

# IT'S SUMMERTIME!

by: Ed Lettner



"Summertime and the livin' is easy." I am reminded of these lyrics written by DuBose and Dorothy Heyward, and Ira Gershwin, and set to the music of George Gershwin, as I settle into summer.

It is worth remembering that although we are experiencing difficult economic times, Summertime was written during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Perhaps it is a testament to the human spirit that the lyrics reflect an optimistic view of life.

Although the arrival of each season is marked in music, summer seems to hold particular musical significance and a special place in our hearts. The seemingly endless summer days of childhood provide many memories, many of which have a musical connection. I remember the father of a childhood friend of mine singing the Nat King Cole hit *Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer* on a hot summer day. Pop songs such as *In The Summertime* recorded by Mungo Jerry and *Summer in The City* by The Lovin' Spoonful are full of joyful enthusiasm, and *Summer Nights* from *Grease* is a tribute to the timeless theme of young love.

Most people have songs that are forever associated with days at the cottage, road trips with family or friends, or summer love. These songs may not always be about summer, but they serve to bring back those memories.

I recall spending many summer days listening to and making music with friends and playing in some of my first rock and jazz bands. I also remember performing with jazz and concert bands at venues such as the Canadian National Exhibition.

Summer is the season for outdoor concerts. There are many performances to choose from in and around Toronto featuring a wide variety of musical styles so you can take in the great outdoors while enjoying some great live music.

So here's to making more musical memories this summer.

*Ed Lettner owns The Music Studio in Etobicoke, which has offered music instruction since 1990. He is an honours graduate of the Humber College Institute of Technology music program. Ed will be teaching this summer as well as enjoying the weather. For information about the programs at The Music Studio, please call 416-234-9268, email: [ed@themusicstudio.ca](mailto:ed@themusicstudio.ca) or visit [www.themusicstudio.ca](http://www.themusicstudio.ca)*