

CLAUDIA HOMMEL. Born in Paris, raised in Detroit, and seasoned in New York City, Claudia escaped to Chicago with her *New York Times* review well in hand (“Miss Hommel’s lusty French and Spanish songs”). Believing that artists go to New York to be famous, and come to Chicago to do the work, she chose the work.

With a community of like-minded cabaret folk, she is proud to have founded both the Chicago Cabaret Professionals (CCP) and Songshop (the art of song interpretation workshops). You can join her audiences, workshops and tours to France by visiting www.cabaret-paree.com.

ADRIENNE MINNES. Teacher by day at Amundsen High School, soulful singer by night, Adrienne’s performances include multiple solo appearances at Northeastern University Black History Month celebration and several Songshop concerts. You’ll be hearing more from her soon!

AMY LEHEL-TASTA, aka Amy Fabulous, returns to the stage with Songshop after a long hiatus during which she went from playing ingenue to Grandma! No matter, AF continues to put her best foot forward by wearing Gucci shoes, producing fashion shows, styling clients, and engaging in other fashion-forward acts!

If you miss her in Chicago, drop by her second home in southern France...*c’est la vie!*

ARLENE ARMSTRONG. Actor-Director-Musician before she was out of grade school, she recruited friends to do shows in her basement. “I wrote the scripts, built the set, auditioned all the acts. Ever since I played the Goose that laid the golden egg in a school production of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, the stage was mine.”

Arlene lists Karen Carpenter, Mahalia Jackson and Motown as musical influences. Her solo show *Just a Girl & a Piano* played at the Harold Washington Library with Bobby Schiff at the piano; *Life is...Snapshots in Song* with Ruth Fuerst and Carol Weston sold out at Davenport’s Cabaret. She’s been featured in Songshop performances at the Jazz Showcase, Cyrano’s, and for the South Chicago Rotary production of *By George!*

BETH HALEVY is new to Songshop but not to singing. She studied voice and acting in New York; and performed in regional theatres in Alabama, Chicago, and New York, where she played leading roles in productions such as *The Boyfriend*, *Company*, *Oklahoma*, *Once upon a Mattress*, and *There’s a Girl in My Soup*.

Beth took a break from the theatre to pursue a career in law. Quite the adventurer—see her riding the camel! —Beth then took up teaching English in foreign countries. Last year she decided to join the nurturing environment of Songshop to hone her vocal and interpretive technique.

CARMEN BODINO. “Here’s To Life”, making a difference, is what keeps Carmen going. Her musical path takes her from church choir in the Philippines to Bach in St Louis to Community Renewal Chorus (spreading the message of love to Midwest states and socialist countries), cathedral choirs, and classic guitar in Chicago.

Once upon a time chemist and microbiologist, she has performed for senior citizens, Jewish Community for the Blind, the Amish Mennonites in Michigan. Quiet and shy, she turned mischievous when Songshop opened her up to a journey with story-telling in song, the Cabaret way.

Galinda and Evilene, aka **CARRIE HEDGES**, traveled from the Land of Oz for this evening’s entertainment. After years of moonlighting in the University of Chicago Chorus, Chicago Chamber Choir, and her church choir, Carrie ditched her day job of 20 years as a Staff Attorney with the U.S. District Court and joined Songshop in 2010.

Carrie has appeared at Cyrano’s and the Jazz Showcase, debuted at Davenport’s in the CCP Holiday Cabaret 2011. Look for her in Rotary Near South’s *Broadway on the Cusp!* April 12. Carrie is President of the International Wizard of Oz Club and serves on the Board of the Chicago Children’s Choir.

JIM ANDERSON— With a transistor radio tucked under his pillow, Jim fell asleep listening to DJs “play the hits” in spite of his mother’s best efforts to turn him on to the Great American Songbook, Perry Como and Andy Williams. Always a listener and rarely the singer, Jim was coaxed a few years ago by the love of his life to join the DePaul Community Chorus.

He later fell under the spell cast by Claudia Hommel and her Songshop cadre Turns out Mother knows best and Jim really does loves standards. Away from the office, he sings with choruses and at places such as Davenport’s, Jazz Showcase, and Stage 773. Put the music on, he’ll soar!

