

# **Fascinating Rhythm - George Gershwin**

**September 27, 2018  
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Reamer Auditorium\***

**Presented by Frank B. Strauss, '63**

George Gershwin was a child prodigy. Until he was 10 he had no interest in music. Around age 10, his father bought a piano for his older brother Ira; George soon took over the instrument. By age 13 he was a self-taught player and budding composer. At age 15 he got a job working as a 'song plugger' for a sheet music publisher on Tin Pan Alley. He did find a piano teacher and studied classical piano. He didn't spend much time in school. He was also an accomplished painter.

George shared the sad future of Chopin, Schubert, Mozart, Purcell, von Weber; he died at age 38, a few months short of his 39<sup>th</sup> birthday. During his short life he produced an amazing quantity of music, much of which we enjoy today, music that has endured and will surely continue to stand the test of time. We can only imagine what he would have given us if he had lived longer. A large part of his prodigious musical output was composed for the stage and the silver screen, but he also wrote beautiful music that we might term 'classical,' *Rhapsody In Blue* as an example. Many of the Gershwin songs that we cherish today were written for Broadway musicals and Hollywood cinemas; the musicals and movies may be memories, but the songs have taken a life of their own. One of the features of great music is that many people, using many different instruments and voices, play it, and Gershwin music is widely played and sung today.

During this program we will look at George's life; we will not ignore his brother Ira. We will listen to and view some of their wonderful music. Bring your tap shoes.

Coordinated by Phil Adams.

**To register, please contact the UCALL office at [UCALL@union.edu](mailto:UCALL@union.edu) or [518-388-6072](tel:518-388-6072).**

\*Location subject to change based on availability.