



It's Only A Paper Moon

Edgar "Yip" Harburg was a lyricist who co-wrote some of the most beloved songs of the 20th century. He was born 1896 — the youngest of ten children whose Yiddish-speaking Orthodox Jewish parents had fled Czarist Russia. After his first career as the co-owner of an electrical appliance company went bust at the start of the Great Depression, he devoted himself to creating songs on Broadway and later in Hollywood — where he wrote much of the script and co-wrote all of the songs for the movie *The Wizard of Oz*. After his success on California, he returned to New York and helped create Broadway hits such as *Finian's Rainbow*, *Bloomer Girl*, and *Jamaica*. However, Yip's life-long passion for social justice, racial equality, and labor unions led to him being blacklisted from doing any work in TV or the movies from 1950 - 1962. Will and Joe will perform songs including "Old Devil Moon," "Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?" "If I Only Had A Brain," "How Are Things In Glocca Morra?" "Lydia, The Tattooed Lady," "We're Off To See The Wizard," "April In Paris," and "Over The Rainbow" — as well as share a few stories about Yip's life and how some of his songs came to be written.

Will has sung at venues such as Scullers Jazz Club, Sanders Theatre, the Inn on Newfound Lake (NH), the Hi-Hat Club (RI), the Westbeth Performance Center (NYC), Spring Island (SC), and Yin Par Le Garcon 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.

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.