



## Our Love Is Here To Stay — Songs of the Gershwins

George and Ira Gershwin were brothers whose playful and witty songs — brimming with rhythm and harmony — epitomized the jazz age. Born to Russian parents who emigrated to New York to escape persecution under Czar Alexander III, Ira and George initially pursued parallel paths as lyricist and composer, officially teaming up in 1924 to create the musical comedy *Lady Be Good*. This was followed by a string of hit Broadway shows — with stars such as Ethel Merman, Fred and Adele Astaire, Ginger Rogers and Gertrude Lawrence — including *Oh Kay!*, *Funny Face*, *Strike Up The Band*, *Girl Crazy*, and *Of Thee I Sing*, which was the first musical to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The Gershwins also spent time in Hollywood, writing songs for movies such as *Delicious*, *A Damsel In Distress*, and *The Goldwyn Follies* — and collaborated with novelist DuBose Heyward on a ground-breaking opera, *Porgy and Bess*.

Along with stories about the brothers' collaborative process, vocalist Will McMillan and pianist Joe Reid bring Gershwin standards to life including "S Wonderful," "Fascinating Rhythm," "They All Laughed," "Love Is Sweeping The Country," "They Can't Take That Away From Me," "Nice Work If You Can Get It," "He Loves and She Loves," "I Got Rhythm," "Embraceable You," "Someone To Watch Over Me," "A Foggy Day," "But Not For Me," and "Summertime."

**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](http://willsings.com), find him singing on lots of digital music platforms — such as Pandora, Spotify, Amazon and Apple Music — 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](http://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**."