



LIFELONG LEARNING MISSISSAUGA

THE GREAT POPULAR SINGERS

Thursdays, April 9 to May 28, 2015, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Presenter: Dr. Mike Daley, Musician, Professor, York University

**Burnhamthorpe Community Centre, 1500 Gulleden Drive
Mississauga, ON, L4X 2T7**

April 9 Tin Pan Alley

In this first lecture, we will look at the origins of Tin Pan Alley, the street in New York where modern American popular song writing was born. The conventions of the standard pop song form will be outlined and its origins traced to 19th century parlour song and Italian opera. Music by Bert Williams, Sophie Tucker and others.

April 16 Al Jolson

In the teens and 20s, the name Al Jolson was synonymous with entertainment. The son of a Jewish cantor, Jolson was the first great star of Broadway, combining black singing style with a booming delivery. He appeared in the first motion picture with sound, *The Jazz Singer*, in 1927 and was billed during his career as "The World's Greatest Entertainer." We will focus on Jolson's music and his role on the vaudeville stage.

April 23 Bing Crosby

Improvements in microphone technology changed the possibilities for singers by 1925. The first artist to exploit this new technology was Bing Crosby, who began his career with the so-called "King of Jazz," Paul Whiteman. The lecture will look at Bing's innovations and intimate style of crooning. Music by Bing Crosby.

April 30 Louis Armstrong

From humble beginnings at the Colored Waifs' Home in New Orleans, Louis Armstrong rose up to claim the title of the father of jazz improvisation while establishing himself as one of the great pop interpreters and the popularizer of "scat" singing. Music by Louis Armstrong.

May 7 Ella Fitzgerald

Ella Fitzgerald was perhaps the most refined of the 20th century jazz and pop singers. She elevated scat singing to an art on par with the best jazz soloists, and in the process earned the respect of her instrumentalist peers. Her "songbook" albums were some of the first concept records to be released. Music by Ella Fitzgerald.

May 14 Frank Sinatra

Beginning as a "boy singer" with Tommy Dorsey, Frank Sinatra took the established crooning style and forged a unique vocal persona. His relaxed phrasing and individual sense of interpretation helped Sinatra to build a loyal audience that followed him through a long career. Music by Frank Sinatra.

May 21 Judy Garland

Judy Garland was one of the great stars of the Golden Era of Hollywood films. As a child star, she lit up the screen in *The Wizard of Oz* and she went on to further stage, film and television success. She was one of the last of the Tin Pan Alley interpreters. We will examine her quivering singing style. Music by Judy Garland.

May 28 Revivalists

In our final lecture, our attention will turn to those artists that have sought to revive the classic pop sound. Recordings by Michael Bublé, Diana Krall, Harry Connick Jr., Linda Ronstadt and Rod Stewart will be featured. An overview of recommended CDs and local Toronto classic pop singers will be presented.

Registration fee: \$40 per person per series

For information or to register, go to www.lifelong-learning-mississauga.com or phone 647-300-4878