



Join us in Chicago!

October 28-November 4, 2018

Advancing together
the **Art of Cabaret**

- ◆ Eight exciting days to sing, perform, learn with fellow artists from France and the US
- ◆ Networking to promote a genuine “Cabaret Connexion”
- ◆ Be part of the conversation to “develop our profession” and for “professional development”

- ◆ 40 hours of master classes and workshops for singers, songwriters, accompanists and auditors; including “jazz in cabaret,” “comedy in song,” “vocal power,” “burlesque and circus arts in cabaret.”
- ◆ Led by Broadway star Faith Prince, music director Alex Rybeck, French artists Clotilde Rullaud and Michèle Barbier, Elisabeth Howard, Kyle Hustedt, and other acclaimed coaches
- ◆ Roundtable discussions on the business, economics and future of cabaret as we create an international network.
- ◆ “Razzle-Dazzle” song and multimedia presentations on the history of cabaret in France, New York and Chicago
- ◆ Open mics at Petterino’s and Davenport’s
- ◆ Public concerts at Alliance Française de Chicago, the Old Town School of Folk Music, DePaul University School of Music and more

REGISTER TODAY to assure your place!
8 days, 4 days, 3 days and à la carte

www.CabaretConnexion.org/program_join.php
Tel: 1.773.509.9360
info@cabaretconnexion.org



MOTHER'S DAY Tributes and Tribulations The SongShop Live annual gala concert

MAY 13, 2018
Production by Claudia HOMMEL
Music direction by singer-pianists
Mark BURNELL and Paul COSCINO

Bernard HALL, Carrie HEDGES, Claudia HOMMEL,
Dan JOHNSON, Drew FASE, Jonathan LEWIS,
Larry SMITH, Leona ZIONS, Lynda GORDON,
Marilena SERBANESCU, Mary JOYCE, Patrick DAVIS,
Ruth FUERST, and Vivian BECKFORD

MOTHER'S DAY: Tributes and Tribulations

Patrick	Where Do I Begin	Francis Lai & Carl Sigman "Love Story"
Dan	Mother's Wedding Day	Alan Jay Lerner & Frederick Loewe
Mark	A Child is Born	Thad Jones & Alec Wilder
Bernard	Home	Charlie Smalls "The Wiz"
Leona	Yes, My Darling Daughter	Jack Lawrence
Carrie	Blues in the Night	Harold Arlen & Johnny Mercer
Ruth	New Words	Maury Yeston
Mary	Children Will Listen	Stephen Sondheim "Into the Woods"
Marilena	Mamma	Cesare Andrea Bixio
Paul	Blue Skies	Irving Berlin
Larry	When She Loved Me	Randy Newman
Lynda	Don't Tell Mama	John Kander & Fred Ebb "Cabaret"
Drew	Waltz for Debby	Bill Evans & Gene Lees
Vivian	Spring	Philip Seward
Jonathan	Mama Says	Jeremy Kushner, Tom Platkin, Hunter Foster, Paul Castrel, & Artie Harris "Footloose"



INTERMISSION

Dan	Open a New Window	
	& You're My Best Girl	Jerry Herman "Mame"
Lynda	If He Walked into my Life	Jerry Herman "Mame"
Claudia	Brown Skin Girl	Calypso arranged by Harry Belafonte
Drew	My Mother's Eyes	Tom Jans
Marilena	You Raise Me Up	Rolf Lovland & Brendan Graham
Vivian	Mother Knows Best	Alan Menken & Glenn Slater "Tangled"
Mary	Mama, a Rainbow	Larry Grossman & Hal Hackady
Ruth	Shakespeare Lied	Elmer Bernstein & Carolyn Leigh
Patrick	Lady	Lionel Richie
Jonathan	My Rocking Horse Ran Away	
		Johnny Burke & James Van Heusen
Carrie	Just a Housewife	Craig Carnelia "Working"
Larry	To Where You Are	Richard Marx & Linda Thompson
Patrick et al	My Girl	Smokey Robinson & Ronald White

About SONGSHOP

Claudia Hommel's **SongShop**, an ongoing weekly workshop, offers theatre and music students, novices and professionals, the opportunity to strengthen and deepen how they approach, interpret, and communicate meaning in a song.

SongShop is open to all singers and takes place Tuesday evenings at the DePaul School of Music and many Saturday afternoons in Hyde Park. Find yourself in song at a place that feels like home.

