# JAZZ SONGS

Peter Stickland

Songs

Calum Storrie

Drawings & photos

**Matt Robinson** 

Notation

77books

First published in the UK, May 2019

#### 77books

69 Osbaldeston Rd London N16 7DL

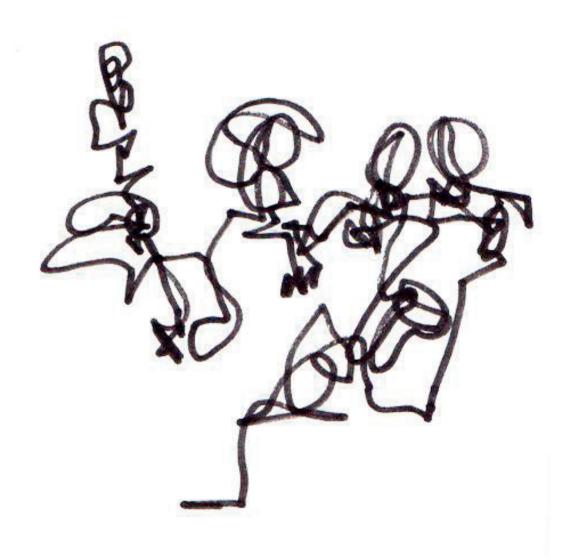
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Cover design; Calum Storrie

for Emilia and the women who sing





## Contents

Lyri	cs for Coltrane's improvisations	12
1.	Love Fades / My Favourite Things / Coltrane	13
2.	Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye / Coltrane	24
3.	Singing In My Dreams / My One And Only Love / Coltrane	32
Fror	n folk songs to jazz standards	44
4.	Not My Type At All / Do Nothing 'Til You Hear From Me	45
5.	I Wanna Lose Blues / Li'l Darlin'	56
6.	Sounds That Are Kind / Come Rain Or Come Shine	66
From contemporary songs to jazz standards		80
7.	Little Spark / Blues Skies	81
8.	I'm Gonna Love You Forever / Stormy Weather	89
9.	I See The Light / Things Ain't What They Used To Be	96
Collaging jazz standards		107
10.	Blue Moon / Stormy Weather	108
11.	These Foolish Things / Sentimental Journey	114
12.	Skylark / What'll I Do	120

### Introduction

In recent years I have speculated about the kind of songs I would write if I wrote songs. I began exploring the question by selecting songs I felt an affinity with, changed the lyrics and then went in search of new tunes to accompany my lyrics. It didn't work. Later I started the process with folk songs, wondering if I'd be happy with traditional re-interpretations. I wasn't. Then in July 2018 I attended a Pete Churchill workshop at King's Place. It was the afternoon prior to a concert performed by the London Vocal Project. They were performing Jon Hendricks' masterful lyricisation of the Miles Davis and Gil Evans album, *Miles Ahead*. At this workshop, Pete explained the vocalise techniques Jon Hendricks had used to create his lyrics. I was amazed that Jon had lyricised these complex improvisations and astounded that Pete had arranged and notated the lyrics to enable his choir to perform them. Amazed and delighted.

Jon Hendricks lyricised non-vocal jazz by finding syllables and vowel sounds that were in accord with the pitch and tone of the instruments. His complex sound/words followed the melodies and rhythms and finally became songs. I wanted to play this game. I can't read music, but neither could Jon Hendricks. I decided to take an improvisation of a jazz song and rewrite the lyrics so that it followed the phrasing. I started with John Coltrane's brilliant improvisation of *My Favourite Things*.

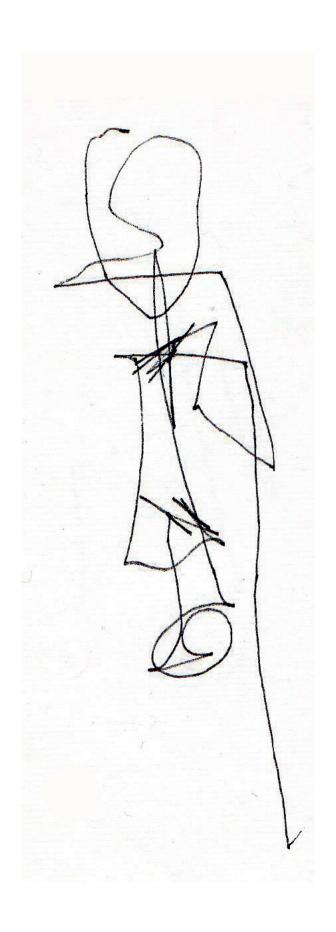
After playing around with jazz songs for a while, I came up with four different types of lyric writing. In this book I present three songs for each of these types. They're all adventures in borrowing and editing. I am a collage artist placing new material alongside texts previously written. I continually re-adjust the meaning as part of the process, reading between the lines and letting rhymes dictate the subject. I don't make demands on the topic or need it to become something, I try to discover it. I like multi-layered medleys and diverse materials working together. Speed, chance and play are key factors; they keep the preconceptions at bay and allow meaning to rise up in an unpredictable fashion. It's an exercise in acceptance; finding things and creating partnerships for these things before judgement arises.

Recently, I have started to sing these songs with accompanying musicians and this has introduced another level to the game. In this book there are lyrics and musical charts, but this is just half the story. The invention and learning don't stop here, it is simply where performance begins. The original question about the kind of songs I would like to write has changed. I now want to know how I would interpret and perform my songs. I had the pleasure of singing with the brilliant guitarist Luca Boscagin and discovered that he added another layer to the spirit of collage in these songs. He created a delicate filigree of sounds in and around the main body of the song, allowing it to flow to places I could not have imagined. He was in his world, I was in mine, yet we played together like we were one collage. This is where I feel happiest. This is the adventure I was looking for.

A constant feature of my bookmaking is collaboration and in this project it has been essential. Without Emilia Mårtensson I would not have progressed on this wonderful journey. Through workshops and tutorials, she has given me an opportunity to practise how I make sounds and explore how songs are cultivated and performed. I have been lifted up by her sensitivity, moved by her encouragement and inspired by her insights. I also worked with the pianist Matt Robinson and learned why so many jazz singers want to work with him. He was a joy to perform with and his willingness to notate my songs enabled me to complete this book and sing the songs with other musicians. He introduced me to the conventions of jazz song structure and helped sort out a few dubious refrains. Finally, I am truly delighted that Calum Storey was happy to accept my invitation to add his wonderful automatic, 'constant line' drawings to the book. I was happy for him to direct the visuals in any way he wished and this book is now a celebration of his sensitive and dynamic lines. I am delighted and feel uplifted to have his work next to mine.

There must be a million different ways to write and perform songs and I am extremely grateful to have started on this expedition.

Peter Stickland



## The Drawings

I have been making drawings at music gigs since 2011. From the outset, I set a number of constraints:

- I would only make one drawing at each performance and it should be done within the first five minutes. (I thought that doing more drawings might distract me from listening)
- the drawing was to be done in a single line
- I was not to look at the paper while I was drawing.

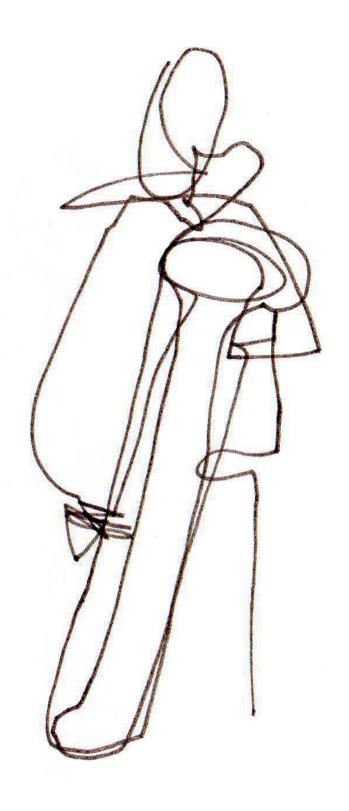
I quickly realised that the sketchbooks needed to be quite small so that I could work on them discreetly. Of the three rules I have kept completely to the second and mostly to the third. The first I ditched quite soon as I realised that the drawings had a low 'success' rate. They are not meant to be expressions of the music; I don't expect the drawings to help viewers hear what I heard. Nor (obviously) are they accurate records of the performers. Instead, they are representations of performance. So 'success' depends on them being recognisable depictions of actions encompassing a sense of my own presence at the moment of performance. Sometimes this means that the space of the performance and the audience creep into the drawing.

I was very pleased to be asked by Peter to insert some of my drawings into this work. We decided to show many of the drawings as photographs of sketchbooks as this materiality is inherent to the process. Of course, the drawings do not illustrate Peter's songs nor Matt's notations. Many of the gigs where I draw take place at Cafe Oto in Dalston and many of these gigs are based around free improvisation. Herein lies the relationship with Peter's project — the transformational gesture inherent to improvisation and play.

#### Calum Storrie

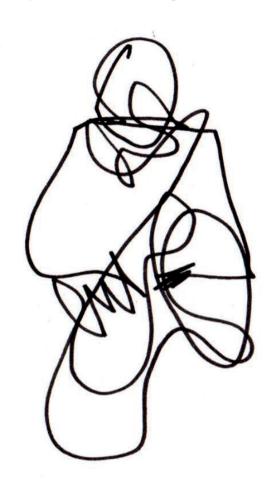






# Lyrics for Coltrane's improvisations

The principle for this section is that John Coltrane's improvisation of the songs becomes the tune and the words are adjusted so they can be sung to this tune.



