Music, Art and Love

Janis Joplin
Groundbreaking singer Janis Joplin an icon of the 1960s whose bluesy voice propelled her to the pinnacle of rock stardom, appears on this new stamp in the Music Icons series. Art Director/Designer: Antonio Alcala.

Jimi Hendrix
Combining influences from rock, modern jazz, soul, and the blues with his own innovations. Jimi Hendrix created a unique style that influenced musical artists of his era and continues to inspire musicians into the 21st century. Art Director/Designer: Greg Breeding, Rudy Gutierrez.

Sealed with Love
Sealed with Love stamp expresses the joy and beauty of handwritten love letters. The stamp art depicts an envelope fastened with an elegant wax seal. The Victorians were ardent letter writers and believed that there was a proper way to compose letters, particularly love letters. Etiquette manuals aided Victorian romantics in penning appropriate letters to their beloveds. Although today red is the color most associated with passion, in the mid-1800s, blue was the color of love, with wax of various shades denoting the degree of emotion felt by the sender. Art Director/Designer: Derry Noyes, Jessica Hische.

Cut Paper Heart stamp adds another romantic entry to the beautiful Love stamp series. This fanciful stamp takes its inspiration from the folk traditions of paper cutting. Its digital illustration depicts a large white heart enclosing a smaller pink heart with a saw-toothed edge along its left-hand side. Surrounding the central hearts are pink swirls, with smaller hearts imbedded in the design and a ragged-edge motif that echoes the edging on the small pink heart. Art Director/Designer: Antonio Alcala, Q. Cassetti.

Wedding Cake
Sure to add a touch of beauty and romance to wedding correspondence, the Wedding Cake Stamps, first introduced in 2009, is a timeless addition to the U.S. Postal Service’s Weddings series. Art Director/Designer: Ethel Kessler.

Yes, I Do
Three simple words “Yes, I do,” mark the beginning of two lives joined together in love. The Yes, I Do stamp, first issued in 2013, is a charming and romantic addition to Weddings series. The stamp highlights the words “Yes, I Do” nestled in a colorful bouquet of flowers in the shape of a heart on a white background. The stamp art was hand-sketched and digitally composed. Art Director/Designer: Ethel Kessler, Michael Osborne.

Wedding Roses
Searching for an elegant wedding stamp to compliment your wedding invitations? The Wedding Roses Forever® commemorative stamp features two beautiful white roses to ensure that your wedding correspondence will be remembered. Art Director/Designer: Ethel Kessler.

Where Dreams Blossom
As universal symbols of love and happiness, flowers are often the centerpiece of our most sacred ceremonies and cheerful occasions. With a splash of color and a beautiful bouquet, the Where Dreams Blossom Forever® stamp, first issued in 2013, adds a fun and contemporary flair to all kinds of correspondence. Art Director/Designer: Ethel Kessler, Michael Osborne.

Celebrate!
Inspired by a visit to the Museum of Neon Art in Los Angeles, Art Director Phil Jordan began to think about the possibility of using neon to depict a stamp subject. He decided that a “Neon Celebrate!” stamp, with its imagery of vivid colors, fit the bill.

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Nature

The Great Spangled Fritillary Butterfly stamp art was created on a computer, using images of preserved butterflies as a starting point. The result is a highly stylized, simplified image of a Great Spangled Fritillary rather than an exact replica. The Great Spangled Fritillary (Speyeria cybele) is named for the silvery spots found on the undersides of its wings.

Art Director/Designer: Derry Noyes, Tom Engeman.

Songbirds the Western Meadowlark (Sturnella neglecta), the Mountain Bluebird (Sialia currucoides), the Western Tanager (Piranga ludoviciana), the Painted Bunting (Passerina ciris), the Baltimore Oriole (Icterus galbula), the Evening Grosbeak (Coccothraustes vespertinus), the Scarlet Tanager (Piranga olivacea), the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Pheucticus ludovicianus), the American Goldfinch (Spinus tristis) and the White-throated Sparrow (Zonotrichia albicollis). Art Director/Designer: Derry Noyes, Robert Giusti.

Hummingbirds the 34-cent Stamp postcard stamp celebrates the beauty and grace of the hummingbird. The stamp art is a tinted, highly stylized, digital depiction of a hummingbird hovering near a plant. Art Director/Designer: Carl T. Herrman, Nancy Stahl.

Flowers In Bloom

La Florida, the 500th anniversary of the naming of Florida and celebrating the state’s floral abundance. During the Easter season of 1513, Spanish explorers first visited the state we now know as Florida. They named the land “La Florida” for Pascua Florida (“Feast of the Flowers”), Spain’s Easter celebration, and for the verdant display of vegetation that they could see from their ship. Art Director/Designer: Antonio Alcala, R. Gregory Christie.

Farmer’s Market the abundance and bounty of America’s farmers markets with four colorful, se-tenant stamps depicting a table laden with products found at a typical farmers market. The stamp on the far left has among its products various baked goods, artisan cheeses, and eggs. The produce on the second stamp includes vegetables and fruits. Cut flowers adorn the third stamp. The stamp on the far right features live plants. Most items bear handwritten labels that identify the product and its price. Art Director/Designer: Greg Breeding.

Winter Flowers Stamps, the U.S. Postal Service continues its tradition of issuing stamps that present beautiful, floral-themed art.

Each of these four stamps depicts a close-up view of one plant—(clockwise from upper left) amaryllis, cyclamen, Christmas cactus, or paperwhite—with detailed and colorful renderings of its blossom and foliage. Art Director/Designer: Ethel Kessler, William Low.

Bonsai (Forever®) stamps, the U.S. Postal Service celebrates the beauty of bonsai. The word bonsai (Japanese for plant in a pot) refers to the art of cultivating plants — usually trees — in trays, pots, or other containers. Favorite bonsai plants include evergreens, maples, and azaleas, but many other trees and shrubs are also suitable.
The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the U.S. military who have been wounded or killed in action. According to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, an organization for combat-wounded veterans, the medal is “the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first award made available to a common soldier.” Art Director/Designer: Ethel Kessler, William Low.

C. Alfred “Chief” Anderson
Pioneering African-American aviator played a crucial role during World War II in training the nation’s first black military pilots, the Tuskegee Airmen. Art Director/Designer: Phil Jordan, Sterling Hundley.

USS Arizona. Every year, more than a million people visit the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii’s Pearl Harbor and remember the events of December 7, 1941. This tranquil shrine to the 1,177 sailors aboard the Arizona who lost their lives that day also marks the entry of the United States into World War II. Art Director/Designer: Phil Jordan, Dan Cosgrove

The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge is a majestic, graceful, powerful, breathtaking sight visible from vantage points in all five of New York City’s boroughs. The bridge celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2014, which the U.S. Postal Service® commemorates with this new Priority Mail™ stamp. Art Director/Designer: Phil Jordan, Dan Cosgrove.


Vintage Circus Posters
In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, companies such as Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey used posters to let people know that the circus was coming to town. Art Director/Designer: Greg Breeding, Jennifer Arnold.

Star-Spangled Banner Stamp
This stamp commemorates the 200th anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner with a photograph of the flag that flies over Fort McHenry National Monument a Historic Shrine in Baltimore. Art Director/Designer: Phil Jordan.

A Flag for All Seasons
From the heights of sunny summer to the snowy depths of winter, Old Glory proudly waves—thanks to laws and traditions that encourage respect for our vital national symbol. Art Director/Designer: Phil Jordan, Laura Stutzman.

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