Steve



LET IT All GO Songs With Words

Blame Those Gershwins Bounce to the Wave I Carry Your Heart I Wait Let It All Go Let's Go to the River Mom Likes Me Better The Noodle Song Questions Stuff What Am I Doing Alone?





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LET IT ALL GO

Songs With Words

So many of the songs in this series don't have words that it feels appropriate to gather some that do under one roof. Five songs have words and music which I wrote. The others have words written by friends who have been generous with their lyric collaboration. Evidently most songwriting teams work out the melody first, but when you are writing alone, you can do the words and music at the same time.

I've worked as a vocal accompanist for nearly four decades and I have always felt like I have one of the best jobs in the world, helping bring new songs to life, and trying to keep old treasures alive. Accompanying my own songs multiplies that joy. It's an other-worldly feeling to hear one's own music sung in the voice of another human being and to realize that they understand what you've written and perhaps express it even more strongly than you did when you wrote it.

As a jazz improviser, It can be humbling to commit oneself to paper. The unspoken hope is that a piece can keep improving and evolving through years of tinkering. But that is most likely wishful thinking. These are not the first lyrics I've written, but they are the first ones I've published. A few years back, I read the complete collection of Cole Porter's lyrics cover-to-cover and was struck by the fact that most people have probably never heard the first two hundred songs Cole Porter wrote. And he is one of the most memorable songwriters to do both lyrics and music. My point is, enough tinkering, time to commit this batch to paper and get working on the next batch.

-- Steve Sweeting

To hear recordings of these pieces please check:

SteveSweeting.com

In the late 90's I worked with playwright Jean Claude van Italie on his one-man show "War, Sex and Dreams". While putting together music for the show, we talked quite a bit about why we loved the old songs. **Blame Those Gershwins** sort of spun out of my admiration for the Gershwins and their contemporaries. There is so much quoting of famous ideas in this song, I lost count of how many musical and lyrical allusions I squeezed into it.

Lyricist, singer/dancer extraordinaire Betina Hershey was a colleague of mine at the BMI musical theatre workshop and she asked me to collaborate on a dance commission in 2006. **Bounce to the Wave** was one of the only songs in this collection that was lyrics first.

Chinese choral conductor Jie Yi commissioned me to write an American piece for his chorus in Ningbo, China, for a festival. It had to be based on a known American poem. I chose one of ee cummings earliest works and they sang I Carry Your Heart well enough to earn second prize in the choral competition. But I also like it as a solo piece that meanders through gospel, R & B, pop and jazz worlds, which seems very American to me.

One of many cabarets I music-directed in New York was a show with three friends who were young singers. They met, as promising singers do, waiting tables at a restaurant in Hell's Kitchen. I Wait sprung from the idea behind that show of waiting on a table, for a person, for a break, for the world to notice.

Let It All Go is the earliest effort in this collection and I wrote it before I had kids. Of course, now it is coming back to haunt me, because though it's just as true twenty years later, it's even harder as a parent when your 16-year old tells you he is ready to be independent in the world. Mmm, hmm.

My friend Will McMillan, who has a long-hidden lyric talent, took a bunch of my tunes with him in 1994 to Bainbridge Island and came back with three lyrics we liked, including **Let's Go to the River**. We taught it to my primary school singers at the YK Pao School in May 2013 and they sound even better singing it a couple decades after it was written than we do.

From 2004-2006 I got to work with Phoebe Kreutz in the BMI workshop and I wish we had a chance to write more songs because she is the funniest lyric writer I know. Often when we were working together on a tune, she would take the train uptown to my apartment, write a pretty good lyric with me in the room, then leave to go home and call me when she got home with a new lyric she had written on the train downtown, which was even cooler. **Mom Likes Me Better** was composed in a couple days when Phoebe visited me in Shanghai and it was performed in a TADA showcase of songs about parents and children.

When my nephew turned eight years old, I wrote him **The Noodle Song** and sent him a video of me singing it. My brother is a chef and I thought they both would be amused. I wish Danny Kaye were still around to give this one a whirl.

