GEORGE GERSHWIN & FRIENDS – THE MELODY LINGERS

Mon. – April 6 – HAROLD ARLEN (Hyman Arluck)

Arlen was one of the great music composers. His melody, with lyrics by Yip Harburg, “Over the Rainbow” was selected as #1 Song of the Century by the National Endowment for the Arts. A favorite of Frank Sinatra, was, “One for My Baby (and one more for the road”). “It’s Only a Paper Moon” was a constant companion for the performances of Nat King Cole. His melodies are timeless. The collaborations with Harburg, Johnny Mercer and Ted Koehler add to the richness of “The Great American Songbook.”

The session will include a documentary on the life of Harold Arlen, and some recordings of his most popular work.

Mon. – April 13 - RICHARD RODGERS – part 1

Richard Rodgers won every conceivable award for his songwriting. He wrote 900 melodies, mostly for Broadway and Hollywood. He was an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony award winner – plus a Pulitzer Prize winner, making him one of two to complete the sweep. The other was Marvin Hamlisch. His early years, as a hit maker, were with Lorenz Hart. The second half and, dominant, was the pairing with Oscar Hammerstein – “South Pacific,” Sound of Music” and “No Strings.”

We will screen a documentary in two parts on the life of Richard Rodgers. Audio performances by Tony Bennett and others will be heard.

Mon. – April 20 – RICHARD RODGERS – PART 2

The second half of the documentary on the life of Richard Rodgers will be screened, and more audio, including Frank Sinatra.
Mon. – April 27 – The music of DUKE ELLINGTON

“The Jazz Professor,” Bill Bell, former teacher at Stanford University, pianist and band leader, will perform, live, with his trio. He will also talk about the importance of the music of Duke Ellington.

Mon. – May 4 – DUKE ELLINGTON – On the Road

For more than 50 years, Duke Ellington led one of the most successful jazz orchestras. He composed music for ballet, symphonic works, jazz suites. His music, to this day, is heard around the world. During his active career, he traveled the globe, with his orchestra, maintaining a tireless schedule. “On The Road with Duke Ellington,” is a documentary, profiling the endless travel; and the musical life of Duke Ellington. The session will screen the documentary and listen to songs of Duke Ellington as recorded by Ella Fitzgerald and others.

Mon. – May 11 – GEORGE GERSHWIN – part 1

He died before his fortieth birthday, and left one of the richest of musical legacies. Teaming with his brother, Ira, he seemed to be on the heels of Irving Berlin, and Jerome Kern. The two Gershwins wrote for Broadway, Hollywood and Tin Pan Alley. The Production of “Porgy and Bess,” and the first major success by George, “Rhapsody in Blue” are being performed, year round, someplace on the globe. They are both considered to be masterpieces.

We’ll screen the first of two parts of a documentary on the life of George Gershwin.

Mon. May 18 – GEORGE GERSHWIN – Part 2

We continue with part 2 of the documentary, “George Gershwin – Remembered.” Sarah Vaughan’s recording with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra – “Sings Gershwin” - will also be included.

Mon. May 25 – NO CLASS – HOLIDAY