To join us, simply call Claudia at 773.509.9360.

Your extra donations provide many of our singers with financial aid to continue their professional development and the production of our SongShop Live concerts. THANK YOU!

www.songshoplive.com

credited with work on a number of CDs and has played on commercials for Kraft, McDonalds, Firestone, Yoplait, Illinois Lotto, Finesse, and others. He is excited to be involved with the Chicago-Paris Cabaret Connexion!

RUTH FUERST: Our very own Dr Ruth is a psychotherapist by day. By night, she dispenses her wisdom on stage. Along with Carol Weston and Arlene Armstrong, Ruth created and appeared in *Life is...* and *Thank You for the Music*, initially at Davenport's, and now at senior centers around Chicagoland. Ruth has appeared in several Rotary International Cabarets and Songshop shows at Cyrano's, the Jazz Showcase, etc. She debuted at Davenport's in April 2015 her first solo show *Wake Up and Dream*, under the music direction of Bob Moreen. Her second solo show—*The Carousel of Time*—also with Bob Moreen, was a hugely successful 50th anniversary love song. Her third show at Davenport's: *You Gotta Be Kidding* in 2017 was unabashedly progressively partisan.

VIVIAN BECKFORD is a native of Queens, NY. After graduating from Hunter College with an RN and BS degree, she began her professional life as a nurse. Later, she transitioned into elementary school teaching in the Public School System of New York City for 35 years. In 1999 Vivian began her formal music training at Singers Forum, then Mannes and The New School of Music. She has performed arias in opera scenes, such as Handel's *Orlando*, Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and *La Clemenza Di Tito*, Menotti's *The Old Woman and The Thief* to name a few. She sings in church choirs and choral groups performing oratorios like Handel's *Messiah*, Brahms' *German Requiem* and solos in Vivaldi's *Gloria*. Spirituals are very much a part of her repertoire. Vivian has sung with the University of Chicago chorus and has enjoyed several years of singing and performing with SongShop.

It's your turn to join SongShop
for more live concerts!
www.songshoplive.com

SPECIAL THANKS TO you, our audience, and to:

Susanne Baker, director of DePaul University School of Music, Community Music Division where SongShop is home

Ruth Fuerst and Lynda Gordon
for hosting our many Saturday sessions

Additional SongShop pianists & coaches: **Bob Moreen, Bobby Schiff, Elizabeth Doyle, Phil Caldwell, Philip Seward, and Wydetta Carter**

Do you have a piano at home?
Consider becoming a host for a future SongShop salon concert!

**SIGN OUR MAILING LIST
for more live concerts!**

ABOUT OUR PERFORMERS

BERNARD HALL has a long history of singing, starting at Simeon Vocational High School. He shared his vocal gifts while serving in the US Army during his tour of duty in Viet Nam. He's had the pleasure to sing in churches across the city ("not the fast food joint"), and for a plethora of other events over the years, including popular entertainment for restaurants providing live music with the "Bernie Hall Band." He is thrilled to add SongShop to his musical résumé. "I am honored to have been chosen to work with Miss Hommel and such a warm, kind, and talented group of men and women."

CARRIE HEDGES joined Claudia Hommel's SongShop in September 2010 after retiring from her position as a Staff Attorney with the U.S. District Court. Since then, she has appeared in shows at Cyrano's Bistrot, the Jazz Showcase, the Daystar Center, DePaul School of Music, and Piano Forte and in SongShop Salon House Concerts. She was an active participant in the first Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion in September 2017. Carrie made her debut at Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret in the Chicago Cabaret Professional's 2011 Holiday Cabaret and appeared in CCP's Strut Your Stuff in 2014. She performed in the Rotary Near South's benefits *Broadway on the Cusp!* and *Broadway for the Hoi Polloi*. In 2013, Carrie performed her one-woman show *Songs in the Key of Oz* at Daystar Center. She also sings in the University of Chicago Chorus and serves on the Board of the Chicago Children's Choir. She was President of the International Wizard of Oz Club from 2010 to 2017.

CLAUDIA HOMMEL. Born in Paris, raised in Detroit, and seasoned in New York, Claudia moved to Chicago to "do the work." A favorite from the Cabaret Lapin Agile in Paris to Cliff Dwellers Chicago, Claudia specializes in international classical and theatre songs,

chanson to American Songbook. Projects include *Vocal Canvas* concerts for museums and arts center, the crossover *Jazz Fauré Project*; master classes in song interpretation, and French-based school programs. Claudia invites her fans to join her for Cabaret InTourludes to France.

