



Our Love Is Here To Stay — Songs of the Gershwins

George (September 26, 1898 – July 11, 1937) and Ira (December 6, 1896 – August 17, 1983) Gershwin were brothers whose playful, witty songs — brimming with rhythm and harmony — epitomized the jazz age. Born to Russian parents who emigrated to New York City to escape persecution under Czar Alexander III, Ira and George initially pursued parallel paths as lyricist and composer, officially teaming up in 1924 to co-create the musical comedy *Lady Be Good*.

This was followed by a string of hit Broadway shows — with stars such as Ethel Merman, Fred and Adele Astaire, Ginger Rogers and Gertrude Lawrence — including *Oh Kay!*, *Funny Face*, *Strike Up The Band*, *Girl Crazy*, and *Of Thee I Sing*, which was the first musical to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The Gershwins also spent time in Hollywood, writing songs for movies such as *Delicious*, *A Damsel In Distress*, and *The Goldwyn Follies* — and collaborated with novelist DuBose Heyward on a ground-breaking opera, *Porgy and Bess*.

Along with stories about the brothers' collaborative process, vocalist Will McMillan and pianist Joe Reid bring Gershwin standards to life including "S Wonderful," "Fascinating Rhythm," "They All Laughed," "Love Is Sweeping The Country," "They Can't Take That Away From Me," "Nice Work If You Can Get It," "He Loves and She Loves," "I Got Rhythm," "Embraceable You," "Someone To Watch Over Me," "A Foggy Day," "But Not For Me," and "Summertime."

Will has performed at venues such as Scullers Jazz Club, Sanders Theatre, JFK Library, Hi-Hat Club (RI), Inn on Newfound Lake (NH), Westbeth Performance Center (NYC), Spring Island (SC), and Yin Par Le Garcon 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, and his blog, AMusicalifeOnPlanetEarth.WordPress.com. You can also watch him perform on YouTube by searching "Will McMillan."

Joe 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."