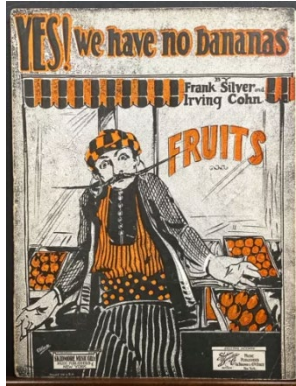


YES! WE HAVE NO BANANAS



Quotation from *Musical Comedy in America*, by Cecil Smith, p. 230:

Grace Moore appeared in the *Music Box Revue of 1923* [1923-1924], along with Florence Moore, to whom she was not related. Grace was a member of an operatic sextet which delivered “Yes, We Have No Bananas,” in the course of which incandescent oranges glowed on the stage and orange blossom perfume suffused the theatre. [Cecil Smith, p. 230]

This is confirmed in the following quotation from *A Chronology of American Musical Theatre*, by Richard C. Norton, Vol. 1, p. 338:

Act 2, Scene 2, A Bit O’ Grand Opera⁵⁸ (“Yes! We Have No Bananas” Opera Burlesque Sextet) F. Moore, G. Moore, L. Sonderson, F. Tinney, J. Steel, J. Santley

Footnote 58 reads as follows:

⁵⁸Irving Berlin adapted “Yes! We Have No Bananas” into a parody of arias from Aida, Lucia di Lammermoor, Rigoletto, Tales of Hoffman, Il Trovatore and The Messiah,

This was elaborated upon by Dave Kay in *The Irving Berlin Sonography 1907-1966*, p. 51:

Yes! We Have No Bananas

The original of this terrible song was written by Frank Silver and Irving Cohn, of course, but Irving Berlin enlarged it into an operatic parody on those arias given below. This arrangement was performed in “The Music Box Revue” [1923] by Florence Moore, Frank Tinney, Lora Sonderson, Joseph Santley, Grace Moore and John Steel. . . .

- (a) “Triumphal March” from “Aida”
- (b) “Chi Mi Frena?” from “Lucia Di Lammermoor
- (c) “Bella Figlia Del’ Amore” from “Rigoletto”
- (d) “Belle Nuit (O, Nuit DiAmore)” from “Contes D’Hoffman”
- (e) “Ah ! Che La Morte Ognora” from “Il Trovatore”
- (f) “Hallalujah Chorus” from “The Messiah”