Questions is another of the trio of lyrics from Will McMillan, who is also an amazing singer from Boston. He is a wise old soul who is perpetually curious about the world and people around him and he sprinkles his conversation with provocative questions you've never heard (as well as many in this song that you have).

Stuff is the last of the three tunes by Will and me. It is our anthem (if a waltz can be an anthem) to anti-materialism with a nod to foxgloves and the natural beauty of the Great Northwest.

What Am I Doing Alone? grew out of a phone conversation my wife had with one of her friends. And as she recounted the entire conversation to me also by phone, I quickly scribbled it all down and the entire song popped out within minutes. I called her back later in the hour and asked her if she recognized any of the lyrics.

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Blame those gershwins

novelty song by steve sweeting











BOUNCE TO THE WAVE

music by steve sweeting Lyrics by betina hershey

FUNK





I CARRY YOUR HEART

music by steve sweeting words by ee cummings



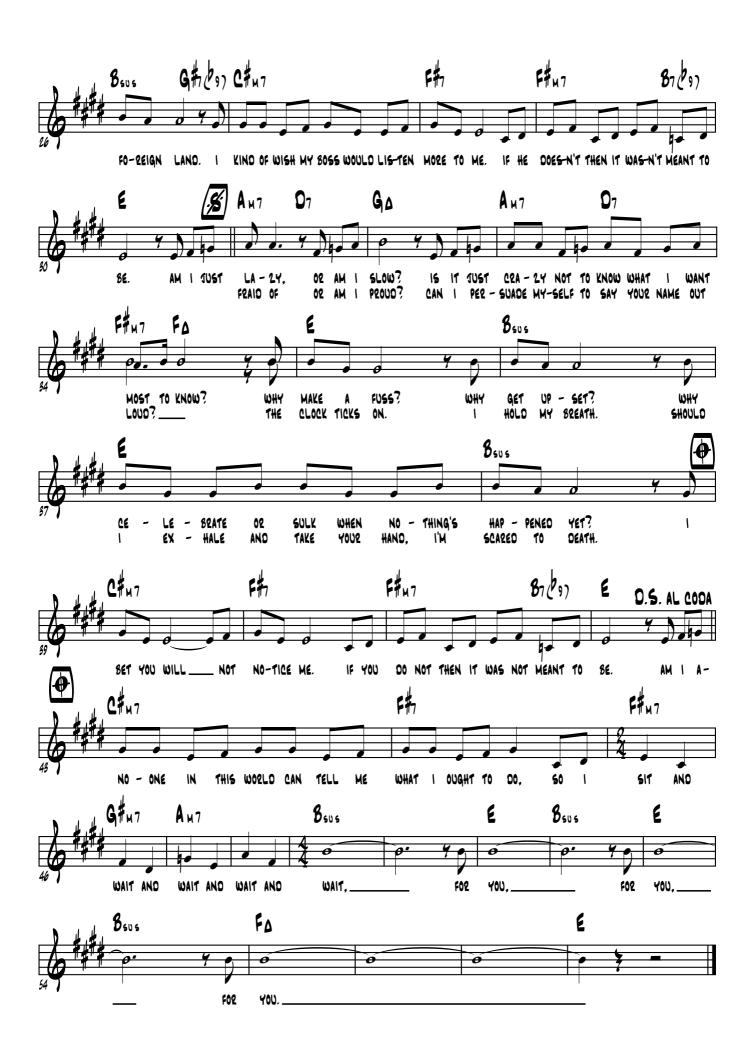




I WAIT

by steve sweeting





LET IT ALL GO

pop rock by steve sweeting





LET'S GO TO THE RIVER

B21947 POP J=200

music by steve sweeting Lyrics by will memillan





MOM LIKES ME BETTER

Music by steve sweeting Lyrics by phoese kreutz



OH.

YEAH! MOM LIKES ME BET-TER!

_ EV - '24 DAY

FACE IT BIG 515-TER, YOU'RE YES - TER-DAY'S NEWS, YOU KNOW, MOM LIKES ME BET-TER!

