

BUTTON UP YOUR OVERCOAT

Ray Henderson, Music; B.G. DeSylva & Lew Brown, Lyrics; 1925

"*Button Up Your Overcoat*" was published in 1925 and remains a popular song still today. The music was written by Ray Henderson, the lyrics by B.G. DeSylva and Lew Brown. It was recorded by several people, but the most famous rendition was in 1929 by singer Helen Kane, who was by that time at the peak of her popularity. Kane's childlike voice and Bronx dialect eventually became the inspiration for the voice of cartoon character Betty Boop (most famously using Kane's famous catchphrase, "*Boop boop bee doop*").

The composition was arranged and recorded by John Serry, Sr. with his ensemble for Dot Records for a 33-RPM vinyl recording entitled "*Squeeze Play*" in 1956. The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band recorded a popular cover version in 1966 as the B-side of their "*Alley Oop*" single.

In the 1985 film *The Sure Thing*, two characters sing "*Button Up Your Overcoat*" as part of a medley of show tunes during a road trip. The song also appears on the movie's soundtrack. The song was added to the 1993 revision of the musical, "*Good News*".

~Tull

