



Make Someone Happy — The Songs of Jule Styne

"One of the most underestimated and most important composers of our time."
— Kenneth Tynan, theatre critic

Jule Styne (December 31, 1905 – September 20, 1994) was born in London to Jewish immigrants from the Ukraine who ran a small grocery. When he was eight, his family moved to Chicago, where he performed as a pianist with the Chicago, St. Louis and Detroit Symphonies when he was eleven years old. By age thirteen he was playing in the pit orchestra of a burlesque house, and by age fifteen he had formed his own dance band. In 1934 he moved to New York City — working as an accompanist for Sophie Tucker — and then to Hollywood, where he found employment as a vocal coach for Shirley Temple, Mary Martin and Alice Faye.

A man of enormous energy and personal magnetism, Styne would often work on three or four movie and theater projects simultaneously — partly because he was often in debt due to a life-long gambling addiction. He co-wrote over 1500 songs with lyricists such as Frank Loesser, Sammy Cahn, Yip Harburg, Stephen Sondheim, Bob Merrill, Betty Comden, and Adolph Green.

Along with stories about Styne's extraordinary career, vocalist Will McMillan and pianist Joe Reid joyfully share his standards including "Neverland" (from *Peter Pan*); "People" (from *Funny Girl*); "Let Me Entertain You," "Everything's Coming Up Roses," and "Together Wherever We Go" (from *Gypsy*); "The Party's Over" and "Just In Time" (from *Bells Are Ringing*); "I've Heard That Song Before," "It's Been A Long, Long Time," "Guess I'll Hang My Tears Out To Dry," "Let It Snow!" "I Don't Want to Walk Without You," and "Make Someone Happy."

Will has performed at venues such as Scullers Jazz Club, Sanders Theatre, 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 three CDs — "Sketchbook 1" with pianist Steve Sweeting, "Reel One" with the vocal ensemble *At The Movies*, and "If I Loved You," with singer Bobbi Carrey. You are welcome to visit his web site, WillSings.com, and his blog, AMusicalifeOnPlanetEarth.WordPress.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.