A Fine Romance

Jewish Songwriters, American Songs, 1910–1965

Southern Comfort Jazz Orchestra
THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music

Presents
"A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs, 1910-1965"

Featuring
The University of Memphis
“Southern Comfort” Jazz Orchestra
Jack Cooper, director
The University of Memphis
Jazz Singers
Tim Goodwin
and special guest
Kathy Kosins

Tuesday, April 17, 2012
Harris Concert Hall
7:30 PM

College of Communication and Fine Arts
Oh Lady Be Good
Save Your Love For Me
Gershwin/Gershwin
Buddy Johnson
arr. Rob Mounsey
trans/adapted by Jack Cooper

With Kathy Kosins (to be chosen from)

I Guess I’ll Hang My Tears Out to Dry
Cain/ Styne
arr. Paul Ferguson

Thou Swell

The Shadow of Your Smile

I’ve Got the World on a String
Johnny Mandel
arr. Jack Cooper

We’re Off To See the Wizard
Arlen/Koehler
arr. Jack Cooper

On a Clear Day
Arlen/Yarburg
arr. Jack Cooper

Walk On By
Alan Lerner/Burton Lane
arr. Jack Cooper

Look Out Up There
Burt Bacharach
arr. Matt Tutor*

Stand by Me
Milton Raskin/Pete Rugolo
arr. Matt Tutor

Give Me the Simple Life
Leiber/Stoller
arr. Jack Cooper

Moonray
Rube Bloom/Harry Ruby

Artie Shaw

*U of Memphis graduate candidate
+ U of Memphis alumni

Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices.
Kathy Kosins

Born and bred during the Motown era of Detroit, she began singing and arranging background vocals for producer Don Was in the early eighties, which led to her becoming one of the most sought after session singers. As a lead vocalist she recorded for both Carrere (Sony) and Quality Records and later toured with Was/Not Was.

Her 1996 release of "All In A Dreams Work" (Schoolkids Records), an impressive debut featuring a first rate collection of nine originals and a cover of the Miles Davis composition"Four." Reported by over 250 Jazz stations, she reached the top 20 in the Gavin. Her 2002 release of "Mood Swings" (Chiaroscuro Records) continued to bring her recognition and success at the national level. On Kathy's 2006 release of "Vintage," (Mahogany Jazz), she rediscovered little known songbook gems which she placed alongside a few widely known, yet unexpected tunes from outside the jazz tradition, which brought her glowing reviews from journalists. She decided to take a different approach in 2010 by releasing singles quarterly under the new Mahogany Digital label. Her clinics and workshops teach performance skills alongside business strategies for the independent artist and have been a success at colleges and universities across the USA.

She has shared the stage and performed with numerous names in the jazz and R&B world. A few notables are: Cyrus Chestnut, Terell Stafford, Randy Brecker, Javon Jackson, Larry Goldings, James Moody, Kevin Mahogany, Bernard Purdie, Greg Hutchinson, Eric Harland, Red Holloway, Grant Green Jr., Reuben Rogers, Reuben Wilson, Aaron Goldberg, Tamir Hendelman, Jesse Davis, Eric Marienthal, Mitch Ryder, Was/Not Was and Michael Henderson.

The University of Memphis
Southern Comfort Jazz Orchestra

The Southern Comfort Jazz Orchestra has a long reputation of musical excellence at the University of Memphis. The group is comprised of 18-20 of the best student musicians from the School of Music and university. The group perform a wide range of styles of jazz from Duke Ellington to modern composers such as Bob Brookmeyer, Jim McNeely, and others. The group performs and records student compositions, commissions, and new works from outside composers on a yearly basis. Most recently, the group has performed at the International Association of Jazz Educators Convention (2000), the Tennessee Music Educators Convention (2000), and toured Europe (1996). Recent visiting guest artists that have performed with the group include Bob Berg, Marvin Stamm, Carl Allen, Peter Erskine, James Williams, Donald Brown, Bob Brookmeyer, Gary Foster, the Woody Herman Jazz Orchestra, and the Vanguard jazz Orchestra.
"A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs, 1910-1965"

Americans have always responded to the optimism, the wit and sophistication, and the passion and verve of the standards that make up the "American Songbook." The exhibition and performances at the University Memphis celebrates American popular song during the period 1910-1965. The best songwriters associated with this era combined a genius for melody, memorable lyrics, and the ability to connect with a wide audience. Some of America’s most beloved songwriters from 1910 to 1965 were Jewish by birth and heritage.

**Oh Lady Be Good**
George and Ira Gershwin

George and Ira Gershwin were born Jacob and Israel Gershowitz to parents Morris (Moishe) and Rose Gershovitz in the late 1890s in Brooklyn, New York. Together the two brothers wrote more than a dozen Broadway shows, featuring songs such as "I Got Rhythm", "Embraceable You", "The Man I Love" and "Someone to Watch Over Me". Together they also created the opera *Porgy and Bess*.