## **ONE**

## Love Fades / My Favourite Things / Coltrane

This was my first jazz song adventure and it enjoyed a lengthy and complex process. I knew the Coltrane version well and my first decision was to revise the original lyrics. They contained too many nouns and I knew verbs would be far more useful to me. I wanted to find a song to inspire my words and by chance I came upon the Habanera aria from Bizet's Carmen. I rewrote the lyrics of My Favourite Things with the sentiments and words from this aria. Having changed the base song, I set about the task of changing the words so that they mimicked the phrasing of Coltrane's version. Initially I wanted to re-lyricise the whole number, but Coltrane's solos proved to be too difficult, so I only translated the first part. Being very fond of McCoy Tyner's inspired piano playing, I also considered making the jazz song a duet, giving lyrics to his piano notes. It is possible to perform this duet. My final decision was to reduce the song to a solo, keeping McCoy Tyner's introduction and adding the bridge, which Coltrane never plays.

## My Favourite Things

Oscar Hammerstein and Richard Rodgers

Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes Silver-white winters that melt into springs These are a few of my favourite things

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens Bright copper kettles and warm woollen mittens Brown paper packages tied up with strings These are a few of my favourite things

> When the dog bites, when the bee stings When I'm feeling sad I simply remember my favourite things And then I don't feel so bad.

Cream-coloured ponies and crisp apple strudels Doorbells and sleigh bells and schnitzel with noodles Wild geese that fly with the moon on their wings These are a few of my favourite things

> When the dog bites, when the bee stings When I'm feeling sad I simply remember my favourite things And then I don't feel so bad.

Here is the original version from the 1959 Broadway musical The Sound of Music, sung by Mary Martin <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFxOriWYF9w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFxOriWYF9w</a>

Here is the extraordinary version by John Coltrane. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHVarQbNAwU

#### Love Is A Rebellious Bird

This is an aria from Carmen by Georges Bizet. The libretto was written by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy. The French name for this aria is "L'amour est un oiseau rebelle" but the popular name is Habanera (meaning the music of Havana) Here is the English translation and a link to a performance. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJ</a> HHRJfoxg

Love is a rebellious bird that nobody can tame, and you call him quite in vain if it suits him not to come.

Nothing helps, neither threat nor prayer. One man talks well, the other's mum; it's the other one that I prefer. He's silent but I like his looks. Love! Love! Love!

Love is a gypsy's child, it has never, ever, known a law; love me not, then I love you; if I love you, you'd best beware! Etc.

The bird you thought you had caught beat its wings and flew away ... love stays away, you wait and wait; when least expected, there it is!

All around you, swift, so swift, it comes, it goes, and then returns ... you think you hold it fast, it flees you think you're free, it holds you fast.

Love! Love! Love! Love! Love is a gypsy's child, it has never, ever, known a law; love me not, then I love you; if I love you, you'd best beware!

## Love Birds Are Stubborn / My Favourite Things

If you hear love song and you're the one singing You know, before long, sweet bells will be ringing Love being sneaky, infects ev'ry pore Love flies in quickly and leaves by the door

Clouds, you can't sit on, so don't try to go there You'll never fly on a wing or your best prayer Love makes you tipsy, you'll soon hit the floor Love flies in quickly and leaves by the door

> When you're waiting, for the right day And it comes at last Try not to pursue love, if it flies away For dreams that are grasped fade fast

Love birds are stubborn, so don't aim to tame them Don't seek to rule them and don't try to change them Love, the sly gypsy, cares nothing for law Love flies in quickly and leaves by the door

> When you're waiting, for the right day And it comes at last Try not to pursue love, if it flies away For dreams that are grasped fade fast

## Love Birds Are Stubborn / My Favourite Things

#### Duet – Lyrics for piano and saxophone

#### PIANO - McCoy Tyner

Love hits you fast and flies away
Though you been waiting for the day
Love, when pursued, it flies away
Your dream will come when it's the day
You got to know love flies
You got to know dreams fade
You got to know dreams fly
You got to know love fades

Love flies, dreams fade, dreams fly, love fades Love's fast, dream's grasp, dream fast, love's grasp Love waits, dream's come, dream's wait, love Love's grasp, dream right, dream's grasp, a love

Love song sings, sweet bells ring Hearing fades, long before Fly long, sneaky, love song, before, Hear love, quickly, hear bells, long song Soon one, infects, song or, leave Then hear, sneaky, bells go, before

Sit on clouds, go up there,
On the floor, fly at prayer
Never try, on the wing
Finest floor, on the clouds
Love flies, your door
Love soon

Or dream

To love

Tipsy floor, sit on prayer, finest fly, quick wing
Try on clouds, never love, hit the floor, fine prayer
Never go, tipsy fly, never wing, door
Love your clouds, try to wing, try to fly, best floor
Tipsy floor, sit on prayer, finest fly, quickly wing
Try on clouds, never love, hit the floor, fine prayer
Never go, tipsy fly, never wing door

Love your clouds, try to wing, try to fly, floor

Sit on clouds, go up there, On the floor, fly at prayer, Never try, love it flies Sit on prayer, love your clouds SAXOPHONE - John Coltrane

If you hear love song an' you're the one that's doing singing You know, before long, the sweet bells, they will be ringing Love being sneaky, infects ev'ry pore Love flies in quickly and leaves by the door

It does.....

The clouds, you can't sit on, so don't try to go there 'cos You'll never fly on a wing or your best prayer Love makes you tipsy, you'll soon hit the floor Love flies in quickly and leaves by the door-or

Or more ......
The door .....
And more .....
To try ......
The door .....
To try - to fly
A try - to fly
To love .....

Love birds are stubborn, so don't aim to ever tame them Don't seek to rule them and don't try to ever change them Love, the sly gypsy, cares nothing for law

Love flies in quickly and leaves by the door

Or, morerrerrerrerrerrerrerrerrer

Or ..... More .....

Or more ..... Or more, or more

Love flies in so quickly

## Love Fades / My Favourite Things / Coltrane

Love hits you fast and flies away
Though you been waiting for the day
Love, when pursued, it flies away
Your dream will come when it's the day
You got to know love flies
You got to know dreams fade
You got to know dreams fly
You got to know love fades

If you hear love song an' you're the one that's doing singing You know, before long, the sweet bells, they will be ringing Love being sneaky, infects ev'ry pore Love flies in quickly and leaves by the door your door........

The clouds, you can't sit on, so don't try to go there 'cos
You'll never fly on a wing or another prayer no
Love makes you tipsy, you'll soon hit the floor
Love flies in quickly and leaves by the door or more ......

Improvisation

Love flies in quickly and leaves by the door When you're waiting, waiting for the right day And it comes, it comes then at last Try not to pursue love, if it flies away For love that is grasped, fades fast

Yes, love birds are stubborn, so don't aim to ever tame them Don't seek to rule them and don't try to ever change them Love – the old gypsy – cares nothing for law Love flies in quickly and leaves by the door

Love the birds, stubborn birds, never try, they don't tame

Don't seek, don't rule, don't try to ever changge them

Love – the old gypsy – cares nothing for lawwww

Love flies in quickly and leaves by the doorrrr, your doorrrr

Improvisation

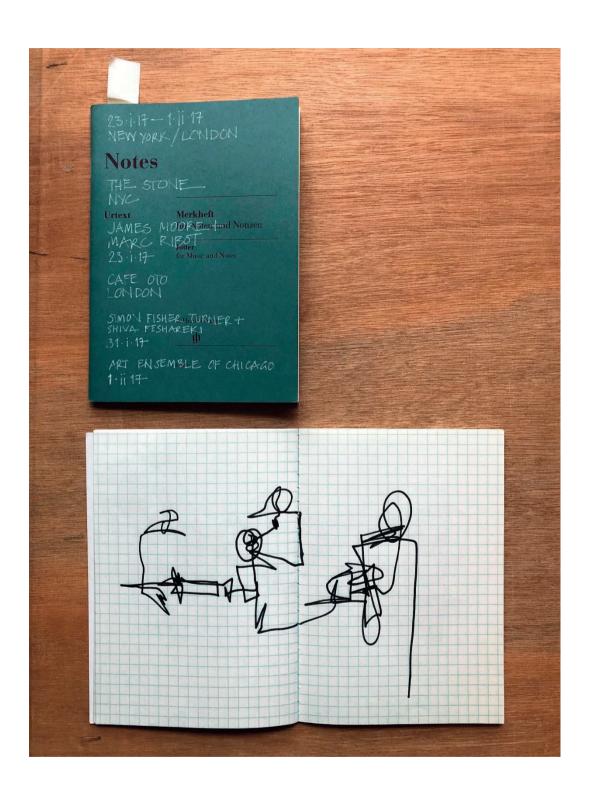
When you're waiting, waiting for the right day
And it comes, it comes then at last
Try not to pursue love, if it flies, it flies away
For love that is grasped, fades
For love that is grasped, fades
For love that is grasped, fades and it always fades fast

## **Love Fades**

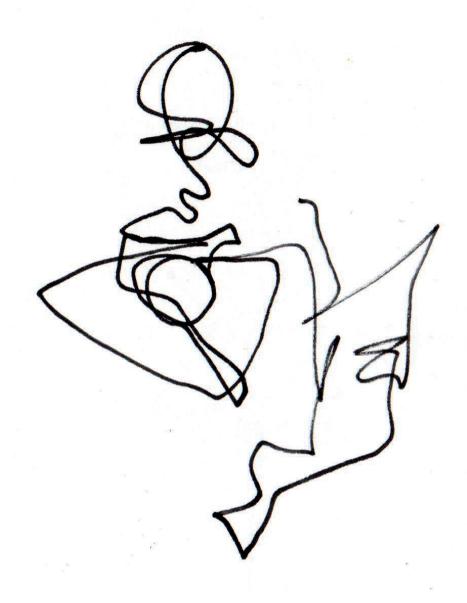












**TWO** 

## Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye / Coltrane

This song arrived out of a very simple process. I kept the words of the original and added existing words and phrases to follow John Coltrane's improvisation. Here is John Coltrane's version. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8Jmcynp9do">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8Jmcynp9do</a>

