



## They Say It's Wonderful: The Songs of Ethel Merman

Ethel Merman (January 16, 1908 – February 15, 1984) was a Broadway superstar for over four decades — introducing standards such as "I Got Rhythm," "Life Is Just A Bowl Of Cherries," "I Get A Kick Out Of You," "There's No Business Like Show Business," and "It's De-Lovely." Born and raised in Astoria, NY, Merman sang as a child for soldiers stationed on Long Island during the first World War. After high school she worked as a secretary while singing at night in clubs and cabarets until she was cast by the **Gershwin brothers** in their musical *Girl Crazy*. Merman went on to star in musicals by **Cole Porter** — who wrote "Anything Goes," "Down In The Depths on the 90th Floor," "You're The Top," and "Ridin' High" for her; by **Irving Berlin** — who wrote "They Say It's Wonderful," "You're Just In Love," "I Got The Sun In The Morning," and "I Got Lost In His Arms" for her; and by **Jule Styne** and **Stephen Sondheim** — who wrote "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Small World," "Some People," and "You'll Never Get Away From Me" for her. Merman also made many movies and performed on radio and television for decades — but her personal life was full of heart-ache. Pianist Joe Reid and singer Will McMillan will celebrate her songs and share a few stories about her astounding career.

Will has sung at venues such as Scullers Jazz Club, Sanders Theatre, the JFK Library, Inn on Newfound Lake (NH), Hi-Hat Club (RI), 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 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 web site, [WillSings.com](http://WillSings.com), and his blog, [AMusicalifeOnPlanetEarth.WordPress.com](http://AMusicalifeOnPlanetEarth.WordPress.com).

Joe enjoys a busy musical career, playing 100+ concerts a year. He performs with a wide range of jazz and classical musicians, and has worked with theatre groups, jazz and chamber ensembles and dance troupes. Joe has been 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."