



Faculty Recital Series

2013–2014 Season

Sara M. Snell Music Theater

Sunday, February 9, 7:30 PM

The George Gershwin Music Hour

with

Donald George, tenor

Chip Lamson, piano

Nancy Hull, piano rolls*

Daniel Mertzlufft, recording

Cecilia Snow, stage manager

Signature Theme from *Music for Gershwin* radio program, February 19, 1934

The Girl I Love from *Lady Be Good* (1924)

Voice and 2 Pianos

Music for Gershwin radio program continued

My One and Only from *Funny Face* (1927)

Piano roll

Recitative to Mine from *Let' em eat Cake* (1933)

Voice and Piano

S' Wonderful from *Funny Face*

Voice version, then Piano Roll

Announcement from ****The Rudy Valée Show**, November 10, 1932

Lady be Good! from *Lady Be Good!* (1924)

Voice

Somebody Loves Me from *George White's Scandals* (1922)

Piano Roll

Interview with Gershwin on *The Rudy Valée Show* ... "What comes first, music or words?"

I Love to Rhyme from the film *The Goldwyn Follies* (1937)

Voice

Some to Watch Over Me from *Oh, Kay!* (1926)

Piano Improv

Strike Up the Band from *Strike Up the Band* (1930)

Voice Version then

Piano Roll

Rehearsal of *Porgy and Bess* from July 19, 1935

Gershwin conducting and singing a rehearsal of his Porgy and Bess with the piano intro to Summertime. This was later altered and the piano solo was cut.

Liza from <i>Show Girl</i> (1929)	Voice
That Certain Feeling from <i>Tip Toes</i> (1925)	Piano Improv
Stairway to Paradise from <i>An American in Paris</i> (1951 movie)	Voice and Piano Roll
Fascinating Rhythm from <i>Lady Be Good!</i> (1924)	Voice
Sweet and Low Down from <i>Tip-Toes</i> (1925)	Piano Roll for 4 Hands

Gershwin says Goodbye from Radio Show

I Got Rhythm from <i>Girl Crazy</i> (1930)	Voices and Pianos
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Player pianos were normal pianos except for an internal mechanism, which would cause the piano to play using paper rolls. The piano rolls had punched holes, which released air, thus playing the note. A 5-note chord, for example, would have 5 holes in the paper. The first models had foot pumps to establish the air pressure, later they were motorized. Gershwin used a player piano to teach himself to play. He slow pumped the pedals and placed his fingers over the keys, as they were depressed. Gershwin's keyboard skills led him to make piano rolls for pay, as it was a lucrative and huge industry. For the Gershwin piano roll transcriptions, which Nancy Hull is playing, the original rolls were played by a rare 1911 Pianola, which was a special machine with velvet mechanical fingers. This Pianola played the notes from the piano rolls on a Disklavier, which then was able to transcribe what it played. Thus you are hearing what Gershwin himself played many decades ago. The song arrangement for 2 pianos "Sweet and Low Down" was taken from a process called *overdubbing* in which the pianist played repeatedly on the same roll so that a full, busy, exhilarating sound resulted. Chip is playing a jazz piano and improvising the parts as Gershwin would have done.

** Rudy Valée was probably the first teen idol and hugely popular.