured that Winston Churchill loved the tune so much he demanded several encores at a private party!