The song is by Cole Porter. Here is Ella Fitzgerald singing it. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqa5kNNaMlc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqa5kNNaMlc</a>

## Every Time We Say Goodbye

Every time we say goodbye I die a little Every time we say goodbye I wonder why a little

Why the Gods above me Who must be in the know Think so little of me They allow you to go

When you're near There's such an air of spring about it I can hear a lark somewhere Begin to sing about it

There's no love song finer
But how strange the change from major to minor
Every time we say goodbye

When you're near
There's such an air of spring about it
I can hear a lark somewhere
Begin to sing about it

There's no love song finer
But how strange the change from major to minor
Every time we say goodbye

## Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye / Coltrane

Ev'ry time we say our goodbye, love I could die – so much more than a little Ev'ry time we say our <u>good</u> - bye I feel so sad And wonder why a little

Why the old gods high above me
Who should <u>real</u> ... ly and clearly know
Think so <u>ve</u> ... ry little of me
That they allow you, to just pack up and go

Yes when you're near, when you're here, so very near me There's such an air of sweet spring about it, yeah Well and I can hear a lark some-where and this little bird of love Begins to sing abo...out it

There's no love song that's finer
But how strange this quick change in me from major to minor
Ev'ry time we sayyyy the sad goodbye

Improvisation

Yes when you're near you're here so near me
There's such an air of spring, I really must sing, of spring about it,
Well and I can hear a lark somewhere - and this little bird of love out there
Begins to singggg ab....out it

There's no love my love, or love song that's finer
But how strange, this change, in me..... from major to minor
Ev'ry time we say good
Ev'ry time we say good
Ev'ry time we say goodbye, I could honestly and truly nearly die

# Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye

based on John Coltrane's version of 'Everytime We Say Goodbye' Lyrics by Peter Stickland

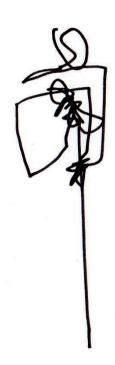












## THREE

## Singing In My Dreams / My One And Only Love / Coltrane

This song came out of a very long process. It started life as one of the folk song variations that are described in the following section, but as the final transition into jazz standard happened to be a song that John Coltrane covered, I was delighted to add it to this section. It is so satisfying to sing Coltrane's interpretations.

The British folk song I started with was "The Trees They Grow So High". It was used by Robert Burns as the basis for his poem "Lady Mary Ann". Its subject is an arranged marriage of a young girl by her father to a boy who is even younger than she. Here's Martin Cathy's version; <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnBXacUdoCo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnBXacUdoCo</a>

I changed these lyrics by using the words from a poem I had written a few years back. This was then a song looking for a tune. I found various possibilities before I entered my later phase of re-writing jazz standards. In this phase, I edited the song again so that it could be sung to the tune of 'My one and only love'. Finally, I gave it the phrasing that John Coltrane plays.

## The Trees They Do Grow High

The trees they do grow high and the leaves they do grow green, And many's the cold winter's night my love and I have seen.
On cold winter's nights my love you and I alone have been.
Oh my bonny boy is young but he's growing,
Growing, growing,
My bonny boy is young but he's growing

"Oh father, dear father, you've done to me much harm, For to go and get me married to one who is so young. For he is only sixteen years old and I am twenty-one, Oh my bonny boy is young but he's growing, Growing, growing,
My bonny boy is young but he's growing."

"Oh daughter, dear daughter, I'll tell you what I'll do, I'll send your love to college for another year or two. And all around his college cap I'll tie a ribbon blue, For to let the ladies know that he's married, Married, married,

To let the ladies know that he's married."

Now at the age of sixteen he was a married man, And at the age of seventeen the father to a son, And at the age of eighteen the grass grew over him. Cruel death soon put an end to his growing, Growing, growing, Cruel death soon put an end to his growing.

And now my love is dead and in his grave doth lie, The green grass grows over him so very very high. I'll sit here and mourn his death until the day I die And I'll watch all o'er his child while he's growing, Growing, growing,

I'll watch all o'er his child while he's growing.

#### The Vibrant Firmament

I want the full range, devotion, fervour, zest and A collage of bright hues that can fill the heavens.

I want incisive action that prevents my cursors From converging on conflicts that inhibit dance.

I want this world, this excited sphere, to be A magnificent stage set that isn't improbable.

I want music of shared gaiety and pleasure, A song that will light the vibrant firmament.

I want the delights I imagined in earlier days, An eagerness and a zeal that are everywhere.

I want to flavour my outer limits, to add new And exuberant expressions to my vacant gaze.

I want deep red waves tipped with honey And passions of every rhythm to swing to.

I want quick-eyed adventures and long slow Embraces, giving reign to unexplored desires.

I want days of crazy randomness and not have Urgent signals demanding that it's time to hide.

I want to live in a smiling house of sensations Where talk is an incessant wealth of cadences.

I want the floor of my sad defeated heart to be The place where only vim and vigour explode.

I want hostility to end, the world to mend and That peace which passes beyond understanding.

## Singing

Was I looking for elation, a fiery life of zest?
A thousand sweet bright colours and more if you suggest
Did I want some lively action with nought to stop the jest?
When I was sitting by the bay, singing
Singing, singing, singing
When sitting by the bay, singing

Did I want a showy stage set to light the firmament?
A buoyant sphere of gaiety that might be heaven sent
A vibrant song of sprightliness to cause my brief ascent
When I was sitting by the bay, singing
Singing, singing, singing
When sitting by the bay, singing

Well I wrote enchanting words to beguile my vacant gaze
And the songs came full of rhythms that livened up my ways
And the waves came tipped with honey that rolled in from the haze
When I was sitting by the bay, singing
Singing, singing, singing
When sitting by the bay, singing

An end to worldly conflicts was the trigger for my art
And with a wealth of cadences I felt it move my heart
A peace I had then, deep beyond the words I can impart
When I was sitting by the bay, singing
Singing, singing, singing
When sitting by the bay, singing

## My One And Only Love

Guy B. Wood and Robert Mellin

The very thought of you makes my heart sing Like an April breeze on the wings of spring And you appear in all your splendour My one and only love

The shadows fall and spread their mystic charms In the hush of night while you're in my arms I feel your lips, so warm and tender My one and only love

The touch of your hand is like heaven
A heaven that I've never known
The blush on your cheek whenever I speak
Tells me that you are my own

You fill my eager heart with such desire Every kiss you give sets my soul on fire I give myself in sweet surrender My one and only love My one and only love

Here is Frank Sinatra singing it. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkWplI8fOyM

Here is John Coltrane's version. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCpIuw ZKEI

# Singing In My Dreams

Was that a dream or was it just a playful jest When your soulful songs were sounds that I caressed Ten thousand flowers bloomed, at your behest When you were singing in my dreams

The stage it glowed so bright it lit the firmament And the endless applause was clearly heaven sent Was this the famous start of your ascent When you were singing in my dreams

Yes, you sang enchanting songs and we all gazed
The kind of cheerful rhythms that live always
And the love poured gold like honey that flowed in from the haze
When you were singing in my dreams

An end to global conflict was the trigger for your art
And with a wealth of cadences we felt it move our hearts
A peace beyond all words we could impart
It was now ours, it seems
When you were singing in my dreams

# Singing In My Dreams / My One And Only Love / Coltrane

Was it a dream or was it playful jest When your songs touched my heart and made me feel caressed When the bright flowers bloomed, at your behest When you were singing in my dreams

When you ... stood there ... singing

The stage glowed bright and lit the firmament
When endless applause for you was clearly
something that could only have been heaven sent
Was this the grand start, love, of your ascent
Or were you singing in my sweet dreams

You sang enchanting ... songs of our love and we all gazed
The kind of soulful ... lively rhythms that live always
And great love poured gold just like honey
that flowed in from the distant haze
When you were there ... singing in my playful dreams ... it seems

An end to global conflict was the trigger for your art
And then with a wealth of cadence, I watched as you melted hearts
A great peace beyond all the words we could now impart
It was now ours it seems forever and ... another day

#### Improvisation

You sang enchanting ... songs of our love and we all gazed
The kind of soulful ... lively rhythms that live always
And great love poured gold just like honey
that flowed in from the distant haze
When you were there ... singing in my playful dreams ... it seems

Was it a dream or was it playful jest
When your songs touched my heart and made me feel caressed
When the bright flowers bloomed, at your behest
When you were singing in my dreams
When you were singing in my dreams

# Singing In My Dreams

based on John Coltrane's version of 'My One and Only Love' Lyrics by Peter Stickland







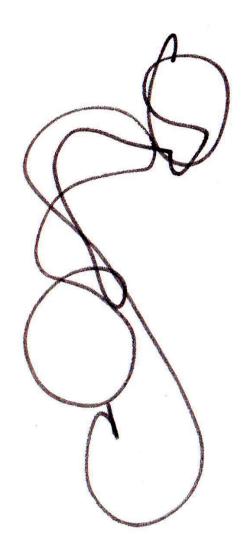






# From folk songs to jazz standards

As the title suggests, the songs in this section all start with folk songs. I changed the lyrics and sang them in various versions before rearranging them so they could to be sung with jazz standard tunes. I find the collages are more interesting than the songs I wrote. There's a sense of memory from the new and you get two for the price of one.



