



Cheek to Cheek: The Songs of Fred Astaire

Actor, dancer, singer, and choreographer Fred Astaire (born Frederick Austerlitz on May 10, 1899 in Omaha, Nebraska) traveled all over the United States as a child and teenager, performing with his older sister Adele in an increasingly successful vaudeville act. His career on stage, in film, and in television lasted for over 70 years, and the list of songs written for Fred Astaire to perform on Broadway and in Hollywood is extraordinary — ranging from "A Fine Romance" and "Pick Yourself Up" (by Jerome Kern and Dorothy Fields) to "Isn't This a Lovely Day?" and "Top Hat, White Tie And Tails" (by Irving Berlin) to "Nice Work If You Can Get It" and "They Can't Take That Away From Me" (by George and Ira Gershwin) to "Night and Day" and "After You, Who?" (by Cole Porter). Singer Will McMillan and jazz pianist Joe Reid will perform a top-drawer selection of songs written for Mr. Astaire — including "A Foggy Day," "This Heart of Mine," "Fascinating Rhythm," "Let's Call The Whole Thing Off," "Let's Face The Music And Dance," "The Way You Look Tonight," and "Something's Gotta Give" — and will share a few stories about Fred's life and how certain songs came to be created.

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 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 web site, WillSings.com, and his blog, AMusicalifeOnPlanetEarth.WordPress.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.