

**About SONGSHOP**

Claudia Hommel's hands-on workshop is an opportunity for theatre and music students, amateurs and professionals, to strengthen and deepen how they approach, interpret, and communicate meaning in a song.

SongShop is open to all singers and takes place most Tuesday evenings at DePaul School of Music and Saturday afternoons at various home sites.

Learn more and sign our list  
[www.songshoplive.com](http://www.songshoplive.com)  
773.509.9360

*Whether traveling with your friends OR lovers...*



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**SPECIAL THANKS TO**

Videographer Stephen Wright  
House manager Carmen Bodino

Our reception committee of Carol Weston, Leona Zions, and Carrie Hedges  
Susanne Baker and the staff of DePaul School of Music Community Music Division

**And to all our donors—See you at the Afterglow!**

SongShop Live  
presents  
**FRIENDS &**  
**LOVERS**  
...oh, Roger, I do love singing!

SongShop Live?  
Hey Sally, they're swell!  
I sure love... sure do love...  
singing, too. I'll see you on

**Saturday, Jan. 24th**  
**7:00pm** at DePaul Recital Hall

**FRIENDS & LOVERS**  
**Saturday, January 24th at 7:00pm**  
**DePaul School of Music ... 804 West Belden Avenue**

at Cyrano's, the Jazz Showcase, Buddy Guy's Legends, the Beat Kitchen, and the Abbey and added Café Universel in Paris when she joined the Singers Jazz Workshop last June. She is currently studying voice with David Edelfelt.

**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, 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 also 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 studies voice with Bruce Tammen and sings with the University of Chicago chorus.

**WYDETTA CARTER**, acting coach, has been giving SongShop participants the benefit of her many years of musical theatre experience, coaching our sessions when Claudia is on the road. Actress and singer, member and Regional officer of Actors' Equity, she has performed on stages across the country and abroad.

## About the Performers

**ARLENE ARMSTRONG**, Actor-Director-Musician. "When I stepped on my grade school stage as the goose who laid the golden egg in *Jack and the Beanstalk*, my musician life began." She recruited friends to do variety shows, wrote the scripts, built the sets, sang in the church choir and local gospel groups, listened to blues and jazz every Sunday with her family. Her two solo shows are *Just a Girl & a Piano* (Harold Washington Library) with Bobby Schiff and *Jazz Bird* (Davenport's Cabaret in 2014). With Ruth Fuerst and Carol Weston she performed *Life is...Snapshots in Song* and *Thank You for the Music*. She has appeared in many SongShop Live concerts; as a member in Chicago Cabaret Professionals *Holiday Cabaret* and *Strut Your Stuff*, in Opportunity Knocks and the Midwest Cabaret Conference showcases.

**BETH HALEVY**. After working as an attorney for many years, Beth has returned to her first love—performing. She enjoys doing cabaret because it lets singers personalize their songs and its intimacy lets singers connect with their audience. Beth appreciates the nurturing atmosphere of SongShop Live and the interpretive insights and encouragement provided by Claudia Hommel and the other group members. When she isn't singing, Beth teaches English as a Foreign Language, spends time with friends and family, and travels to foreign places.

**BOB MOREEN**, pianist and singer, has appeared in virtually every type of entertainment venue as soloist, accompanist and ensemble member. He has worked with name entertainers such as Dorothy Collins, Peter Palmer, Greta Keller, the Incomparable Hildegard, and with many of Chicago's favorite cabaret singers. The *Chicago Sun-Times*

calls him, "A special, eclectic piano player." The *Chicago Tribune's* Howard Reich describes him as "the complete entertainer...the quintessential cabaret singer-pianist." His one-man shows *I Won't Dance—the Songs of Fred Astaire*, *An Evening with Tom Lehrer*, and *It's D'Lovely—the Many Loves of Cole Porter* have sold out wherever they were presented. Bob is a founding member of Chicago Cabaret Professionals, a 2007 recipient of the After Dark "Outstanding Cabaret Artist" award, and 2009 recipient of Chicago Cabaret Professionals' Lifetime Achievement Award.

**CARRIE HEDGES** joined SongShop the week she retired as a Staff Attorney with the U.S. District Court. She made her debut at Davenport's Cabaret in the Chicago Cabaret Professionals 2011 *Holiday Cabaret*, appeared in CCP's *Strut Your Stuff* in 2014. Shows include: SongShop at Cyrano's Bistrot, the Jazz Showcase, Daystar Center, and PianoForte. Rotary Near South's benefits *Broadway on the Cusp!* and *Broadway for the Hoi Polloi*. She brought her one-woman show *Songs in the Key of Oz* to Daystar Center. She also sings in the University of Chicago Chorus, is President of the International Wizard of Oz Club and serves on the Board of the Chicago Children's Choir.

**CAROL WESTON** sang and learned to play the piano and violin at a very young age. For many years, she's been a troubadour with guitar in hand, playing in schools and libraries. She's also been heard at Davenport's, Cyrano's, The Jazz Showcase, or playing the piano bar at the Drake Hotel or the Carlton Club at the Ritz. A founding member of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals, she has been able to live her dream of becoming a cabaret singer. She performs *Life Is...Snapshots in Song* and *Thank You for the Music* with Arlene Armstrong and Ruth Fuerst.



