

SOUTHWESTERN AT MEMPHIS

presents

The First Generation



G E R S H W I N

The Real American Folksong

THE REAL AMERICAN FOLKSONG

Music by George Gershwin

Lyrics by Ira Gershwin

Directed by Tony Lee Garner

Light Design by Laura Canon

Set Design Concept by Van Daly

Costumes coordinated by Leslie Reddick

Program Design by Rodney Hudgen

Cover Artwork by Brian Maffitt

Choreography by Jenny Diggs

Accompanied by Buddy Eason

THE GERSHWINS

No American musical personality has so captured world-wide imagination as has George Gershwin. Since his death just before his thirty-ninth birthday in 1937, his popularity and his reputation have grown.

The popularity of the so called "standard" songs which he established from the musical stage and screen has not diminished. Apparently Gershwin "has something," to judge from the viability of his music, and whatever that something is, he is assured an immortal position among American composers.

Gershwin's contribution goes beyond the obvious one of several hundred songs, an opera, and a handful of concert pieces. His influence in the musical theatre and on popular music is evident to this day. The importance of Ira Gershwin's contribution to the quality of the shows and their songs also cannot be overrated. The Gershwins displayed high musicianship and intelligence to an advantage that transcended the story material for which the songs were written. No further proof is needed than the fact that the songs have long outlived the shows.

"Music must reflect the thoughts and aspirations of the people and the time. My people are American. My time is today."

—George Gershwin

Entertainment

The Real American Folksong (Is a Rag)
Ladies First 1918

Sweet and Low Down
Tiptoes 1925

Just Another Rhumba
Goldwyn Follies 1938

I Can't be Bothered Now
Shall We Dance 1937

Clap Yo Hands
Oh, Kay! 1926

Shall We Dance
Shall We Dance 1937

Nice Work
A Damsel In Distress 1937

Love

Do, Do, Do
Oh, Kay! 1926

Someone to Watch
Oh, Kay! 1926

Liza
Showgirl 1929

Let's Call the Whole Thing Off
Shall We Dance 1937

The Man I Love
Lady Be Good 1924

Love Walked In
Goldwyn Follies 1938

Somebody Loves Me
George White's Scandals 1924

Soon
Strike Up The Band 1930

They All Laughed
Shall We Dance 1937

A Foggy Day
A Damsel In Distress 1937

My Man's Gone Now
Porgy and Bess 1935

Nonsense

Slap That Bass
Shall We Dance 1937

Blah, Blah, Blah
Delicious 1931

We Love To Rhyme
Goldwyn Follies 1938

The Babbitt & the Bromide
Funny Face 1927

The Jolly Jar and the Milkmaid
A Damsel In Distress 1937

The Real American Folksong (Is a Rag)

PERFORMANCE DATES

Pine Bluff, Arkansas April 11

Ocean Springs, Mississippi April 13

Mobile, Alabama April 14

McCoy Theatre, Southwestern At Memphis May 21 and 22

THE COMPANY

The First Generation Company is chosen each year by audition from the ranks of the Southwestern Singers Tour Choir. The sets, costumes, program design and the show itself are chosen and coordinated by the members of the cast. Travelling this Spring through Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana the company members are as follows:

RICHARD BARNES—Working toward a career in Law, Richard is a junior Greek major. His theatre credits coming from Atlanta include "Godspell", "West Side Story" and "Guys & Dolls".

CHERRIE BARTON—Cherrie is a senior majoring in religion. This production marking her fourth year with the First Generation, she is best remembered for her portrayal of Sally in "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown". Cherrie originates from Douglasville, Georgia.

HERMAN (VAN) DALY—Van is a junior International Studies major from Mobile, Alabama. His theatre credits are numerous. On campus, he has appeared in "Brecht On Brecht" and most recently in "Carnival". This is his second year with the First Generation and his second set design for the company.

LISA GOBBELL—Her first year with the First Generation, Lisa's credits include "Finian's Rainbow", "Paint Your Wagon", and "Gentlemen from the Cane". From Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, she is a chemical-biology major.

RODNEY HUDGEN—This junior was assistant musical director for "Candide" and also appeared in the show. His list of musical credits are numerous and include the recent production of "Carnival". Rodney has appeared with Theatre Memphis and with the First Generation since 1980. He is a Business-Media major from Stuttgart, Arkansas.

JANEE LAMBERT—A freshman from Mobile, Alabama, Janee played Regina in "Another Part of the Forest" and the armless woman in "Carnival". Her other performances include "The Boyfriend" and "Oklahoma". She also appeared in "La Boheme" with the Mobile Opera Guild.

BRIAN MAFFITT—Brian is a sophomore who made his campus debut in "Candide" and recently appeared in "Carnival" and "The Tempest". This is his second year with the First Generation. He is a talented artist and is credited with several set designs as well as our cover artwork. Brian is from Memphis.

DAWN McGRIFF—A senior majoring in English with aspirations in public relations, Dawn hails from Albertville, Alabama. She was a member of the Southwestern Singers Foreign Tour Choir and traveled with them to western Europe. This is Dawn's first appearance in a major theatre production.

LESLIE REDDICK—This senior Theatre and Media Arts major is a resident Memphian. She has been seen in "Showboat" with the Downtown Dream Machine as well as campus productions of "Candide" and "The Crucible". This is her first year with the First Generation.

REBECCA SWEET—Becca was last seen as the stilt walker in the production of "Carnival", and has helped with "Another Part of the Forest". She is a freshman from Dallas. Her hobbies include old movies and singing.

DOUG TRAPP—A native of Nashville, Tennessee, Doug is a sophomore Media-Business major. This is his second year with the First Generation. He has been in several high school productions and was last seen in the campus production of "Candide".