

Gershwin's musical gold on display in romantic songfest

by: JAMES D. WATTS JR. World Scene Writer
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One should probably thank Shakespeare that "Love Is Here to Stay."

This revue of songs written by George Gershwin, which will be presented Friday and Saturday at the Robson Performing Arts Center in Claremore, got its start as part of the 2006 Oklahoma Shakespeare Festival, held each summer at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

Dell McClain, who teaches theater at SOSU and is director of the festival, came up the idea of a Gershwin revue that would be presented as the festival's dinner theater offering. He devised a show that presents Gershwin's songs in the context of the composer's brief but eventful life.

For musical assistance, McClain turned to Jeff Lankov, a Dallas-based pianist and conductor. In addition to working as music director for organizations such as Radio City Music Hall and the Dallas Summer Musicals, Lankov has released a CD of "The Piano Music of George Gershwin."

The show includes some of Gershwin's best-known compositions, including "I Got Rhythm," "Someone to Watch Over Me," "Embraceable You," "Love Is Here to Stay," as well as his first foray into pure concert music, Rhapsody in Blue.

"Love Is Here to Stay: A Gershwin Revue" will be presented at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Robson Performing Arts Center, 101 E. Stuart Roosa, in Claremore.

Tickets are \$15-\$30, and available through www.MyTicketOffice.com, or by calling (918) 699-7390.



"Love is Here Today" sh
songs by George Gershv

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