



Easy To Love — The Songs of Cole Porter

Cole Albert Porter (June 9, 1891 – October 15, 1964) was an American songwriter noted for his sophisticated lyrics, clever rhymes, and complex musical forms. Born into a wealthy midwestern family, Porter came east to attend prep school in Worcester, MA. As an undergraduate at Yale, he wrote hundred of songs — including the football fight songs "Bulldog" and "Bingo Eli Yale" which are still sung today. After a year at Harvard Law School, Porter switched his focus to music, and by the age of 24 his first song had appeared in a Broadway show.

When the US entered World War I, Porter moved to Paris and helped with the war effort. After the war he remained in Europe, married a beautiful expatriate, Linda Lee Thomas, and lived the high life in France, Italy and North Africa — but he never stopped composing. Eventually he found fame on Broadway and in Hollywood, but his success was tinged with ongoing — and often excruciating — pain following a serious horse riding accident. Porter, however, refused to let this pain cripple his spirit, which lives on today in his extraordinary catalog of songs.

Pianist Joe Reid and vocalist Will McMillan bring Porter's beloved standards to life — including "Night and Day," "Begin The Beguine," "Don't Fence Me In," "I've Got You Under My Skin," "Just One Of Those Things," "Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye," "I Get A Kick Out Of You," "You're The Top," "Let's Do It," "It's De-Lovely," "Anything Goes," and "Easy To Love."

Will McMillan has performed as a featured vocalist at venues ranging from Scullers Jazz Club to Yin Par Le Garçon 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, find him singing on lots of digital music platforms (such as Pandora, Spotify, Amazon and Apple) by searching for "Will McMillan featuring Doug Hammer," watch him sing on YouTube by searching "Timberlane Pops with Will McMillan" or listen to music at his blog, AMusicalifeOnPlanetEarth.WordPress.com.

Pianist Joe Reid 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. You are welcome to visit Joe's YouTube channel by searching YouTube under "JoeReidMusic."