# **FOUR**

# Not My Type At All / Do Nothing 'Til You Hear From Me

The sequence in this first song is interesting, because the traditional version was re-interpreted by Richard Fariña in 1968. I used his lyrics to start my re-write, playing with words that are close to his. Over time I re-edited them twice more, producing two possible songs; the last of which I sang at a workshop. I realised that in order to sing these songs with an accompanying musician, I needed some notation, which I couldn't provide, so attaching them to Jazz standards gave me a way of singing and improving them with a musician. I collaged the lyrics of this song to the Duke Ellington / Bob Russell song, 'Do Nothing 'Til You Hear From Me'.

These lyrics are set to the tune of the Irish air 'My Lagan Love'. They were collected in Northern Donegal in 1903. Dusty Springfield sang it in 1967.

<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBemjBqtUy4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBemjBqtUy4</a>
Richard Fariña rewrote the lyrics, calling the song, 'The Quiet Joys Of Brotherhood.' Mimi Fariña sung it in 1968.

<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAQtQngA62w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAQtQngA62w</a>
The great Sandy Denny sung a very beautiful version of it in 1972. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHstyoGkMIU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHstyoGkMIU</a>

### My Lagan Love

#### **Traditional**

Where Lagan streams sing lullables
There blows a lily fair.
The twilight gleam is in her eye,
The night is on her hair.
And like a lovesick lenashee
She hath my heart in thrall.
No life have I, no liberty,
For love is Lord of all.

And often when the beetles horn
Has lulled the eve to sleep,
I'll steal into her sheiling lorn
And through the doorway creep.
There on the cricket's singing stone,
She makes the bogwood fire
And sings in sweet and undertone,
The song of hearts desire.

# Quiet Joys Of Brotherhood

#### Richard Fariña

As gentle tides go rolling by,
Along the salt sea strand
The colours blend and roll as one
Together in the sand.
And often do the winds entwine
Do send their distant call,
The quiet joys of brotherhood,
And love is lord of all.

The oak and weed together rise,
Along the common ground.
The mare and stallion light and dark
Have thunder in their sound.
The rainbow sign, the blended flower
Still have my heart in thrall.
The quiet joys of brotherhood,
And love is lord of all.

But man has come to plough the tide,
The oak lies on the ground.
I hear their tires in the fields,
They drive the stallion down.
The roses bleed both light and dark,
The winds do seldom call.
The running sands recall the time
When love was lord of all.

## This Dreamy Life

The gentle tides, go rolling by
Along the salt sea strand.
I gaze at her and breathe a sigh
As she walks on the sand.
And in my dream, our hands entwine
I hear her distant call
And if by chance our paths align
Then she shall have me all.

The oak and weed together grow Upon the common ground, Could she and I then get to know What makes our common sound? If she will turn and give a sign She'll have my heart in thrall For then I'll know our paths align And she can have me all.

My thoughts go out, my thoughts come in Just rolling like the tide
I pray this chance will not be thin
That she'll not run and hide.
Her eyes they gaze up to the sky
I cannot hear her call
For sure, it's clear, she passes by,
We'll know no love at all.

I left behind this dreamy life
To work among the poor
With children forced to pay the price
And sleep upon the floor
They give me more than I can give
They love me one and all
They teach me songs and how to live
I love them one and all.

#### You Can Have Me All

In youth love came in through the eye Exotic days, I planned
I'd see a girl and breathe a sigh
And long to hold her hand.
At night I'd dream that we entwined
I'd hear her loving call
As if by luck our paths aligned
And she could have me all.

And as my years did slowly grow
I lost my common ground,
How could two adult strangers know
What makes their common sound?
I stopped and waited for a sign
To give my heart in thrall
I had to know love was benign
Before I'd give my all.

My dreams went out, my dreams came in Just rolling like the tide
Suspecting that my chance was slim
That I would run and hide.
My sounds they floated to the sky
I could not sing love's call
So year on year girls passed me by
I knew no love at all.

Who'll charm my broken senses Who'll mend my fallen fences Who'll keep my heart in motion Inspire my deep devotion

I thought this fate would hold me fast
Until you broke the strain
By singing songs that changed my past
With sparkling voice champagne
I toast you now, my queen of hearts
Your singing stopped my fall
My love is whole, not left in parts
So you can have me all.

# Not My Type At All

You didn't cause light in my eyes And I never touched your hand You didn't hear me breathing sighs And my talk is always bland

> So I don't believe I'm acting blind You know I'm not about to fall No, it isn't luck our paths aligned 'Cos you're not my type at all.

How can you see attraction grow When we have no common ground How can you hear, how can you know You don't hear me make a sound

> So don't wait around, there'll be no sign That can prove my heart's in thrall 'Cos I've loved before and it's not benign And you're not my type at all.

My thoughts go out; my thoughts come in Just rolling like the tide The chance it's love is really slim But still I'll run and hide.

> So I wait for you to just pass me by For I cannot hear love's call No it's not a light here in my eye 'Cos you're not my type at all.

I felt your pull, but held on fast And then you broke the strain You sang a song that changed my past With sparkling voice champagne

So I toast you now, my queen of hearts 'Cos, your singing stopped my fall And my eyes shine out like sparkling darts 'Cos you're my type after all Yes, you're my type after all

### Do Nothin' Till You Hear From Me

Duke Ellington and Bob Russell

Do nothin' till you hear from me Pay no attention to what's said Why people tear the seam of anyone's dream Is over my head.

Do nothin' till you hear from me At least consider our romance If you should take the word of others you've heard I haven't a chance

> True I've been seen with someone new But does that mean that I'm untrue? When we're apart the words in my heart Reveal how I feel about you.

Some kiss may cloud my memory And other arms may hold a thrill But please do nothin' till you hear it from me And you never will.

Here is Ella Fitzgerald singing it. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ymd75A3Pk4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ymd75A3Pk4</a>

## Not My Type At All / Do Nothing 'Til You Hear From Me

You didn't cause light in my eyes
I never tried to touch your hand
It wasn't me who was breathing those sighs
I can keep my talk bland

So don't believe I'm acting blind You know I'm not about to fall It isn't true that our paths have aligned You're not my type at all.

> How can you see my attraction grow It's plain to see we've no common ground How can you hear and how can you know When I never make a sound

Don't wait around, there'll be no sign That proves my heart is now in thrall I've loved before and it's just not benign You're not my type at all.

**Improvisation** 

My thoughts go out; my thoughts come in A ceaseless rolling like the tide The chance it's love is undeniably slim But still I'll run and hide.

So I will wait, you'll pass me by No, I can't hear love's tender call It's not a light that's glowing here in my eye You're not my type at all.

> I felt your pull, but I held on fast But then you broke, the stupid strain You sang a song that altered my past With sparkling voice champagne

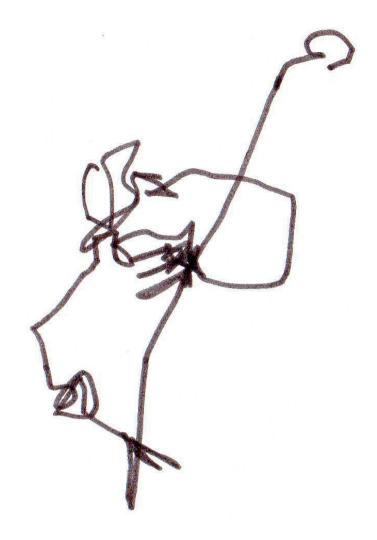
I toast you now, my queen of hearts
Your singing stopped my certain fall
My eyes shine out now like two sparkling darts
You're my type after all, Yes, you're the right type......after all

# Do Nothing Till You Hear From Me









# FIVE

# I Wanna Lose Blues / Li'l Darlin'

This song starts with the folk song, 'Willy Went To Westerdale'.

The Watersons recorded it in 1966

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKD3ad3Ux2c

This misogynistic comedy of a shiftless wife belongs to an ancient tradition of folk songs that would not be acceptable today.

'Li'l Darlin' was composed in 1957 by trumpeter Neal Hefti for the Count Basie Orchestra. After lyrics were added by Jon Hendricks, Lambert, Hendricks & Ross recorded it with Basie in 1958. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwycoKhmC7s

# Willy Went To Westerdale

#### Traditional

Each verse has two new lines and the responses are sung to each pair of lines in the same manner as they are arranged in the first verse.

Willy went to Westerdale,
I-do-a-dandy
Willy went to Westerdale,
Clish-clash-mi-clandy
Willy went to Westerdale,
He married a wife and brought her home.
Sing-a-lair-a, Tak-er-amang-yer

And he bought her twenty goodman kye And she let nineteen of 'em dry.

And she only milked it once a year And that was to make butter dear.

When she turned, she turned in her boot And to make a print she put in her foot.

She made a cheese and put it on t'shelf; She never turned t'cheese till t'cheese turned 'tself.

She roasted the hen, both feather and gut, And heads and tails and wattles and foot.

She did a far dirtier trick than that; She let t'bairn wet in his best nightcap.

