



WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS: Holiday songs written or co-written by Jewish songwriters

Many of America's most beloved winter holiday songs have been written or co-written by Jewish songwriters. This is not such a surprise when one remembers that the majority of what we call "The Great American Songbook" was created by Jewish songwriters. This hour-long program features songs such as "Silver Bells," "White Christmas," "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer," "Let It Snow, Let it Snow, Let It Snow," "The Christmas Song," "Sleigh Ride," "Christmas Lullaby," "Count Your Blessings," "The Christmas Waltz," "Happy Holiday," and "Winter Wonderland" by songwriters including Irving Berlin (pictured above), Jason Robert Brown, Sammy Cahn, Ray Evans, Jerry Herman, Jay Livingston, Johnny Marks, Mitchell Parish, Jule Styne, Mel Tormé, and Bob Wells. Singer Will McMillan and jazz pianist Joe Reid add their own joyful spin to these songs and share a few stories about how they came to be written.

Will has sung at venues such as Scullers Jazz Club, Sanders Theatre, JFK Library, 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 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 blog, AMusicalifeOnPlanetEarth.WordPress.com and 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 new YouTube channel by searching YouTube under "Joe Reid Music" or visit his website, JoeReidMusic.com.