

Arlington Advocate

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Arlington singer to debut "The Beauty All Around"

Arlington resident Will McMillan will debut "The Beauty All Around," a program of songs he wrote over the past five years, at 8 p.m. Dec. 4 at Third Life Studio, 33 Union Square, Somerville. The program will also feature Doug Hammer on piano.

"Every summer, I spend two weeks camping in North Truro on the Cape, and I work on ideas I've been accumulating during the rest of the year," McMillan said. "So far, using my ukulele and GarageBand software, I've written over 50 songs. Now I have to decide which ones to focus on with Doug."

McMillan's ukulele skills are self-described as "rudimentary," which is why he brought pianist Doug Hammer into the project.

"Doug is a superb composer and accompanist with whom I have worked for the past 20 years," McMillan said. "But we've always performed songs written by other people — great songwriters ranging from Johnny Mercer to Joni Mitchell, Irving Berlin to Dar Williams. Now we have the challenge of bringing my humble compositions to life."

McMillan has performed his original songs at open mic nights and ukulele meetup groups in Cambridge, Arlington, Boston and Lexington.

McMillan's performance is partly financed by a grant from the Bob Jolly Charitable Trust, which was established two years ago to support local theatrical and musical projects.

Advance tickets are \$16.52 via Brown Paper Tickets, or \$20 cash only at the door. For information: 617-628-0916; thirdlifestudio.com and willsings.com. For parking and directions: thirdlifestudio.com/directions.html.

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