### The Touch Of A Hand

The touch of a hand can light up a heart
Make it bright and fancy
The touch of a hand can light up a heart
Dance it sweet and chancy
The touch of a hand can light up a heart
It's deeds like these that give love a start
Put on your dance shoes, forget your sad blues

Try vigorous steps to brighten the dance
Make it bright and fancy
Try vigorous steps to brighten the dance
Dance it sweet and chancy
Try vigorous steps to brighten the dance
By standing still you're lost in a trance
Put on your dance shoes, forget your sad blues

There's spirit and cunning in ev'ry hand
Make it bright and fancy
There's spirit and cunning in ev'ry hand
Dance it sweet and chancy
There's spirit and cunning in ev'ry hand
Learn the tricks and your heart will expand
Put on your dance shoes, forget your sad blues

Try stroking your thumb along a soft palm
Make it bright and fancy
Try stroking your thumb along a soft palm
Dance it sweet and chancy
Try stroking your thumb along a soft palm
You'll feel how a smile can act like a balm
Put on your dance shoes, forget your sad blues

# Sing Me Your Best Schmooze

The tone of your sound can light up a heart
Sing me bright and funky
The tone of your sound can light up a heart
Sing me smooth and sultry
The tone of your sound can light up a heart
Its songs like yours that give love a start
Sing me your best schmooze, let me forget blues

Your feisty rhythm dances the song
Sing me bright and funky
Your feisty rhythm dances the song
Sing me smooth and sultry
Your feisty rhythm dances the song
I'm lonely now, but it won't last long
Sing me your best schmooze, let me forget blues

Sing me, my love, out of my cloud Out through the foam over the sea Sing me in sleep and sing me out loud Give me the feeling that I've got the key

There's spirit and cunning in your sweet words
Sing me bright and funky
There's spirit and cunning in your sweet words
Sing me smooth and sutry
There's spirit and cunning in your sweet words
Teach me your tricks, I'll sing like the birds
Sing me your best schmooze, let me forget blues

# Let Me Forget Blues

The thrill of your voice, it lightens my heart
Don't need no deep and husky
Yes, the thrill of your voice, it lightens my heart
Don't need no dark and sultry
Lord, the thrill of your voice, it lightens my heart
Your sound is the dart, that gives love a start
Give me the bright hues, let me forget blues

The groove of your beat, it can turn up the heat
Don't need no deep and husky
Yes, the groove of your beat, it can turn up the heat
Don't need no dark and sultry
The groove of your beat, sure turns up the heat
Your rhythms entreat and I'm knocked off my feet
Give me the bright hues, let me forget blues

So sing me, dear heart, right out of my cloud Out through the waves and right over the sea You can sing me to sleep or sing me out loud Here is my door, let me give you my key

So, I'll steady my heart, and write you a song
Won't give you deep and husky
Yes, I'll steady my heart, and write you a song
Won't give you dark and sultry
I'll steady my heart, and write you a song
I'll just say I love you and it won't last long

I'll give you the bright hues, then we'll forget blues

### Lil' Darlin'

#### Neal Hefti and Jon Hendricks

Don't need no palace paved with gold Don't need more cash than banks can hold When I get to feelin', a feelin' For something there ain't too much of My sweet lil' darlin' gives me her love

Don't catch me chasin' 'round at night I'm not impressed by glamor sights Lil' darlin' may not be as pretty As some other gals you can see But my lil' darlin' only loves me

# I Wanna Lose Blues / Li'l Darlin'

The thrill of your voice, brightens my heart
You never sing it deep and husky
The thrill of your voice lightens my heart
You never sing it dark and sultry
The thrill of your voice brightens my heart
Your sound is the dart that's love's start
So, give me the bright hues, I wanna lose blues

#### Improvisation

You can sing me right out over the sea Here is my heart and my key, oh...

The groove of your beat, turns up my heat
Don't wanna hear it deep and husky
The groove of your beat, burns up my heat
Don't wanna hear it dark and sultry
The groove of your beat, turns up my heat
Your rhythms entreat dancing feet
So, give me the bright hues, I wanna lose blues

#### Improvisation

So sing me, sweet heart, out of my cloud Sing me to sleep, sing it loud, oh...

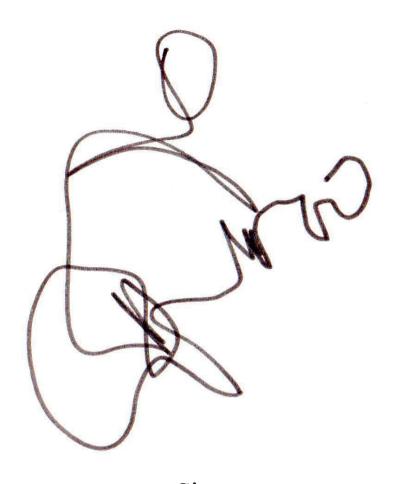
I'll steady my heart and write you a song
I won't sing it deep and husky
I'll steady my heart and write you a song
I won't sing it dark and sultry
I'll steady my heart, write a love song
To say I love you, won't take long
So, I'll give you bright hues and we'll forget blues
Yes with the bright hues, we'll forget blues
We'll lose, we'll lose blues

# Li'l Darlin'









# Six

# Sounds that are kind / Come Rain Or Come Shine

This song writing sequence starts with *Pace-Egging Song*. Pace is from the Latin word for Easter. Pace egging was the practice of collecting eggs and other food by touring the houses and farms in one's locality. The Watersons sang it in 1965.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9o3a6y3fbc

The first attempt used 'Baby Its Cold Outside' - by Frank Loesser. Here's Margaret Whiting & Johnny Mercer singing it. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTNheCEUP\_A

The second attempt used, 'Come Rain Or Come Shine' by Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer

Here is Maxine Sullivan's version. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdvMPPVQ7vY

### **Pace-Egging Song**

#### **Traditional**

#### Chorus

Here's one two three jolly lads all in one mind We are come a-pace-egging and I hope you'll prove kind And I hope you'll prove kind with your eggs and strong beer For we'll come no more nigh you until the next year

And the first that comes in is Lord Nelson you'll see With a bunch of blue ribbons tied round by his knee And a star on his breast that like silver doth shine And I hope he remembers it's pace-egging time

#### Chorus

And the next that comes in it is Lord Collingwood And he fought with Lord Nelson till he shed his blood And he's come from the sea old England to view And he's come a-pace-egging with all of his crew

#### Chorus

The next that comes in is our Jolly Jack Tar He sailed with Lord Nelson all through the last war He's arrived from the sea, old England to view And he's come a-pace-egging with our jovial crew

#### Chorus

And the last that comes in is old Tosspot, you'll see He's a valiant old man and in every degree He's a valiant old man and he wears a pigtail And all his delight is a-drinking mulled ale

#### Chorus

Come ladies and gentlemen, sit by the fire
Put your hands in your pockets and give us our desire
Put your hands in your pockets and treat us all right
If you give nought, we'll take nought, farewell and goodnight

# Songs from the woodpile

A girl runs to fabled woods aiming to sing a forest of songs. Dreaming of applause, she takes up residence on a woodpile. For her it's cheap to repeat verses from popular chorus lines. She demands potential, expansion and radical improvisations. What happens is that improbable verses pop up out of the blue. Secretly she imagines that others might like to join in, but who? Looking straight ahead, she has no intention of singing a ballad. She sings oblique medleys that lack any detectable connotations. For her, ambiguity and wonder should sit high on the horizon. She has never tested sung surprises on a new audience before. Her refrains anticipate harmony, but her voice flies far from it. Had an audience been present they'd have labelled it tuneless. She looks around for kinship and emotion without keeping time. She is oblivious to her vanishing chords and musical silences. Symphonies resound inside her head, but her voice is silent. It doesn't germinate songs as the chest of another singer would do. She bonds with rhythms, oblivious to the merits of transmission. They'd rung out once before when she had fasted from speech for refuge. The songs she dreams of are subtle, personal, ambiguous and obscure. She can't even imagine singing them to the people she's closest to. She sings to the trees about things it's just not possible to say. Her unobtrusive sounds fall far short of anyone who has ears. In the silence of recovery, she hears solitude residing inside. This is a deep place where tongues fail because intention succeeds. Her sounds express nuanced truths that the trees alone understand. The forest bathes in this sonorous invitation echoing beyond their bark. The leaves applaud, they wave, flicker and join with the singing. It's rare for woodpiles to pulse with song or breathe with breath.

### She Sat By The Trees

She sat by the trees in the hope she would find That generous place that most always proves kind A place for beginnings that gives a new heart A sense of connection, a vital new start

Her voice it was tender, a slightly cracked sound A whisper on silence was all that she found But she sensed its potential and sung for the trees And the listening branches they moved in the breeze

She'd sung out before when she'd fasted from speech When the refuge she needed was beyond her reach She offered her kinship, without keeping time Her sweet tuneful silence, a treasured life line

She sensed that the forest would like to join in But the hum of her song, it made hardly a din She moved though in wonderment, full of surprise For the knots in the tree trunks had tears in their eyes

She gave them no chorus, no sense of a verse Just improvisations she couldn't rehearse She sang about wonder and what she found true And the trees they heard music come out of the blue

So she sang about things she never would say To the people who'd questioned her every day She sang with intention, for her tongue was so tied But her silent revival soon gathered inside

The trees heard the echoes that sung near their bark And the sound that they heard was as sweet as a lark The leaves they applauded and liberally waved And with flickering grace this young girl was saved

Yes, she sat by the trees and there she did find That generous place that most always proves kind A place for beginnings that gives a new heart A sense of connection, a vital new start

# I Sat By The Trees

I sat by the trees in the hope I would find Those sonorous notes that most always proves kind A song for beginnings, a hopeful new start A song of connection, a song for new heart

My voice it was tender, a slightly cracked sound A whisper on silence was all that I found But I knew its potential and sang for the trees And the listening branches they moved in the breeze

I sensed that the forest would like to join in
But the purr of my song, it made hardly a din
I hummed though in wonderment, full of surprise
And the knots in the tree trunks had tears in their eyes

I gave them no chorus, no sense of a verse
Just improvisations I could not rehearse
I sang about wonder and what I found true
And the trees breathed the music right out of the blue

They moved with each note and wrinkled their bark And the sound of my voice was as sweet as a lark The leaves they applauded and liberally waved And with flickering grace I knew I was saved

Yes, I sat by the trees and there I did find Those sonorous notes that most always proves kind I sang for beginnings, a hopeful new start I sang for connection and gained a new heart

# Baby Its Cold Outside

#### Frank Loesser

I really can't stay (but baby, it's cold outside)
I've got to go away (but baby, it's cold outside)
This evening has been (been hoping that you'd drop in)
So very nice (I'll hold your hands, they're just like ice)
My mother will start to worry (beautiful what's your hurry?)
My father will be pacing the floor (listen to the fireplace roar)
So really, I'd better scurry (beautiful please don't hurry)
But maybe just a half a drink more (put some records on while I pour)

