THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY

ABC, 1970-1974 (96 episodes)

Theme Song: "Come on Get Happy" by Wes Farrell and Danny Janssen

Major cast members: Shirley Jones, David Cassidy, Susan Dey, Danny Bonaduce, Suzanne Crough, Jeremy Gelbwaks (1970-71), Brian Forster (1971-74), David Madden

Oscar-winner Shirley Jones left her movie career to star with her stepson, David Cassidy, in this situation comedy about a single parent family who makes it big in the music business. In the show's fictional story, the road to stardom for the Partridge family really happened by accident. Shirley Partridge (Jones) was just an average suburban widow trying to raise her young family when the kids urged her to take part in a recording session in the garage. The song they recorded, "I Think I Love You" put the Partridges on the charts, both on the show and in real life where the recording sold about four million copies. The family hit the road in their psychedelic bus and played to packed houses of prepubescents around the country. Besides Shirley and Keith (Cassidy), the family included Laurie (Susan Dey), Danny (Danny Bonaduce), Tracy (Suzanne Crough) and Jeremy (played by both Jeremy Gelbwaks and Brian Forster). Reubin Kinkaid (David Madden) was their fast talking, sarcastic agent. With the exception of Jones and Cassidy supplying the vocals, the rest of the family were dubbed (with studio musicians handling their instrumentals). Cassidy became a major idol of the preteen set and was mobbed at every personal appearance at the time. An animated version of "The Partridge Family" ran on ABC from 1974-75.



David Cassidy, Danny Bonaduce, Susan Dey, Shirley Jones, Suzanne Crough, Brian Forster (clockwise from top left).



Burr as Mason.

PERRY MASON

CBS, 1957-1966 (271 episodes)

Theme Song: "Perry Mason Theme" by Fred Steiner

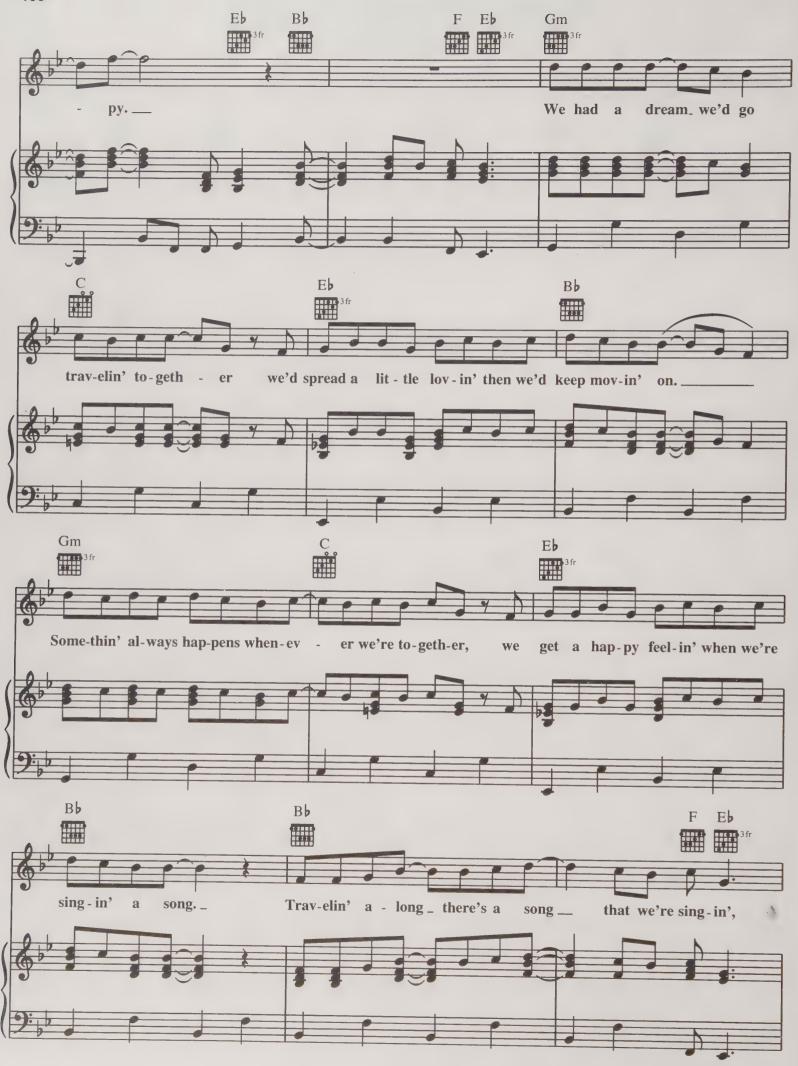
Major cast members: Raymond Burr, Barbara Hale, William Hopper, Ray Collins (1957-65), William Talman

