



Over the Rainbow — The Songs of Harold Arlen

Harold Arlen earned his place in the history of American music by co-writing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" for the 1939 movie classic, *The Wizard of Oz* — a song which is considered by many to be the number one pop song of the 20th century.

Born the son of a cantor in Buffalo, NY, Arlen moved to New York City and wrote for Harlem's Cotton Club revues in the 20s — co-creating standards such as "Stormy Weather" and "I've Got The World On A String" for the Duke Ellington Orchestra and vocalist Ethel Waters.

By the 30s, Harold Arlen had followed the migration of New York songwriters west to Hollywood where he was in demand writing for movie musicals. After the success of *The Wizard of Oz*, Arlen continued to write hit songs for 40 years — composing more than 400 pieces for Broadway shows and major motion pictures.

Pianist Joe Reid and vocalist Will McMillan breathe new life into Arlen's beloved standards — including "Get Happy," "It's Only a Paper Moon," "That Old Black Magic," "Accentuate the Positive," "Blues In The Night," "Come Rain or Come Shine," "If I Only Had A Brain," "Let's Fall In Love," and, of course, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

Will McMillan has performed as a featured vocalist at venues such as Scullers Jazz Club, Sanders Theatre, John F. Kennedy Library, Arlington Street Church, Hi-Hat Club (RI), Inn on Newfound Lake (NH), Spring Island (SC), Westbeth Performance Center (NYC) and Yin Par Le Garçon Chinois (Shanghai). For years McMillan hosted "Will & Company," a series at the Blacksmith House in Harvard Square highlighting local performers and songwriters, which earned him an IRNE Award for Best Cabaret Show in a Small Venue. He has released three CDs — "Sketchbook 1" with pianist Steve Sweeting, "Reel One" with the vocal ensemble *At The Movies*, and "If I Loved You," with singer Bobbi Carrey. You are welcome to visit his web site, willsings.com, listen to music at his blog, AMusicalifeOnPlanetEarth.WordPress.com, or watch him sing on YouTube by searching "Will McMillan."

Pianist Joe Reid enjoys a busy music career, playing 100+ concerts a year. He performs with a wide range of jazz and classical musicians, and has worked with a broad spectrum of theatre groups, jazz and chamber ensembles and dance troupes. Joe has worked as an accompanist for the Boston Conservatory, the Longy School of Music, the New School of Music in Cambridge and the Mark Morris Dance Company. Check out Joe's new YouTube channel by searching YouTube under "Joe Reid Music" or visit his website, www.joereidmusic.com.