The neighbours might think (baby, it's bad out there)
Say what's in this drink? (no cabs to be had out there)
I wish I knew how (your eyes are like starlight now)
To break this spell (I'll take your hat; your hair looks swell)
I ought to say, no, no, no sir (mind if I move in closer?)
At least I'm gonna say that I tried (what's the sense in hurtin' my pride?)
I really can't stay (oh baby don't hold out)
But baby, it's cold outside

I simply must go (but baby, it's cold outside)
The answer is no (but baby, it's cold outside)
Your welcome has been (how lucky that you dropped in)
So nice and warm (look out the window at this dawn)
My sister will be suspicious (gosh your lips look delicious)
My brother will be there at the door (waves upon the tropical shore)
My maiden aunts mind is vicious (gosh your lips are delicious)
But maybe just a cigarette more (never such a blizzard before)

I've gotta get home (but baby, you'd freeze out there)
Say lend me a coat (it's up to your knees out there)
You've really been grand (I thrill when you touch my hand)
But don't you see? (how can you do this thing to me?)
There's bound to be talk tomorrow (think of my lifelong sorrow)
At least there will be plenty implied (if you got pneumonia and died)
I really can't stay (get over that old out)
Baby, it's cold
Baby, it's cold outside

# I Sang For The Trees / Baby Its Cold Outside

Well, I sang for the trees, in the hope that I'd find Some sonorous notes, that are soulful and kind A song for beginnings, a hopeful new start A song that carries the love in my heart

Well, I know this is a whimsical dream, but I'd known so many difficult scenes And I'd lost my esteem... that's why I sang for those trees

Well, my voice it was tender, a slightly cracked sound A whisper on silence, was all that I found But I knew the potential, and sang for those trees And the listening branches they moved in the breeze

Yes, I know this is a fanciful flight, but I'd known so many sleepless nights When I didn't feel right... that's why I sang for those trees

Well, I sensed that the forest, would like to join in But the purr of my song, it made hardly a din I hummed and I marvelled, I was full of surprise 'Cos the knots in tree trunks, had tears in their eyes

Well, I know this is quaint to conceive, and I found it quite hard to believe As if my eyes were naïve... that's when I sang for those trees

#### **Improvisation**

So, I lifted the tempo and saw how they moved Those branches that waved, to my light-hearted groove Yes, I sang about wonder, and what I found true And the trees breathed my rhythms right out of the blue

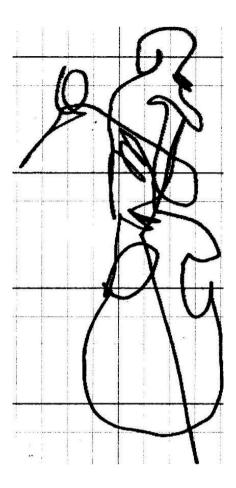
Yes, I know this is a fanciful tale, but I've lived through a blustery gale And now I'm lifting the veil... that's why I sang for those trees

Well, they moved with each note, and they wrinkled their bark And my voice it rang out, just as sweet as a lark And the leaves they applauded, and liberally waved And the dancing branches, they knew I was saved

So, that was my whimsical flight, how I sang in my dreams all night And now I'm feeling alright... so why don't you sing with me Everyone, sing with me for a tree Yes, that's why I...walked through that forest and sang for those trees

# Baby Its Cold Outside





After singing this song a few times, I decided I didn't like it. It sounded like a pop song, not a jazz song, and it didn't open itself up to any cool improvisation. I wanted something with more groove. I knew I would only find the right conjunction of lyrics and tune by chance, so I waited for the right tune. Having taken it through so many reiterations, I was loath to leave it unfinished, so I had to trust it would happen. Luckily it did. As soon as I heard Maxine Sullivan singing, 'Come Rain Or Come Shine' I knew it would be a great fit. So, 'Sounds That Are Kind' is now the final version.

Here is Maxine Sullivan's version. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdvMPPVQ7vY

And here is Billie Holiday's version. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygczl3nBrU8

#### Come Rain Or Come Shine

Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer

I'm gonna love you like nobody's loved you
Come rain or come shine
High as a mountain and deep as a river
Come rain or come shine
I guess when you met me
It was just one of those things
But don't ever bet me
'Cause I'm gonna be true if you let me

You're gonna love me like nobody's loved me
Come rain or come shine
Happy together, unhappy together
And won't it be fine?
Days may be cloudy or sunny
We're in or we're out of the money
But I'm with you always
I'm with you rain or shine

I'm gonna love you like nobody's loved you
Come rain or come shine
High as a mountain, deep as a river
Come rain or come shine
I guess when you met me
It was just one of those things
But don't ever bet me
'Cause I'm gonna be true if you let me

You're gonna love me like nobody's loved me
Come rain or come shine
Happy together, unhappy together
And won't it be fine?
Days may be cloudy or sunny
We're in or we're out of the money
But I'll love you always
I'm with you rain or shine
Rain or shine

#### Sounds That Are Kind / Come Rain Or Come Shine

I'm lifting the veil on this little tale Having lived through a gale The fights were so mean, I needed esteem A whimsical dream

> I walked in to the night On an impulse to take flight So I had to believe That it's OK to be naïve

With trees on my mind, I'm hoping to find Some sounds that are kind If songs are an art, they'll talk to my heart Give me a new start

But the whisper that I found
Was more like a purr than a sound
A hum for the big trees
But the branches grooved in the breeze

#### Improvisation

When trees start to grin, they're keen to join in But my song made no din Then to my surprise, knots tried to disguise The tears in their eyes

Without singing one verse
I found sounds I'd not rehearsed
I sang out for what's true
And trees breathed love out of the blue

They moved in the dark and wrinkled their bark I sang sweet as a lark
Leaves joined in the rave and liberally waved
So I knew I was saved

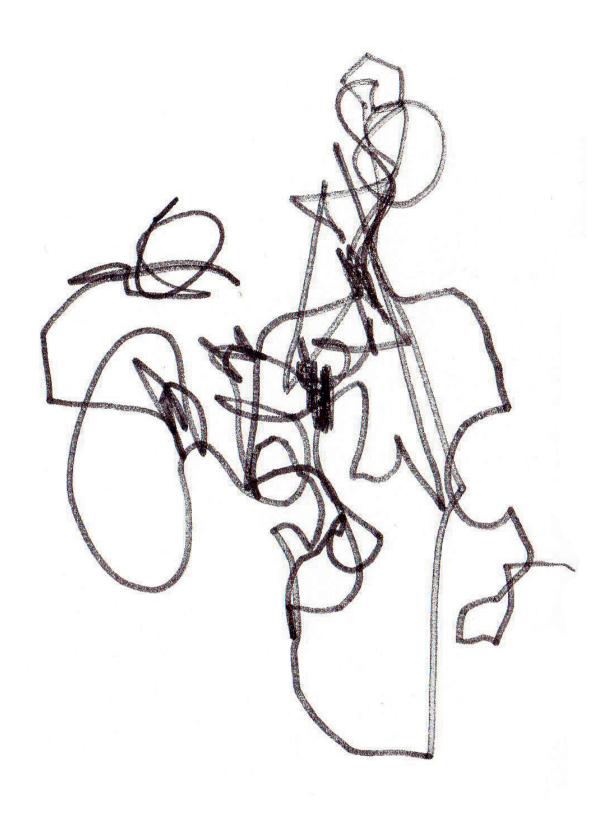
Singing for trees, you can find Sounds that will always prove kind They'll give you a new start Just like they woke up my heart, my heart, my heart Just like they woke up my heart

## Come Rain or Come Shine

Harold Arlen  $A^{+7}$  $Dm^7$ C9(sus4) Fmaj7  $\mathbf{F}^7$  $Gm^7$  $B \not = m^7/A \not =$  $Gm^{7(b5)}$   $C^{7(b9)}$  $B bm^7$  $Am^{7(b5)}$ 13 Bm<sup>7(b5)</sup>  $\text{Cm}^7$ Cm/B♭  $D^7$  $A^{+7}$  $Dm^7$  $Dm^7$  $A^7$  $Bm^7$ Em  $D^7$  $G^7$  $\mathbf{B}\flat^7$  $A^7$ Em<sup>7(b5)</sup> Bm<sup>7(\(\beta\)5)</sup>  $A^{7(b9)}$  $\mathbb{C}^7$  $Dm^6$  $Gm^7$  $Dm^7$ 

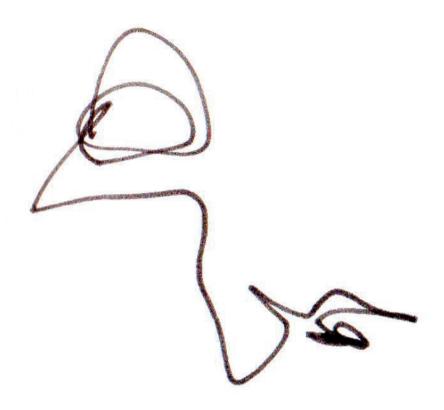






From contemporary songs to jazz standards

For these songs I did not follow the original in their entirety as I had done for the folk songs, I was inspired by a few lines or by the subject.