JO RAINEY, aka Joanne Pakieser, is a packaging expert by day, diva by night and world traveler whenever she can. Jo has enjoyed sharing her songs with whomever will listen ever since her first solo in kindergarten. A classically-trained

musician, she grew up singing to Peggy Lee, Motown and rock-n-roll. She loves cabaret for allowing her to draw from all her musical loves.

A member of Chicago Cabaret Professionals, Jo has performed at the Polo Club, Little Bucharest, Cyrano’s, Davenport’s Cabaret, Underground Wonder Bar, Old Town School of Folk Music and the Jazz Showcase. You can also see her perform Balinese gamelan around the country with Indonesian Dance of Illinois.

LEONA ZIONS. Scuttlebutt is—but for her vigilant parents—LeeZee could have been the role model for Lindsey Lohan. Imagine, when your first gig happens at 3½ years of age singing *You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby* on Horn & Hardart’s radio show! Followed by tawdry-less Glee Club, leads (between marriage and baby carriage) in regional *Pajama Game* and *Girl Crazy*, followed by directing-choreographing *Bye, Bye Birdie* in the Catskills.

Associated for eight years with Marjorie Eliot’s Harlem Parlor Entertainment. Transplanted to Chicago, LeeZee found CCP, Songshop and her cabaret alter ego. She’d rather be blatant than boring.

LYNDA GORDON. *Heard around town (but no photos, please!)* After a long career hiatus, Northwestern University alum and University of Michigan grad Lynda Gordon (you may call her Lola) was seen romancing her current beau at the Red Head Piano bar. Her passion was performing and singing, but she now seems to have a new “Love” interest in her life. Will she speak Low to him? Love to him? Is this her Secret Love?

Is he in the audience this evening awaiting a late night rendezvous—you know who you are—Darling, is it too late or too soon?

PHANUEL (known to his Songshop intimates as Patrick) is a spiritually-guided contemporary Christian artist and songwriter. His past experiences in Nigeria and his new home of Chicago inspire his writing and song. Phaniel realized his full calling soon after earning his Bachelor’s degree from UIC. For a number of years, he sang solos as a member of the choir of Jesus House.

While his musical influences include Seal and Sam Cooke, Phaniel’s voice and style have been described as unique and divinely inspired. Look for his debut album of 10 positive and inspirational songs later this Spring!

PHILIP SEWARD. Unidentified sources witnessed Philip playing the piano as a small child.

There have been many sightings since then of his appearances on opera, music theatre, and cabaret stages (where he is known to mix standards and original works in the most intimate of settings).

Philip’s short opera, *How To Date A Coloratura* was just named a finalist in the National Opera Association chamber opera competition and we have confirmed that his new one-act, *Eve* from *The Proposal*, will be performed for the first 250 people to arrive **Monday, February 18**, at the Light Opera Works Second Stage (1420 Maple) in Evanston. Visit iTunes or philipseward.com.

RON ANDERSON. After spending 25 years as a folk singer in the haunts of Princeton, Greenwich Village and Liverpool, Ron slung his guitar on his back and headed back to his native Minnesota.

Somewhere along the way he took a wrong turn and ended up in the Cabaret world of Chicago. Ron also sang barbershop for several years and earned a gold medal in international chorus competition in Nashville in 2001 with the Northbrook New Tradition chorus. The folk scene and barbershop world prepared Ron for “Cabaret”. With *Perhaps Love* Ron shows his romantic side. We wonder who he is singing to? “Perhaps” we’ll find out.

RUTH FUERST. Our very own Dr Ruth, a real live psychotherapist by day, reveals trade secrets rarely heard outside her office. Wise, witty, and even a little wicked, she’s the keeper of a trove of very witty and sometimes wicked lyrics by her late father Jim Fuerst.

By night, she’s taken to dispensing her wisdom on the stage with Carol Weston and Arlene Armstrong in *Life is...* to audiences so large and enthusiastic that they are considering opening a “group practice”. Also benefiting from her new stage persona have been the Rotary International Fundraiser Annual Cabarets and several Songshop shows at Cyrano’s and the Jazz Showcase.

SUE SUSMAN started singing and playing the ukelele at eight years old. She performed at camp and had fun. At ten, she learned to play the guitar and sang and performed folk songs whenever she had the chance. In high school, she added choral work, including the “Messiah,” and other classical and non-classical pieces.

