

Photos: The Songs of *Tenderly* and Where You Might Recognize Them

By Elizabeth Montgomery

Rosemary Clooney has one of those voices that quietly shaped decades of music, even if people don't always realize *that's* who they're hearing. Her songs have a way of slipping into culture like background sunlight. Clooney's songs are often re-recorded or covered, so you've probably heard them without even knowing her name.

Here are some of her most recognizable songs and where they've lived on beyond her era.



“Sisters” / *White Christmas*

This one's less about random placements and more about constant re-exposure. The film itself airs and streams every holiday season (TV + platforms).

“Sisters” number has been directly parodied/recreated in:

- Saturday Night Live
- The Muppet Show
- The Kelly Clarkson Show

If you've ever seen two people in matching outfits doing a playful, synchronized number it's often a nod to "Sisters."



“Mambo Italiano”

Few songs from Rosemary Clooney’s catalog have had the staying power of “Mambo Italiano.” Its rhythm and playful energy have carried it into film and advertising for decades, often recreated even when the original recording isn’t used

You’ve likely heard it in:

- Mickey Blue Eyes movie
- The Lizzie McGuire Movie
- Olive Garden commercials

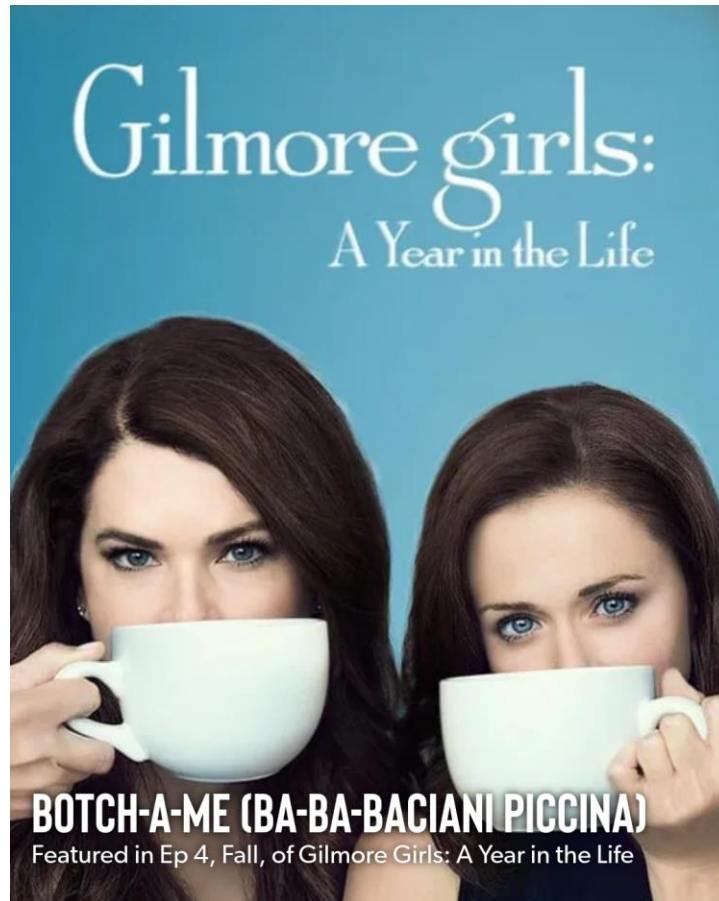


“Hey There”

Featured in *The Pajama Game*, this classic song became widely recognized through Doris Day’s performance in the film adaptation. Originally written for the stage musical, “Hey There” stands out for its conversational style, capturing a character talking themselves through love in real time.

“This Ole House”

First popularized by Rosemary Clooney, “This Ole House” has continued to resurface through later recordings, including Shakin’ Stevens’ cover featured in *Top Gear*. The song’s upbeat momentum gives it a lasting presence across generations.



“Botch-A-Me (Ba-Ba-Baciami Piccina)”

Featured in *Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life*, this playful Italian tune has a way of popping up in unexpected places. Originally popularized in the 1940s, the song carries a light, flirtatious energy that makes it instantly recognizable, even if you don’t know the title.

Chances are, you’ve heard these songs before. Maybe in a movie, maybe in the background of something you loved. *Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical* brings them together in one place, giving you a chance to hear them again, this time with the incredible story behind the voice.

Event Details

What: Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical

When: March 4 – May 3, 2026

Where: The Phoenix Theatre Company, Judith Harde Theatre, 1825 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004

Tickets: Available at www.phoenixtheatre.com or by calling the Box Office at (602) 254-2151