## Seven

## Little Spark / Blues Skies

This song is inspired by 'Willin' by Lowell T George

I been warped by the rain, driven by the snow I'm drunk and dirty, don't you know But I'm still willin'

Out on the road late last night I'd see my pretty Alice in every headlight Alice, Dallas Alice

Here is Linda Ronstadt singing it <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJHcDokHTGk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJHcDokHTGk</a>

Blue Skies is by Irving Berlin
Here is Maxine Sullivan singing it.
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVz1ATv7vR8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVz1ATv7vR8</a>

## My Little Spark

Tried passing the buck Skating on thin ice Kept trying my luck 'Til I wore out the dice

> But it never quite hit the mark I was living in the dark 'Til you, my little spark Lit up my heart

I'd gone with the blows And searched for bright lights I flowed with the flows And I toured all the sights

But it never quite hit the mark I was living in the dark 'Til you, my little spark Lit up my heart

Played chance like a cat Used eight of nine lives Would've eaten my hat If you hadn't arrived

But then you just hit the mark
Stopped me living in the dark
'Cos you, my little spark
Lit up my heart, lit up my heart
Yes you, my little spark, lit up my heart

#### Blue Skies

Irving Berlin

Blue skies Smiling at me Nothing but blue skies Do I see

Bluebirds Singing a song Nothing but bluebirds All day long

> Never saw the sun shining so bright Never saw things going so right Noticing the days hurrying by When you're in love, my how they fly

Blue days All of them gone Nothing but blue skies From now on

#### Improvisation

I never saw the sun shining so bright Never saw things going oh-so right Noticing the days hurrying by When you're in love, my how they fly

Blue days All of them gone Nothing but blue skies From now on

## My Little Spark / Blues Skies

Sing once without words in brackets.

I tried passing the buck
(when I became unstuck)
Skating on thin ice and trying my luck
'Til I wore out the dice
(lost my sugar and spice, looking for paradise)

I just went with the blows
(through the lowest of lows)
Searched for the bright lights and flowed with the flows
Having toured all the sights
(climbed the highest of heights and lost every fight)

Never had a chance to hit the mark Spent my whole life, waltzing the dark Then you came along and lit up my heart You were the start, my little spark

#### Improvisation

Repeat all verses adding words in brackets.

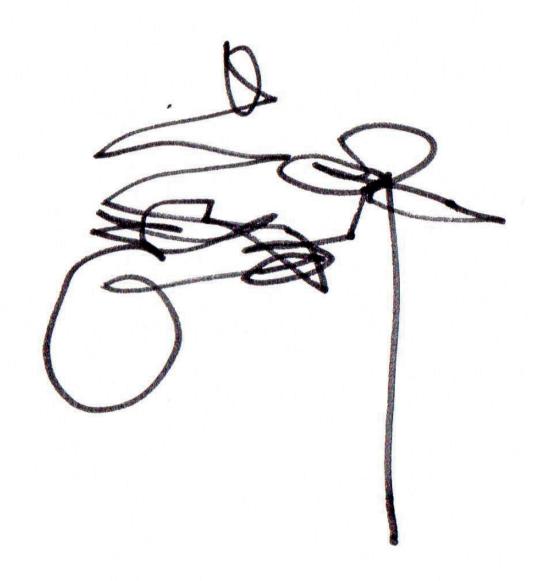
# **Blue Skies**











# Eight

## I'm Gonna Love You Forever / Stormy Weather

I probably started the song 'My Love Is Yours Today' with a contemporary song, but I can't remember which one.

#### My Love Is Yours Today

I hear your voice, it tunes my ears You make life sweet, you conquer fears You make me strong; invite my play My love is yours today

Each day I pray, we'll never part It was your key, unlocked my heart I'll nestle close, I'm here to stay My love is yours today

> You're the vision drifting through my nights You're my hunger, my fanciful flights You're the magnet that brings me right back You're the compass that keeps me on track

When you are gone, my eyes don't see With your caress, my dreams run free The worlds on fire, it's never grey My love is yours today

> You're the vision drifting through my nights You're my hunger, my fanciful flights You're the magnet that brings me right back You're the compass that keeps me on track

I hear your voice, it tunes my ears You make life sweet, you conquer fears You make me strong; invite my play My love is yours today

#### Stormy Weather

Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler

Don't know why
There's no sun up in the sky,
Stormy weather
Since my man and I ain't together
Keeps raining all the time

Life is bare
Gloom and misery everywhere
Stormy weather
Just can't get my old self together
I'm weary all the time

When he went away, the blues walked in and met me If he stays away, old rocking chair will get me All I do is pray the Lord above will let me Walk in the sun once more

Can't go on
Everything I had is gone
Stormy weather
Since my man and I ain't together
Keeps rainin' all the time

Improvisation

When he went away, the blues walked in and met me If he stays away, old rocking chair will get me All I do is pray the Lord above will let me Walk in the sun once more

Can't go on
Everything I had is gone
Stormy weather
Since my man and I ain't together
Keeps rainin' all the time
Keeps rainin' all the time

Here's Billie Holiday singing it. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4JTE76Xnpo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4JTE76Xnpo</a>

#### I'm Gonna Love You Forever / Stormy Weather

Your sweet voice Tuned my ears, drove out my fears We were together You made blue skies up above, the weather I knew I'd love you forever

Yes, I prayed We'd not part, you'd take my heart We'd be together You'd make blue skies up above, the weather 'Cos I could love you forever

> Yes, you sidled up to me, drifted slow through my nights You were my appetite and my fanciful flights You were my compass here, kept me on track You were the magnet that brought me right back

Now you're gone I'm not free, my eyes don't see We're not together Now there's grey skies up above, for weather I wanted to love you forever

#### **Improvisation**

Yes, you sidled up to me, drifted slow through my nights You were my appetite and my fanciful flights You were my compass here, kept me on track You were the magnet that brought me right back

Now you've gone
I'm not free, my eyes don't see
We're not together
You made grey skies up above, the weather
I wanted to love you forever
I did, I do, I will
I'm gonna love you forever

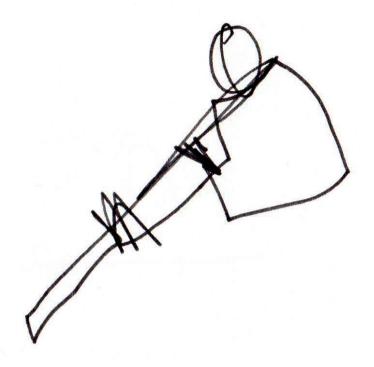
# **Stormy Weather**

Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler









#### Nine

#### I See The Light / Things Ain't What They Used To Be

This song was inspired by the opening lines of 'Bird On The Wire', by Leonard Cohen.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmPUu-rMpWA

Like a bird on the wire Like a drunk in a midnight choir I have tried in my way to be free

Like a worm on a hook
Like a knight from some old-fashioned book
I have saved all my ribbons for thee

My first attempt was to sing it to 'People Will Say We're In Love', by Oscar Hammerstein and Richard Rodgers. Here's a clip from Oklahoma with Joan Roberts and Alfred Drake singing the parts.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEwVAV3VPw4

My second attempt was to sing it to 'Things Ain't What They Used To Be', by Mercer Ellington and Ted Persons. Here's Ella Fitzgerald singing it. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HiKdnLNThyw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HiKdnLNThyw</a>

## In My Arms Tonight

Like an eagle high on the wing Like a leopard pausing to spring Like a bee preserving its sting I'm hopin' it'll turn out right

Like a singer waiting to sing Like a drummer ready to swing Like a juggler eager to fling I'm hopin' it'll happen tonight

> Hold me, I am feeling distraught Don't say love counts more than it ought Need to win this battle I fought And hold you in my arms tonight

Like a flower opening to spring Like a bell resounding its ring Like the zest when it's got its zing I know that I just saw the light

Like a couple out on a fling Like a prince, now become king Like a bride revealing her ring I'm so happy I just might ignite

> If my feet have now left the ground Lord knows I might be heaven bound Hold on tight and don't make a sound And stay tight in my arms tonight

And stay in my arms ev'ry night.

#### **Dancing Romance**

I'm an eagle high on the wing
I'm a leopard pausing to spring
I'm a diamond next to some bling
'Cos we're dancing romance tonight

I'm a drummer ready to swing
I'm a juggler eager to fling
I'm a singer waiting to sing
And you've lit my biggest bright light

When you smile, I feel bold Your voice is liquid gold I want your hand to hold And dance romance tonight

I'm a flower opening to spring I'm a bell resounding its ring I'm the zest when it's got its zing With you I can now see the light

> When you smile, I feel bold Your voice is liquid gold I want your hand to hold And dance romance tonight

I'm the bridesmaid out on a fling I'm the bride that's just got her ring I'm the prince, now become king Add love and I just might ignite

## People Will Say We're In Love

Oscar Hammerstein and Richard Rodgers

Why do they think up stories that link my name with yours? Why do the neighbours gossip all day behind their doors? I know a way to prove what they say is quite untrue Here is the gist, a practical list of dont's for you

Don't throw bouquets at me Don't please my folks too much Don't laugh at my jokes too much People will say we're in love

Don't sigh and gaze at me Your sighs are so like mine Your eyes mustn't glow like mine People will say we're in love

Don't start collecting things Give me my rose and my glove Sweetheart, they're suspecting things People will say we're in love

Don't praise my charm too much Don't look so vain with me Don't stand in the rain with me People will say we're in love

Don't take my arm too much Don't keep your hand in mine Your hand feels so grand in mine People will say we're in love

Who cares what happens now?
Just keep your hand in mine
Your hand feels so grand in mine
Let people say we're in love
Let people say we're in love

#### I Just Might Ignite / People Will Say We're In Love

Why when you smile, do I suddenly feel so tall, so bold How can your voice warm a heart that has only known the cold When you are near, I need to reach for your hand to hold Here's how my dreams and feelings for you unfold

Like an eagle, I'm high on the wing Like a leopard, I'm pausing to spring Like a diamond, I outshine the bling With you my best dreams are in sight

Like a drummer, I'm ready to swing Like a juggler, I'm eager to fling Like a singer, with a new song to sing You've just lit my biggest bright light

> Why when you smile, do I suddenly feel so tall, so bold How can your voice warm a heart that has only known the cold When you are near, I need to reach for your hand to hold Here's how my dreams and feelings for you unfold

Like a bridesmaid, who's out on a fling Like a young bride, who's just got her ring Like a grown prince, who's now become king With you I can now see the light

#### Improvisation

Why when you smile, do I suddenly feel so tall, so bold How can your voice warm a heart that has only known the cold When you are near, I need to reach for your hand to hold Here's how my dreams and feelings for you unfold

Like a flower, I'm ready for spring
Like a new bell, resounding its ring
Like the best zest, you can give me the zing
Add love and I just might ignite
Add love and I just might ignite

#### Things Ain't What They Used To Be

Mercer Ellington and Ted Persons

Got so weary of bein' nothin'
Felt so dreary just doin' nothin'
Didn't care ever gettin' nothin', felt so low
Now my eyes on the far horizon can see a glow
Announcin' things ain't what they used to be

No use bein' a doubtin' Thomas No ignorin' that rosy promise Now I know there's a happy story yet to come It's the dawn of a day of glory: millennium I tell you things ain't what they used to be

Look at that army
Fightin' to be free
It doesn't bar me
Shows me how to go, with my head up
Eyes ain't lookin' low, don' feel fed up
That's how come I see, a victory
Believe me things ain't what they used to be.