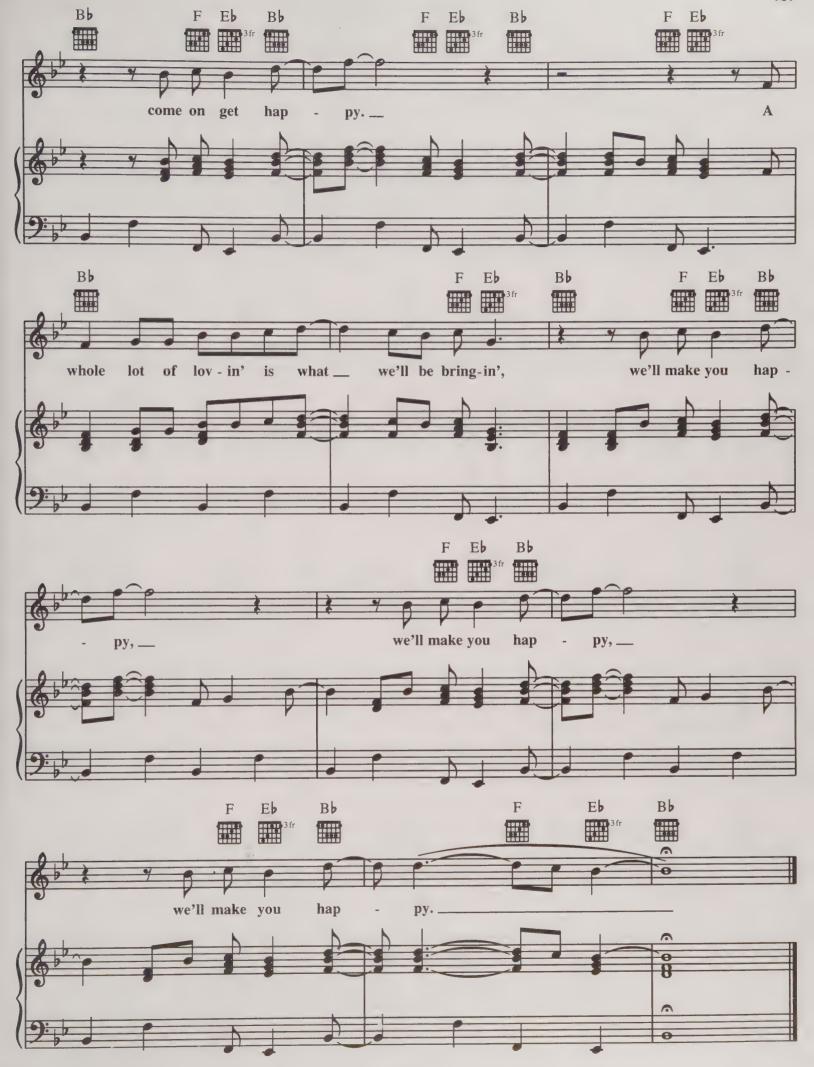
If the "Perry Mason" episodes had an air of realism about them, it's because the show was created by lawyer-turnedwriter Erle Stanley Gardner. The character was first created for his novels, then transferred to a radio series from 1943 to 1955. Gardner personally picked the burly actor Raymond Burr to play defense attorney Mason in the TV series. Until that time, Burr had established himself as a "heavy" in a number of feature films, including Alfred Hitchcock's Rear Window. Mason had an enviable courtroom win-loss record of 271 to 1. This string of victories never deterred district attorney Hamilton Burger (William Talman) from passionately presenting his case. Mason's masterful courtroom technique included cross-examinations which usually caused the guilty party to breakdown and confess. Mason would unravel the secrets to the case at the end of each show by casually explaining it all to his own staff of private investigators, Paul Drake (William Hopper) and Della Street (Barbara Hale). Burr would parlay his newfound good guy image several years later in the series "Ironside" as well as in a successful string of made-for-TV "Perry Mason" films. "Perry Mason" was television's defining courtroom series until "L.A. Law" came around in the 1980s.

THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY

Theme Song: Come On Get Happy









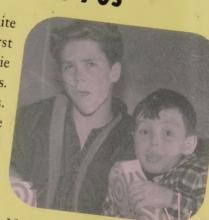
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