Introduced in 1924, "Oh, Lady be Good!" is from the Broadway show, *Lady, Be Good!* starring Fred Astaire and Adele Astaire. It ran for 330 performances in its original Broadway run. The song is also performed in the 1941 film, *Lady Be Good*, though the film itself is unrelated to the musical play. In 1947 the song became a hit for Ella Fitzgerald. The song became readily identified with her and she sang it many times in live performance.

**Guess I'll Hang My Tears Out to Dry**
Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne

Jule Styne was born in London, England as Julius Kerwin Stein of Jewish immigrants from the Ukraine. At the age of eight he moved with his family to Chicago, where at an early age he began taking piano lessons. He proved to be a prodigy and performed with the Chicago, St. Louis, and Detroit Symphonies before he was ten years old. Sammy Cahn was born as Samuel Cohen in the Lower East Side of New York City, the only son (he had four sisters) of Abraham and Elka Riss Cohen, who were Jewish immigrants from Galicia, Poland. After three lessons on piano and following his bar mitzvah, he joined a small dixieland band called Pals of Harmony. His first work was in vaudeville shows, "I think a sense of vaudeville is very strong in anything I do, anything I write...If you let people know they should applaud, they will applaud."
"Guess I'll Hang My Tears Out to Dry" was composed in 1944 by Styne and Cahn and was introduced on stage by film star Jane Withers in the 1944 flop, *Glad to See You*, which closed in Philadelphia and never made it to Broadway. Though the show never made a successful run the tune itself has become a success for many jazz and popular artists to include Frank Sinatra, Dexter Gordon, Irene Kral, Sarah Vaughan, Jack Jones, Ray Charles, Linda Ronstadt, Mel Tormé, and many others.

**Thou Swell**  
Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart

Richard Rodgers was born into a prosperous ethnic German Jewish family in New York City in 1902. His birth name was Abrahams was changed to Rodgers. Richard began playing the piano at age six and much later went onto attend Juilliard School of Music. Lorenz Hart was born in Harlem, the older of two sons, to Jewish immigrant parents, Max and Frieda (Isenberg) Hart, of German descent. Rodgers and Hart were introduced to one another at Columbia University (where Hart attended) and went onto write the music and lyrics for 26 Broadway musicals during a more-than-20-year partnership.

"Thou Swell" was written for the 1927 musical *A Connecticut Yankee (in King Arthur's Court)*. The lyric is notable, as indicated by the title, for its mix of old English and modern slang. The most notable jazz and popular renditions of the tune are by Nat King Cole, Sarah Vaughan, Frank Sinatra, Blossom Dearie, Ella Fitzgerald and Joe Williams. Fats Waller and Billy May both recorded the song instrumentally.

**The Shadow Of Your Smile**  
Johnny Mandel

Born John Alfred Mandel, New York, N.Y., to Alfred, a Jewish garment manufacturer, and Hannah, an opera singer, who discovered when he was aged 5 that he had perfect pitch. Piano lessons ensued but Johnny switched to the trumpet and later the trombone. He studied at the Manhattan School of Music and the Juilliard School and played on the road with numerous name big bands of the time.

"The Shadow of Your Smile", also known as "Love Theme from The Sandpiper" written by Johnny Mandel (lyrics by Paul Francis Webster). The song was introduced in the 1965 film *The Sandpiper*, with a trumpet solo by Jack Sheldon and later became a minor hit for Tony Bennett (Johnny Mandel arranged and conducted his version as well). It won the Grammy Award for Song of the Year and the Academy Award for Best Original Song.
I've Got World on a String
Harold Arlen

Harold Arlen was born Hyman Arluck, in Buffalo, New York, the child of a Jewish cantor. He learned the piano as a youth and formed a band as a young man and later became a pianist and singer and moved to New York City in his early 20s and worked in vaudeville. At this point, he changed his name to Harold Arlen.

"I've Got The World on a String" was composed in 1932 by Harold Arlen (lyrics written by Ted Koehler) for the 1932 Cotton Club Parade. It was introduced by Cab Calloway and Bing Crosby as a popular song and later recorded by numerous artists such as Frank Sinatra and reached #14 on Billboard's most played list.

We're Off to See The Wizard
Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg

Edgar Yipsel "Yip" Harburg, was born Isidore Hochberg on the Lower East Side of New York City in 1896. His parents, Lewis Hochberg and Mary Ricing, were faithful, Yiddish-speaking Orthodox Jews who had emigrated from Russia. As a lyricist he had close association with Ira Gershwin through his life that started at their time together in high school.

"We're Off to See the Wizard" is one of the classic and most memorable songs from the Academy Award-winning film The Wizard of Oz. Harold Arlen described it, along with "The Merry Old Land of Oz" and "Ding-Dong! The Witch is Dead," as one of the "lemon drop" songs of the film.

