



A Fine Romance: The Songs of Jerome Kern

Jerome David Kern (January 27, 1885 – November 11, 1945) left a legacy of over seven hundred songs — written for more than one hundred stage productions and Hollywood films. His best-known work, *Show Boat*, broke new ground in 1927 with its realistic characters, controversial subject matter, and dramatically integrated songs. Never before had issues of miscegenation, wife desertion, alcoholism, and gambling been the subject of a hit musical — one which continues to be revived to this day.

Kern collaborated with many great lyricists — including Oscar Hammerstein II, Otto Harbach, P. G. Wodehouse, E.Y. (“Yip”) Harburg, Ira Gershwin, Johnny Mercer, Jimmy McHugh, and Dorothy Fields — and his songs won the Academy Award for Best Song in a Motion Picture twice. Singer Will McMillan and pianist Joe Reid find great pleasure in performing Kern classics including “Pick Yourself Up,” “I Won’t Dance,” “Smoke Gets In Your Eyes,” “The Song Is You,” “All The Things You Are,” “The Folks Who Live On The Hill,” “Make Believe,” “Ol’ Man River,” “The Way You Look Tonight,” “Bill,” “I’m Old Fashioned,” and “Can’t Help Lovin’ That Man.”

Will has performed at venues such as Scullers Jazz Club, Sanders Theatre, JFK Library, Inn on Newfound Lake (NH), Hi-Hat Club (RI), Westbeth Performance Center (NYC), Spring Island (SC), 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 four CDs — “Sketchbook 1” and “Blame Those Gershwins” with pianist Steve Sweeting, “Reel One” with the vocal ensemble *At The Movies*, and “If I Loved You,” with singer Bobbi Carrey and pianist Doug Hammer. 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” or visit his website, JoeReidMusic.com.