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Two Minutes in the Spotlight: Singing at the Sunshine Theater When I Was Five Years Old

by Ann Applegarth

That inauspicious day is no doubt gone
from every living memory but mine.
My sisters were the culprits in a scheme
for me to win the Sunshine Talent Show.
This wasn't something I had planned to do,
although I dearly loved to sing at home.
"You Are My Sunshine" was the tune they chose.
They made me practice morning, noon, and night.
They coached me on my posture and my smile;
they starched and ironed my yellow pinafore.
On Saturday the talent show was held,
and pickup-loads of kids showed up on time.
The Sunshine's rows had never been so full
of people—excitement was in the air.
I wish that I could tell you all about
how my performance went and how I felt,
but it was just like singing in a dream—
I don't remember anything at all.
My parents said I did our family proud,
and both my sisters told me I looked sweet.
I never sang again on any stage;
no talent scout has knocked on my front door.
Of course I didn't win a prize that day,
yet few things after that held any fear.