

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS — 1944

**WRITERS — HUGH MARTIN
RALPH BLANE**

ARTIST — JUDY GARLAND



DECCA RECORDS

There certainly was no place like home for seventeen-year-old Judy Garland, Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane during the summer of 1939, weeks before World War II portentously eclipsed Europe, and the now nostalgic time when two spectacular new events — *The Wizard Of Oz* and The World's Fair — simultaneously thrilled crowds in New York City.

That August, all three entertainers met for the first time in the Big Apple while singing together with Mickey Rooney for audiences at movie showings of *Oz*. Several years later, they would meet again to recreate another World's Fair for the film *Meet Me In St. Louis*, a groundbreaking Metro Goldwyn Mayer (MGM) musical, featuring Judy Garland tenderly crooning

Martin and Blane's "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," as well as two other original songs the pair penned for the 1944 Vincente Minnelli-directed project.

"I met Judy Garland at The Capitol Theatre on Broadway, across from The Winter Garden Theatre, when the *The Wizard Of Oz* opened," recalls Hugh Martin, who was twenty-five years old at the time. "Ralph and I were in a quartet called The Martins, and we backed up Judy and Mickey for three weeks when the *Wizard* first opened on screen. We did five shows together, seven days a week. In those days, MGM would send their stars out to make personal appearances, and they would do a stage show after the movie.



Blane & Martin