She studies voice with Louise Cloutier, has sung at Cyrano’s, the Jazz Showcase, Buddy Guy’s Legends, the Beat Kitchen and the Abbey. She sings because it makes her feel alive and because it’s fun. She loves Songshop and plans to continue singing indefinitely.

REVEALED: the tabloid concert
SPECIAL VALENTINE ISSUE
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2013
launched at the "Venue at 1550" South State Street

Claudia	Madame Arthur	Yvette Guilbert & Paul de Kock
Jim	The Way You Look Tonight	Jerome Kern & Dorothy Fields
LeeZee	When I Fall in Love & I've Never Been in Love Before	Victor Young & Edward Heyman; Frank Loesser (<i>Guys & Dolls</i>)
Arlene	When Sunny Gets Blue	Marvin Fisher & Jack Segal
Carrie	Don't Bring Me No Bad News	Charlie Smalls (<i>The Wiz</i>)
Lola	Secret Love	Sammy Fain & Paul Francis Webster
Carmen	You Go to my Head	J. Fred Coots & Haven Gillespie
Beth	How Are Things in Glocca Mora	Burton Lane & E.Y. Harburg
Jo	I Had Myself a True Love	Harold Arlen & Johnny Mercer (<i>St. Louis Woman</i>)
Ruth	A Quiet Thing	John Kander & Fred Ebb
Ron & Ruth	Perhaps Love	John Denver
Phanuel	I Don't Want to Miss a Thing	Diane Warren (<i>Armageddon</i>)
Sue	I Can't Make You Love Me	Mike Reid & Allen Shamblin
Amy & LeeZee	My Funny Valentine	Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart
Amy	I'm the Greatest Star	Jule Styne & Bob Merrill (<i>Funny Girl</i>)

Performed by

Adrienne Minnes, Amy Lechelt-Basta, Arlene Armstrong, Beth Halevy, Carmen Bodino, Carrie Hedges, Claudia Hommel, Jim Anderson, Jo Rainey, Leona (LeeZee) Zions, Lynda (Lola) Gordon, Phanuel, Philip Seward, Ron Anderson, Ruth Fuerst, Sue Susman

Sue	Something to Talk About	Shirley Eikhard
Jim & Jo	Baby it's Cold Outside	Frank Loesser
Carmen	Hernando's Hideaway	Richard Adler & Jerry Ross
Beth	Ribbons Down My Back	Jerry Herman (<i>from Hello, Dolly</i>)
Lola	Speak Low	Kurt Weill & Ogden Nash (<i>One Touch of Venus</i>)
Philip	Elusive Love	Denise Blank & Philip Seward (<i>Atonality</i>)
Jo	Man of the Hour	Norah Jones
Adrienne	Guess Who I Saw Today	Murray Grand & Elisse Boyd
Carrie & Jo	For Good	Stephen Schwartz (<i>Wicked</i>)
Ruth	Don't Ask Me Not to Sing	Jerome Kern & Otto A. Harbach (<i>Roberta</i>)
Leona	Cry Me a River & I Cried for You	Arthur Hamilton; Arthur Freed, Gus Arnheim & Abe Lyman
Claudia	Dolly 25	Ricet Barrier, adapted by Claudia Hommel & Patricia Spaeth
Arlene	Give Me the Simple Life	Rube Bloom & Harry Rube
Ron	Forest Lawn	Tom Paxton
Amy	One Voice	Barry Manilow

Philip Seward at the piano
Directed by Claudia Hommel
with assistance by Philip Seward,
Elizabeth Doyle and Bob Moreen

PERSONALS:

♥♥♥ Carmen-like chameleon seeks man with big heart for companionship and duets. Sorry Saps need not apply. Be ready to tango at Hernando's Hideaway. Call 312-555-1234.

♪♪♪ Claudia seeks intrepid travelers to join her *Cabaret Intourludes* to France. Get the insider's tour to Josephine Baker's chateau, Paris, Giverny. Call 773-509-9360 or visit www.cabaret-paree.com/travel.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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SIGN Claudia's LIST

for invitations to Songshop sessions and shows. Or write to

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 About to take that trip
 again-----"*

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 own score!*

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