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*The Songwriters: An Intimate Evening of Songs and Stories; E.Y. "Yip" Harburg and Sheldon Harnick. (Broadway & Hollywood Legends).* color. 98 min. Sonny Fox Prods., dist. by KOCH Vision, 2005. DVD

Their own names may not be of the household variety, but the titles of the stage and film musicals for which they wrote songs—*The Wizard of Oz*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Fiddler on the Roof*—certainly are. Harburg begins by describing himself as his generation's troubadour. What else would or could you call the lyricist of "Over the Rainbow"? His stories about the making of *The Wizard of Oz* alone are worth the price of the DVD. Harburg was brought up in a very poor part of Buffalo, NY, where the lines between Jewish and black neighborhoods blurred. From his youth, he was enamored of black music and culture and was accepted into the jazz and blues worlds. He has gotten little credit for bringing black music and stories to Broadway, but he speaks of it here. He sings snippets of the treasured songs in character. Unlike most composers, Harburg has a pleasing and convincing voice. A roster of seasoned singers perform his other well-known standards, e.g., "Old Devil Moon" and "Happiness Is Just a Thing Called Joe." The Harnick segment begins with "If I Were a Rich Man," and where Harburg is more cultural and free-form in his commentary, Harnick is more structured and instructional about his music, making for a perfect pairing. The singers here, especially Carol Wilcox, are exceptional. Harnick is additionally featured as vocalist, and though his songs are somewhat less well known than Harburg's, they are no less entertaining. The DVD includes biographies, a photo gallery, and a web link. Others to consider in the series are treatments of John Kander and Fred Ebb, Mitchell Parrish, and Arthur Schwartz and Charles Strouse. This two-for-one bargain of a DVD belongs in every collection.

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