



My Favorite Things: The Songs of Oscar Hammerstein

Lyricist, librettist, playwright, director, and producer Oscar Greeley Clendenning Hammerstein II (July 12, 1895 – August 3, 1960) is perhaps best known for his extraordinary work with composer Richard Rodgers on musicals and films such as *The Sound Of Music*, *Oklahoma*, *South Pacific*, *Carousel*, *State Fair*, and *The King and I*. Earlier in his career, however, he collaborated with many different composers including Rudolf Friml, Richard Whiting, Vincent Youmans, Sigmund Romberg, and Jerome Kern — with whom he created the ground-breaking musical *Show Boat*. During the course of Hammerstein's 40-year career he earned many awards — including two Oscars, two Grammys, two Pulitzer prizes, and eight Tony awards.

Oscar wrote songs which illuminate a wide range of human behavior — from joy and hope to prejudice and grief. Singer Will McMillan and pianist Joe Reid are honored to perform such classics as “Oh, What A Beautiful Morning,” “Happy Talk,” “Can’t Help Lovin’ That Man,” “Getting To Know You,” “Carefully Taught,” “Indian Love Call,” “Surrey with the Fringe On Top,” “I Whistle a Happy Tune,” “Stouthearted Men,” “Cockeyed Optimist,” “Climb Every Mountain,” “Hello, Young Lovers,” “It’s a Grand Night for Singing,” “Who?” and “Edelweiss.”

Will has performed at venues such as Scullers Jazz Club, Sanders Theatre, Hi-Hat Club (RI), the Inn on Newfound Lake (NH), Westbeth Performance Center (NYC), Spring Island (SC), and Yin Par Le Garçon Chinois (Shanghai). For years McMillan hosted “Will & Company,” a series 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 or 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.”