Carlin’s catalogue spans one hundred years of popular music history. Vintage ballads, classics from the rock ‘n’ roll years, numerous rock and pop best-sellers and even the latest R&B and hip hop hits are among the vast range of Carlin titles that have been recorded by virtually every major recording artist. The catalogue encompasses every conceivable style – from jazz, country and R&B to soul, pop, rock and dance – while Leiber & Stoller, Pomus & Shuman, Phil Spector, Kander & Ebb, Ray Davies, Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, Aretha Franklin, Jim Steinman and Elvis Presley are just some of Carlin’s distinguished songwriters and composers. Many Carlin titles have featured in blockbuster motion pictures and Carlin also publishes the scores to many well-known and much loved stage musicals, such as ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ and ‘Cabaret’.

The company was founded by music industry legend, Freddy Bienstock. His remarkable career began in New York in 1942, when he started as a counter boy in the trade department of Chappell Music. Freddy left soon afterwards to work for Hill & Range where his job as a song-plugger required him to do the rounds of the bandleaders with the latest tunes, hoping to get them played on the radio. In the post-war era, as the big bands faded, Freddy turned his eyes and ears to the emerging R&B scene and he developed relationships with many influential artists, composers and producers including the one and only Elvis Presley.

Freddy’s publishing activities in England began when he was asked to run Belinda Music – a company that was set up in London by Hill & Range, in order to represent American artists in the UK. In 1966, Freddy bought Belinda and Carlin Music was born.

Carlin got off to a great start, handling the catalogues of Phil Spector, Pomus & Shuman, Leiber & Stoller, Bacharach & David, Atlantic Records and, of course, Elvis. At the same time, Freddy developed close relationships with British artists such as Cliff Richard & The Shadows, The Kinks, The Animals, The Move and Roy Wood – all of whom gave the company a string of massive hits. In fact, the company became so successful that it won the Top Publisher Award from UK trade magazine Music Week for ten consecutive years.

During the 1970’s, Carlin administered many US catalogues including Walt Disney and Motown’s publishing company Jobete, thus securing hits by Marvin Gaye, The Supremes, The Miracles, The Four Tops, The Isley Brothers and The Drifters. Then, in 1977, along came the phenomenon that was Meat Loaf’s ‘Bat Out of Hell’, written by Jim Steinman, which has sold an estimated 34 million albums and still sells over 200,000 copies every year.

In the late 1970’s, the estates of some 180 leading American songwriters – such as Turk & Handman, De Sylva Brown & Henderson and Fats Waller – signed to Carlin-subsidiary Redwood Music. This greatly extended the range of the catalogue but, in order to defend the authors’ Reversionary Rights in these works, Redwood was obliged to commence legal proceedings against virtually every other major publisher. After a seven-year court battle, the case finally reached the House of Lords where Freddy emerged triumphant, settling a major legal precedent and making music publishing history. As a result, Redwood now owns around 3000 vintage standards,

During the early 1980’s, Carlin again enjoyed monumental success with Duran Duran’s first three albums and Michael Jackson’s landmark ‘Thriller’ – still one of the biggest selling albums of all time.

In 1984, Freddy acquired Chappell Music and became its President, with Carlin becoming an administered company. However, after Chappell was sold to Time Warner in 1988, Carlin regrouped as an independent company once again.

The 1990s saw Carlin enjoying huge success with hits such as Meat Loaf’s ‘Bat Out of Hell II’ album (the sequel to 1977’s colossal best-seller), as well as Whitney Houston’s version of the Dolly Parton-penned song ‘I Will Always Love You’. This was a chart topper for many weeks in both the UK and the USA (selling over 4 million copies in the USA alone) which drove sales of the Grammy-winning soundtrack of ‘The Bodyguard’ movie up to the 40 million mark worldwide. Also, Moby utilised songs from the Carlin vault to form the basis of tracks on his global best-selling ‘Play’ album in 1999.

Every year since the company was founded, Carlin has had hit after hit with Elvis and, even long after his death, he continues to have success with every new generation. In 2002, ‘A Little Less Conversation’ became the King’s 18th UK #1 single, forty-six years after ‘Heartbreak Hotel’ stormed the singles chart, giving Carlin its 33rd UK #1 and out of the 30 #1 singles on the ‘ELV1S’ album released in 2002, Carlin publishes 20.

Carlin titles are regularly used in stage shows such as ‘Sinatra’, ‘Jailhouse Rock’, ‘Dirty Dancing’, ‘Dreamboats & Petticoats’ and ‘Million Dollar Quartet’ and have also featured in major movies such as ‘Four Weddings and a Funeral’, ‘Titanic’, the Coen Brothers’ movie ‘O Brother, Where Art Thou?’ and ‘Nowhere Boy’, while the success of biopics ‘Ray’ and ‘Walk the Line’ spawned a crop of hugely successful album releases. Artists as diverse as David Bowie, Will Young, Bruce Springsteen, Shania Twain, Simply Red, Norah Jones, Joss Stone, Erasure, Primal Scream, The Pussycat Dolls, The Thrills, Katie Melua, Barbara Streisand, Jet, Kylie Minogue, The White Stripes, Heather Small, Rihanna, Rod Stewart, Robbie Williams, Bryan Ferry, Michael Buble, The Feeling, Jamie Cullum, Robert Plant, Michael Bublé and Adele have chosen to record material from Carlin’s catalogue. In addition, DJ Paul Oakenfold, Sean Paul, Belle & Sebastian, Jennifer Lopez, Kanye West, Mylo, Girls Aloud, Lily Allen, Faithless, R Kelly, Gwen Stefani, 50 Cent, Cheryl Cole, Estelle, Mark Ronson, Massive Attack, Amy Winehouse, Take That, Will.i.am, Bruno Mars, Jessie J and The Who, among many others, have all sampled Carlin classics on respective hit singles – demonstrating the variety and timelessness of Carlin’s catalogue.

Carlin prides itself on the longevity of its relationships with its staff (many of whom have been with the company for over 20 years, some for over 35 years) and, of course, with its writers and composers - for example, Dolly Parton, Rush, Steve Vai, Ray Davies and Aretha Franklin, who have all been signed to Carlin for over 25 years, and Dominic Muldowney, whose 30-year publishing partnership with Carlin includes the scores for ‘Nineteen Eighty Four’, ‘Sharpe’ and numerous stage productions. Most recently, John Tams extended his 20 year relationship with Carlin to include the songs in the highly exclaimed National Theatre production of ‘War Horse’, which has been running since 2007, and which opened on Broadway in April 2011 winning five Tonys, recently opened in Toronto in March 2012, LA in April 2012 and Sydney coming soon.

Sadly, Freddy Bienstock passed away on 29th September 2009, but his legacy lives on and today Carlin Music is the largest of the few remaining independent music publishers in the UK – still owned by his family, with his daughter Caroline and his son Robert heading the company from their offices in New York.