On A Clear Day
Alan Jay Lerner and Burton Lane

Born in New York City, he was the son of Jewish parents Edith Adelson Lerner and Joseph Jay Lerner, whose brother, Samuel Alexander Lerner, was founder and owner of the Lerner Stores, the chain of dress shops. Alan Jay Lerner was educated at Harvard and during two summers he studied at Juilliard. Like Cole Porter at Yale and Richard Rodgers at Columbia, his career in musical theater began with his collegiate contributions. Lane was born Burton Levy in New York City and studied classical piano as a child. At age 14 the theatrical producers the Schuberts commissioned him to write songs for a revue, Greenwich Village Follies.

On a Clear Day (You Can See Forever) is from the 1965 musical of the same name based loosely on the book Berkeley Square. The song has been recorded by a number of artists, including Robert Goulet, Johnny Mathis, Andy Williams, Nancy Wilson and Sergio Franchi. Barbra Streisand, star of the 1970 film version, recorded the title song on the film soundtrack.
Walk On By
Burt Bacharach and Hal David

Burt Bacharach grew up in the Forest Hills section of New York City, graduating from Forest Hills High School in 1946. He is the son of Irma and Bert Bacharach and is of German-Jewish descent. Bacharach studied music at McGill University, and his composition teachers included Darius Milhaud, Henry Cowell, and Bohuslav Martinů.

The song "Walk On By" was composed by Burt Bacharach with lyrics by Hal David. The original version was recorded in December of 1963 and in 1964, became Warwick's second Top Ten hit. Released in April of that year, "Walk on By" reached #6 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 and #1 on the Cashbox's R&B chart. The song also reached the top 10 in a brief run on Billboard's easy listening survey.

Look Out Up There
Milton Raskin and Pete Rugolo

Milt Raskin played saxophone as a child before switching to piano at age 11. In the 1930s he attended the New England Conservatory of Music, he worked with Wingy Manone, Gene Krupa, Alvino Rey, and Tommy Dorsey from 1942 to 1944 before moving to Los Angeles.

Raskin collaborated with Stan Kenton alum Pete Rugolo in 1955 to write Look Out Up There and this ended up becoming a big hit with singer June Christy and recorded on her 1958 recording This Is June Christy!

Stand By Me
Jerome "Jerry" Leiber and Mike Stoller

Both born to Jewish families, Leiber came from Baltimore, Stoller from Long Island, but they met in Los Angeles in 1950, where Stoller was a freshman at Los Angeles City College while Leiber was a senior at Fairfax High. After school, Stoller played piano and Leiber worked in a record store and, when they met, they found they shared a love of blues and rhythm and blues.

"Stand by Me" was originally recorded in 1960 by Ben E. King and was written by King, Jerry Leiber, and Mike Stoller, based on the spiritual "Lord Stand by Me," plus two lines rooted in Psalms 46:2-3. There have been over 400 recorded versions of "Stand by Me", including versions by John Lennon, Otis Redding, Jimi Hendrix, U2, Usher, and Elton John.
Give Me The Simple Life
Rube Bloom and Harry Ruby

Reuben Bloom was born in 1902 in New York City, he was a Jewish American multi-faceted entertainer, and in addition to being a songwriter, pianist, arranger, band leader, recording artist, vocalist, and writer (he wrote several books on piano method). Harry Ruby in 1895 was a Jewish American songwriter and screenwriter. His early ambition was to become a professional baseball player, he toured the vaudeville circuit where he met his long-time partner, lyricist Bert Kalmar and wrote songs for the Marx Brothers.

The song "Give Me The Simple Life" was composed in 1945 by Bloom and Ruby for the movie "Wake Up And Dream." It also became a big hit for the Bing Crosby and the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra.

Moonray
Artie Shaw

Born Arthur Jacob Arshawsky in New York City in an impoverished Jewish family on May 23, 1910, Shaw grew up in New Haven CT. During the swing era, his big band was popular with hits like "Begin the Beguine," "Stardust," "Bay Shuffle," "Moonglow," "Rosalie," and "Frenesi."

"Moon Ray" was composed by Artie Shaw and sung by Helen Forrest Moonray for the RCA label in June 1939. Along with songs such as "Begin the Beguine" this became a big hit for the Artie Shaw orchestra. The tune is a good example of the use of minor mode and sounds derived from Jewish folk music.
The University of Memphis
Southern Comfort Jazz Orchestra

Saxophones
Brian Simms, alto I
William Bodley, alto II
Zach Nixon, tenor
Andrew Traylor, tenor
Walter Hoehn, baritone

Trumpets
Paul Morelli, split lead
Randy Ballard
Mike Martin
Andrew Lang
Dino Maestrello

Trombones
John Hagan, lead
Nathan Duvall, lead
Kumani Johnson
Ben Parreno, bass

Rhythm section
Chris Dabbo, piano
Evan Nicholson, bass
Micah Lewis/Aaron Glazer, drums

Jazz Singers
Amy Redden Smith
Harmony Duke
Gloria Lou
Greg Mason
Jordan Cook
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We are deeply grateful for the support of our contributors. For more information, contact Marianne Hartquist, at (901) 678-3625 or m.hartquist@memphis.edu. Names of donors will be listed unless otherwise requested.
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