MADETHE NECK-LACE SHE WEARS_



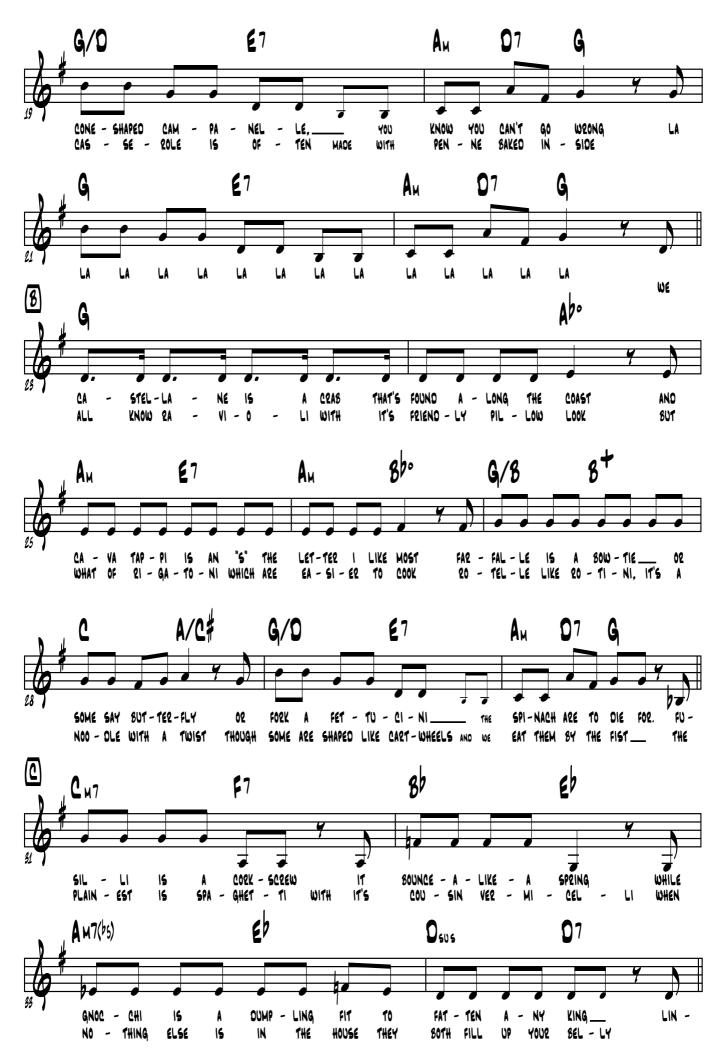




THE NOODLE SONG

by steve sweeting







QUESTIONS

BRIGHTLY music by steve sweeting LYRICS BY WILL MCMILLAN INT20 /8h G7ALT DM7(\$5) CH r. F/A F/A 8b/Ab Eb/G 8b/Ab Eb/G GSUS A GSUS G/F EM11 A M11 **D**M13 QUES TIONS COME CAA QUES TIONS FEEL - INGS BREATH - ING CAA CAA FEEL BREATH COME ings ing CA G/F EMIL AMIL DMIS 2007 B7ALT E M11 **A** M9 LIKE END TEST. THERE GRADES NEV E٤ ING are CAN SOME STRANGE.
- WHILE WORST FALL feel THE CHA AL G/C GSUS GSUS G/C GSUS THE REST? SKIP CAN CHANGE. _ 0b7 CA G/FEMIL AMIL DMIS GSUS B7ALT EM11 QUES-TIONS COME QUES _ AND LESS CMA - TIONS GO LATE - LY 1_ _ SLEEP Less _ THE MO - MENT FOR _____ A - WHILE FEEL - INGS COME AND FEEL - INGS GO BUT



STUFF

LAID BACK WALTZ

music by steve sweeting Lyrics by will memillan







WHAT AM I DOING ALONE?

Ballad by Steve Sweeting





LET IT ALL GO Songs With Words

PIANO ARRANGEMENTS

44 Mom Likes Me Better

54 Stuff

MOM LIKES ME BETTER

Music by steve sweeting Lyrics by phoese kreutz





















STUFF

LAID BACK WALTZ

Music by steve sweeting Lyrics by will memillan

















Steve Sweeting

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