She is a member of the actors' unions and is on faculty at the DePaul School of Music Community Music Division. Under the Maison Clobert rubric, she has recorded five CDs and the Vocal Canvas film. She is proud to have founded the Chicago Cabaret Professionals (CCP), SongShop, and the Cabaret Connexion with so many like-minded performers.
www.cabaret-paree.com

DANIEL JOHNSON is a bi-coastal regional theatre actor relocated to Chicago. Trained professionally at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, he performed on the West Coast and on tour before a stint of nearly two decades based in New York City. His musical roles include Franklin in *1776*, Mooney in *Anything Goes*, and Charles in *Pippin*. He toured nationally with John Davidson in the *Music Man* and debuted off Broadway as the comic lead in the 1988 revival of Cole Porter's *Leave It to Me*. He is known locally for his cabaret act, *Wilde & Woolley: Cole Porter and his cohorts*.

DREW FASE has been playing piano since he was six, and performs as wedding musician, church organist, keyboardist for rock and blues bands, and solo artist. For over 20 years Drew has been playing with the 17-piece big band Glen Ellyn Jazz Ensemble which he took over directing in 2004. The GEJE performs in the Glen Ellyn parks during the summer. He also attends Tritone Jazz Camp in Door County where he has ventured from behind the piano to stand at the mic and sing. He continues this practice at open mics around town and now as a new member of SongShop.

Drew will be performing on June 10 for Opportunity Knocks at Davenport's where you may see him back at the piano. His CD *Tonight the Moon Belongs to You* is available at today's concert.

JONATHAN LEWIS grew up in the performing arts, singing and dancing from a very early age and making his musical comedy debut at age 10. He worked professionally in musical theatre for 30 years, appearing in over 100 productions, as well as a few operas and ballets along the way. He has had principal roles in the musicals *The Music Man*, *Oklahoma*, *Damn Yankees*, *Fiddler On the Roof*, *A Chorus Line*, *On the 20th Century*, *Carousel*, *King of Hearts*, *Dames at Sea*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, among many others. His theatrical career has also survived such ignominious low points as playing a milk bottle in a 2nd grade Healthy Foods play, surviving a 400-lb. bar falling on his head during "Shipoopi" and playing Barney the Beaver in a chain saw commercial. Jonathan has been a proud union member of Actors Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA for decades now.

LARRY SMITH grew up in a musical household featuring sing-alongs around the piano, where his mother knew the American songbook by heart. His day job is management consulting for professional and nonprofit associations. Larry recently rekindled his interest in performing, and enjoys singing everything from standards and show tunes to blues and rock. He has performed in restaurants, bars and clubs around Chicago, including Davenport's Cabaret and the Cliff Dwellers Club. Larry is a member of Chicago Cabaret Professionals, and has performed in CCP's Strut Your Stuff showcase. Recent show highlights have included *Still Crazy After All These Years*, *The Best of Times ... Is Yet to Come*, *Chicago: Songs from Your Side of Town*, and the upcoming *Ooh La La: The American Songbook with a French Twist*.

LEONAZIONS. LeeZee's first gig at 3½ years of age was singing on Horn & Hardart's radio show! Six years of Glee Club led by Yip Harburg's pal Charlotte Hochman; seat-mate was mezzo soprano Martina Arroya (I got the solos, she got the career). Marriage, children and leads in regional *Pajama Game* and *Girl Crazy*. Directed/choreographed *Bye, Bye Birdie* in the Catskills, shades of *Dirty Dancing*. Many years with Marjorie Eliot's Parlor Entertainment in Harlem. Transplanted to Chicago and found CCP and SongShop. Venues: Davenport's for *Opportunity Knocks*, CCP's Holiday and *Strut Your Stuff* showcases; Cyrano's Bistrot, DePaul, the Jazz Showcase, Pianoforte, the Venue at Daystar, plus Café Universal as a highlight of the Singers Jazz Workshop in Paris, June 2014. She told all in her first solo show *Life in a Nutshell*.

