



Falling In Love With Love: The Songs of Larry Hart

Lorenz Milton Hart (May 2, 1895 – November 22, 1943) was one of the greatest lyricists of the twentieth century. A child of German Jewish immigrants who grew up in New York City, Hart attended Columbia Grammar School and later Columbia University's School of Journalism. He and composer Richard Rodgers wrote some of the most enduring popular songs of all time — including "My Funny Valentine," "Blue Moon," "Manhattan," "Where or When," "My Romance," "The Lady Is a Tramp," "You Took Advantage Of Me," "I Could Write A Book," "Isn't It Romantic," "I Wish I Were In Love Again," "Lover," "Dancing On the Ceiling," "This Can't Be Love," and "Have You Met Miss Jones?" — for more than 26 Broadway musicals and several movies. A life-long bachelor (and closeted gay man) who lived with his widowed mother, Hart suffered from alcoholism and later in his life would disappear for weeks at a time on binges, which created stress in his collaboration with Rodgers. According to Stephen Holden of *The New York Times*, "Many of Hart's lyrics were the confessional outpourings of a hopeless romantic who loathed his own body... Hart, who stood just under five feet tall and wreathed himself in cigar smoke, saw himself as an undesirable freak." Singer Will McMillan and jazz pianist Joe Reid will perform many of Hart's best songs and share stories about how they came to be written — with love and respect for this generous genius who was so often "Glad To Be Unhappy."

Will has sung at venues such as Scullers Jazz Club, Sanders Theatre, the 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 song-writers, 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 blog, AMusicalifeOnPlanetEarth.WordPress.com and his web site, WillSings.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 YouTube channel by searching YouTube under "Joe Reid Music" or visit his website, JoeReidMusic.com.