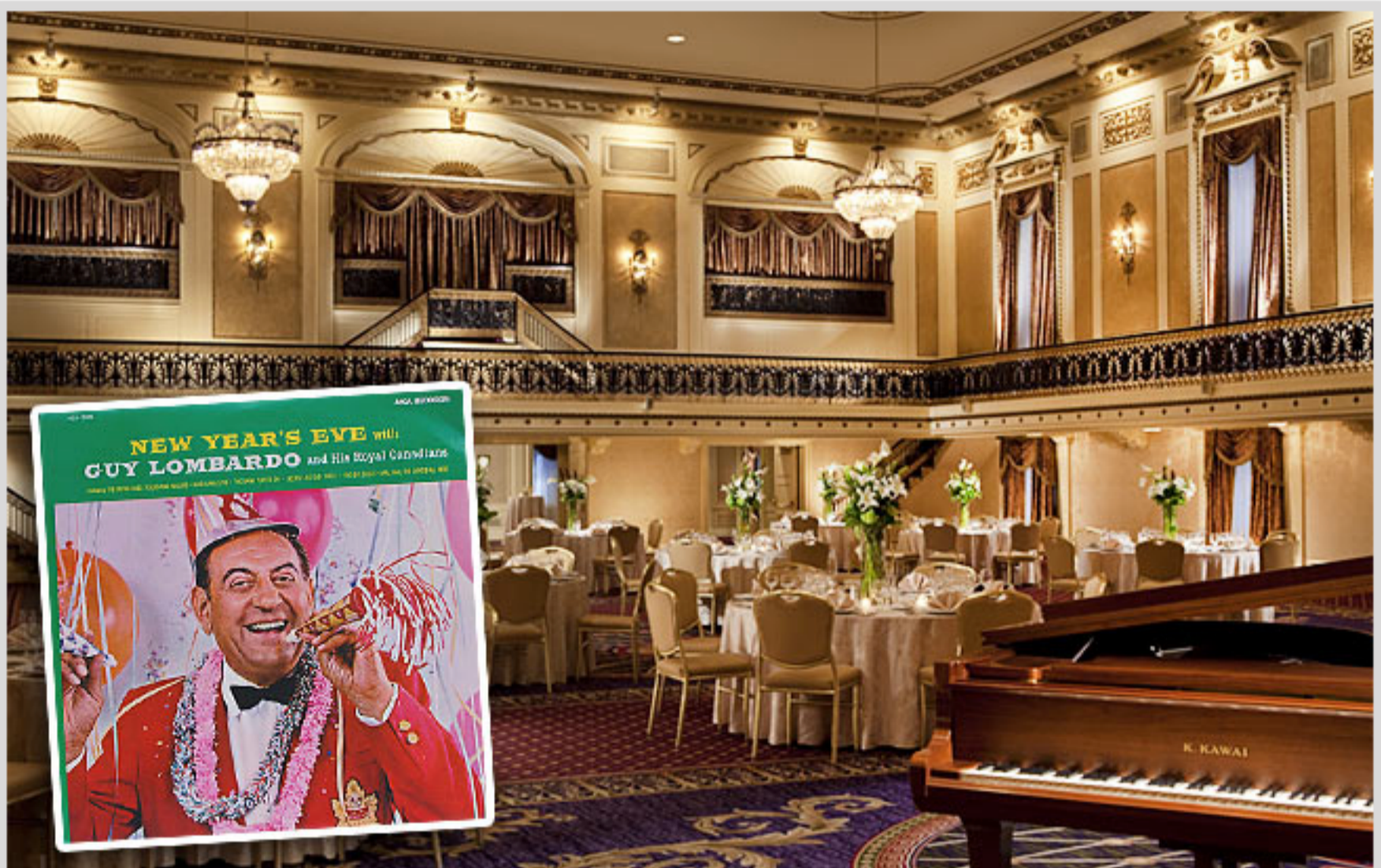


## 8 Surprising Things Invented at NYC Hotels



Ballroom of the Roosevelt Hotel; Inset: Record cover of New Year's Eve recordings by Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians (Photo: Courtesy of the Roosevelt)

### Roosevelt Hotel

While we can't answer Harry's question, "What does this song mean?" in *When Harry Met Sally*, we can answer where the tradition of "Auld Lang Syne" came from. It was born at the [Roosevelt Hotel](#), thanks to Guy Lombardo. After Lombardo's band The Royal Canadians found fame across the Midwest, they moved to Manhattan in October 1929 and booked their first NYC show at The Roosevelt Grill. One show secured them a New Year's Eve contract with the hotel (which then lasted 30 years), and when the countdown to 1930 began, Lombardo and The Royal Canadians played their rendition of the Scottish poem, *Auld Lang Syne*. That 1930 performance inaugurated the tradition of ringing in the New Year with the song, whose title means "times long past." [45 E. 45th St.](#), from \$165, [book now](#)