



When Irish Eyes Are Smiling...

Many beloved songs have been written by Irish-American composers and lyricists. One of the most famous was George M. Cohan, a multi-talented mover and shaker who worked as an actor, singer, dancer, comedian, director, composer, lyricist, book writer, and producer for decades on Broadway — and on tour around the entire United States. His songs include “Give My Regards to Broadway,” “You’re a Grand Old Flag,” “Mary’s a Grand Old Name,” “Yankee Doodle Dandy,” “Nelly Kelly, I Love You,” “Harrigan,” “Over There,” and “Life’s A Funny Proposition After All.” It turns out Cohan had many connections with New England — including being born in Providence, RI in 1878, and spending many happy summers in North Brookfield, MA. Will and Joe will breathe new life into a few of Cohan’s songs — as well as other Irish-American favorites such as “Molly Malone,” “Danny Boy,” “My Wild Irish Rose,” and “How Are Things In Glocca Morra?” — and share stories about how certain songs came to be created.

Will has sung at venues such as Scullers Jazz Club, Sanders Theatre, the JFK Library, the Inn on Newfound Lake (NH), the Hi-Hat Club (RI), the 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 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.

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 YouTube channel by searching YouTube under “Joe Reid Music.”