Got so weary of bein' nothin'
Felt so dreary just doin' nothin'
Didn't care ever gettin' nothin', felt so low
Now my eyes on the far horizon can see a glow
Announcin' things ain't what they used to be

No use bein' a doubtin' Thomas No ignorin' that rosy promise Now I know there's a happy story yet to come It's the dawn of a day of glory: millennium I tell you things ain't what they used to be

#### I See The Light / Things Ain't What They Used To Be

Like a flower, I'm ready for Spring
Like an eagle, I'm high on the wing
Like a panther, I'm pausing to spring, yes that's right
Now all of my bells are ringing, I see the light
Add love and I'll really and truly ignite

Like a drummer, I'm ready to swing
Like a juggler, I'm eager to fling
Like a postman with presents to bring, yes that's right
Now all of my bells are ringing, I see the light
Add love and I'll really and truly ignite

Improvisation

When feelings unfold
We start to feel bold
That's what I'm told
So I come on in – right out of the cold
Knowing that I've got - your hand to hold
If that's how it is – then I see the light
And believe me, I'm gonna ignite

Like a diamond next to some old bling
Like a crown prince who's now the new king
Like the best zest, with spice in the zing, yes that's right
Now all of my bells are ringing, I see the light
Add love and I'll really and truly ignite

Improvisation

When feelings unfold
We start to feel bold
That's what I'm told
So I come on in – right out of the cold
Knowing that I've got - your hand to hold
If that's how it is – then I see the light
And believe me, I'm gonna ignite

Like a diamond next to some old bling
Like the crown prince who's now the new king
Like the best zest, with spice in the zing, yes that's right
Now all of my bells are ringing, I see the light
Add love and I'll really and truly ignite
All right, that's right, tonight
Add love and I'll really ignite

# Things Ain't What They Used To Be

Mercer Ellington













Collaging jazz standards

In this section, I sing two jazz standards at the same time by alternating the lines. I chose the bridge from one of the songs and sing it without alteration.



# Ten Blue Moon / Stormy weather

Blue Moon is by Lorenz Hart and Richard Rodgers. Here is Billie Holiday singing it. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntDnwBiORu8

Stormy Weather is by Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler. Here is Billie Holiday sing it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4JTE76Xnpo

I changed the lyrics for the last verse.

#### Blue Moon / Stormy weather

Don't know why

Blue moon

There's no sun up in the sky,

You saw me standing alone

Stormy weather

Without a dream in my heart

Since my man and I ain't together

Without a love of my own

Keeps raining all the time

Life is bare

Blue moon

Gloom and misery everywhere

You knew just what I was there for

Stormy weather

You heard me saying a prayer for

Can't get my old self together

Someone I really could care for

I'm weary all the time

And then there suddenly appeared before me
The only one my arms will ever hold
I heard somebody whisper, "please adore me"
And when I looked, the moon had turned to gold

I'll go on

Blue moon

Nothing I once had is gone

I am no longer alone

Pleasant weather

I've got a dream in my heart

Now my man and I are together

I've got a love of my own

Sun's shining all the time

### Blue Moon

Richard Rogers and Lorenz Hart



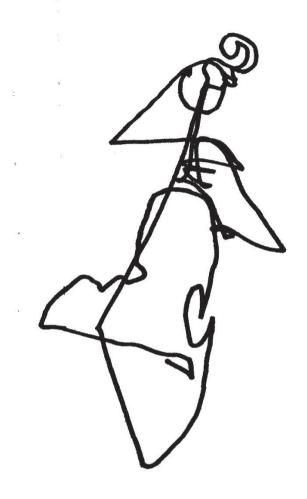
### Stormy Weather

Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler









#### Eleven

#### These Foolish Things / Sentimental Journey

These Foolish Things is by Jack Strachey and Holt Marvel. Here is Nat King Cole singing it. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biNNbvnxCM8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biNNbvnxCM8</a>

Sentimental Journey is by Benjamin Homer, Bud Green and Les Brown. Here is Doris Day singing it https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUw125JMVFI

#### These Foolish Things / Sentimental Journey

A cigarette that bares a lipstick's traces
Gonna take a sentimental journey
An airline ticket to romantic places
Gonna set my heart at ease
Still my heart has wings
Gonna make a sentimental journey
These foolish things remind me of you
To renew old memories

A tinkling piano in the next apartment
Got my bag, got my reservation
Those stumblin' words that told you what my heart meant
Spent each dime I could afford
A fair ground painted swings
Like a child in wild anticipation
These foolish things remind me of you
Long to hear that all aboard

Seven, that's the time we leave, at seven I'll be waitin' up at heaven Countin' every mile of railroad track That takes me back

The winds of march that made my heart a dancer
Never thought my heart could be so yearny
A telephone that rings but who's to answer
Why did I decide to roam
Oh, how the ghost of you clings
Gotta take that sentimental journey
These foolish things remind me of you
Sentimental journey home

These foolish things remind me of you

## These Foolish Things

Jack Strachey and Harry Link

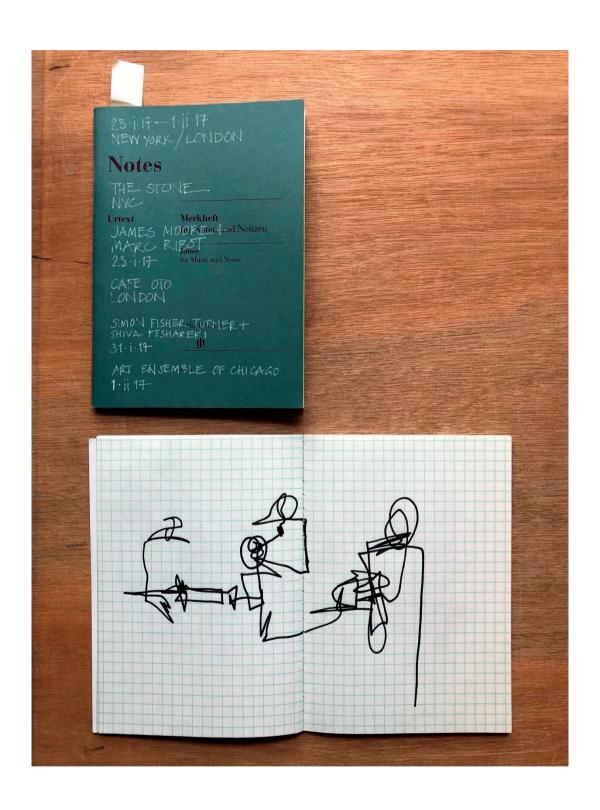


## Sentimental Journey

Les Brown and Ben Homer









# Twelve Skylark / What'll I Do

'Skylark' is by Hoagy Carmichael and Johnny Mercer. Here is Maxine Sullivan singing it. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGLJ3AnwQ7w

'What'll I do' is by Irving Berlin.
Here is Frank Sinatra singing it.
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DID9ruqhzUA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DID9ruqhzUA</a>

#### Skylark / What'll I Do

Skylark

What'll I do

Have you anything to say to me

when you

Won't you tell me where my love can be

are far away

Is there a meadow in the mist

and I'm so blue?

Where someone's waiting to be kissed

What'll I do?

Skylark

What'll I do

Have you seen a valley green with spring

when I

Where my heart can go a-journeying

am wondering who

Over the shadows and the rain

is kissing you

To a blossom-covered lane

what'll I do?

And in your lonely flight

Haven't you heard the music in the night

Wonderful music

Faint as a will o' the wisp

Crazy as a loon

Sad as a gypsy serenading the moon

Oh Skylark

When I'm alone

I don't know if you can find these things

with only

But my heart is riding on your wings

dreams of you

So if you see them anywhere

that won't come true

Won't you lead me there

What'll I do

Skylark

## Skylark

Hoagy Carmichael Eb/Bb Ab Eb/G  $Bb^7$ Αb  $Fm^7$  $E^{b6}$ Eb/G Eb/Bb  $A^7$ Eb/G Eb/G  $E^{b7}$  $\mathbf{E}\flat$ Αb Fm  $Db^7$  $\mathbf{E}^7$ Eb/Bb  $E^{b6}$ Bb7/F Eb/G Ab  $A^7$ Eb/G Db7 D7 Ebmaj7 Ab  $B\flat^7$  $E\flat$ 

### What'll I Do