LYNDA GORDON studied theater at Northwestern, graduated with a BA in Education from U of M and then received an MBA from Loyola. Before returning to her first love—the Stage—she enjoyed being a parent, a travel consultant and a fundraiser for the Children's Research Foundation. Since 2012, she has appeared in several SongShop Live concerts including her solo set *Love Notes—a Musical Memoir*. Lynda has sung in Rotary Club productions at the Polo Café, and in the CCP's *Strut Your Stuff* and *Merry Measures* at Davenport's. In October 2015, she debuted her cabaret show *Strangers in the Night*, accompanied by Bob Moreen at Piano Forte. Her most cherished role is starring as Gramma Lynda when she sings with her grandchildren Louisa and James!

MARILENA SERBANESCU was born in Romania. From an early age, she had a special inclination toward the arts, but her true love was singing. As a child, she sang in her village church and school. At 17, she took voice classes in Bucharest and sang in school events, including an appearance on the national television music channel. At 19, her life

went in a different direction (marriage, child) and at 36 years old, she emigrated to the United States to pursue her second passion: fashion, creating her own label and boutique Marlena Marée. However, wherever life has taken Marilena, her love for singing was always there and now years later she has decided to sing again, joining various piano bars in Chicago. She is taking classes at Old Town School of Folk Music, coaches with Elizabeth Doyle, and studies song interpretation with Claudia Hommel's SongShop.

MARK BURNELL, pianist/vocalist, was a faculty member for ten years at Carnegie Mellon University. He has worked with Dave Frishberg, Howie Mandel, Connie Francis, Louie Bellson, Ward Swingle, Rob Marshall, Blair Underwood, and Seth Myers. Mark performed in New York, Bern, Lausanne, Zurich, Geneva, Paris, Freiburg and Amsterdam. National anthem appearances include Soldier Field, United Center, Wrigley Field, and Comiskey Park. Discography: *Summer Days & Dreamy Nights*, *Blues in the Night* (with Anne Burnell), *Christmas Piano*, *Cooler by the Lake*. Locally Mark performs at the Signature Room and the Tortoise Club. "...silky smooth and highly polished" says the *Chicago Sun Times*.

www.burnellmusic.com

MARY NOEL JOYCE has been singing since she was a child in choirs and whenever the opportunity presented itself. Her first starring role was singing "People" on the high school stage. After graduating from the University of Illinois, she worked for the U.S. Congress. Aside from singing at weddings and piano bars, her career on Capitol Hill led to performing with the political satire group "The Capitol Steps." During her "15 minutes of fame" with the group she performed on radio and TV and for many dignitaries and politicians including President George H.W. Bush. Since moving back to Chicago and then retiring from her government job in international

trade, she has returned to singing and taking classes at the Old Town School. She was also thrilled to sing in Paris last year with the Cabaret Connexion.

Terrence **PATRICK DAVIS** loves to croon and belt, whether it's jazz, cabaret, rock, pop or R&B. A former church choir singer, his admiration for singing was reawakened in 2003 thanks to his vocal instructor and mentor Elsa Harris and support from his family. He performed in Harris House of Music's Xmas, gospel & jazz recitals in the 2000s. The late musician and teacher Gwen Pippin inspired Patrick to sing out his "crazy" by performing in many of her *We-Haven't-Quit-Our-Day-Job-Yet* recitals. He has formed a new musical partnership with musician Sami Scott which resulted in his participation in 2015's *Still Crazy After All These Years*. Patrick continues to perform with Sami and has sung in many of her *3 Minute in the Spotlight* shows. He regularly sings at Davenport's Piano Bar open mic and similar venues. He is working on his own solo show to debut in late 2018, a unique opportunity to showcase his superb vocal and performance skills as never seen before... stay tuned!

Pianist PAUL COSCINO, with a bachelor's in Music from DePaul University, recently earned his Masters from NIU in DeKalb. Paul has played in the Rupert's 33 Club house orchestra; worked with singer Lynne Jordan, including an appearance opening the 1999 Chicago Blues Festival in Grant Park; toured with the Godfather of the Blues Junior Wells, shared the stage with blues legends Buddy Guy, Sam Lay, and the Legendary Blues Band; was a member of R&B singer/songwriter Pete Special's band; has worked at Chicago's Pump Room with vocalist Sue Conway; and was keyboardist for the 1999 Chicago production of *Love, Janis*. He has worked with a number of Chicago's top society orchestras; accompanied Lena Prima and Deana Martin, daughters of the legends. Paul is