**RUTH FUERST in WAKE UP AND DREAM**  
with pianist & music director **Bob Moreen**  
Fridays, April 10 and 17 at 8 PM  
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All proceeds will go to the Albany Park Theater Project:  
Helping Immigrant Youth Achieve Their Dreams through Theater Arts

**CLAUDIAHOMMEL.** Born in Paris, raised in Detroit, and seasoned in New York, Claudia moved to Chicago to “do the work.” She is proud to have founded the Chicago Cabaret Professionals and SongShop with so many like-minded performers. A member of the actors’ unions (SAG-AFTRA and Actors’ Equity) and on faculty at the DePaul School of Music Community Music Division, she tours concerts and masterclasses nationally and to France. She has five recordings and one film produced by her Maison Clobert label. Come to Paris in June 2015 when Claudia, Paris-based Keri Chryst, and Maja Savic of Croatia lead a multi-national Jazz Tour & Singers Workshop. Visit [cabaret-paree.com](http://cabaret-paree.com).

**DANIEL JOHNSON** is a bi-coastal regional theatre actor recently 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 just completed his fourth season singing his own Christmas Cabaret: *Santa Songs*. [songsfortheseason.wordpress.com/](http://songsfortheseason.wordpress.com/)

**DON HOFFMAN** is a practicing oral surgeon who has always found solace in singing. Don has participated in various singing groups since childhood, and studies voice with Mary Ann Beatty. When not sculpting in clay, he gets great satisfaction interpreting the rhythms and lyrics of the American Songbook. He has sung in SongShop productions *Take the Ride of Your Life* and *Life at Home*, and at Davenport’s for CCP’s *Strut Your Stuff*.

**JIM COX**, bassist, grew up in Champaign, Illinois, and attended the University of Illinois in Urbana where he received a BA in double bass performance. Between 1979–82 he toured with Earl “Fatha” Hines. He moved to Chicago in 1980 and has worked full time as a freelance musician playing live music of all types, teaching and recording. He played regularly with Marian McPartland for 20 years, and has performed many times with Rosemary Clooney, Michael Feinstein, Debbie Boone, the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, and jazz mandolinist Don Stiernberg. Jim has recorded over 150 CDs in various styles of music including jazz, folk, bluegrass, klezmer and cabaret. He currently teaches at Lake Forest College, North Central College in Naperville, and North Park University.

**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. 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.** Northwestern University theater major, alumna of the University of Michigan School of Education and graduate of the Loyola University MBA program, Lynda has

returned to her first love—The Stage! For many years her featured performances were as parent, independent travel consultant, and fundraiser for the Children’s Research Foundation. She has appeared in SongShop Live concerts: *Flying, Something to Talk About, Life at Home, Take the Ride of Your Life* and her solo *set Love Notes---a Musical Memoir*. Other appearances include *Broadway on the Cusp* and *Broadway for the Hoi Polloi* for the Rotary Club at the Polo Café and at Davenport’s for CCP *Strut Your Stuff* and the 2014 CCP *Merry Measures Holiday* show. She is on the Board of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals and stars in her role as Gramma Lynda singing with her grandchildren Louisa and James!

**MIKE REFKY** is a financial services marketing executive who is finally “finding his voice” at the age of 40. After singing with the Des Moines Gay Men’s Chorus in Iowa and Allegrezza in Chicago, he is exploring a path as a solo vocalist starting with this concert. His musical tastes range from opera to hip hop, but when he opens his mouth to sing, what mostly comes out are pop standards and showtunes. He dedicates this and all his performances to his beloved husband, Ahmad.

**PHILIP SEWARD**, pianist and singer, has been playing the piano since a small child, joining the cabaret, music theatre, and opera stages as he got older. He has been known to sing a mix of standards and original works in the most intimate of settings. His short opera, *How to Date a Coloratura* was named a finalist in the National Opera Association chamber opera competition. Light Opera Works Second Stage recently premiered his one-act opera *Eve*. Dr. Seward is on faculty at Columbia College. [philipseward.com](http://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 to his native Minnesota. Along the way he took a turn and ended up in the Cabaret world of Chicago. Ron also sang barbershop for several years, earning a gold medal in international chorus competition in Nashville in 2001 with the Northbrook New Tradition chorus. Since meeting “cabaret”, he has brought rousing tributes to Johnny Cash and John Denver to the audience at Davenport’s Cabaret.

**RUTH FUERST.** Our very own Dr Ruth, a psychotherapist by day, is 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. Their first show *Life is...* played to large and enthusiastic audiences, and their second, *Thank You for the Music* was even more successful, and has been brought to several senior centers around Chicagoland. Ruth has been seen in several Rotary International Fundraiser Annual Cabarets and many Songshop shows at Cyrano’s, the Jazz Showcase etc. She is excited to announce her first solo show *Wake Up and Dream*, under the music direction of Bob Moreen, will debut at Davenport’s on April 10 and 17, 2015.

**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 continued to sing, play guitar and sing folk music. In the high school chorus, she performed the *Messiah* and other classical and non-classical pieces. She has studied voice with Louise Cloutier. She has sung

## Friends & Lovers

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Directed by singer Claudia Hommel, additional coaching by Wydetta Carter and singer-pianists Bob Moreen and Philip Seward. Jim Cox on bass

**Arlene Armstrong, Beth Halevy, Carol Weston, Carrie Hedges, Daniel Johnson, Don Hoffman, Leona Zions, Lynda Gordon, Mike Refky, Ron Anderson, Ruth Fuerst, & Vivian Beckford**

### ACT I

Beth & Philip **Happy to Make Your Acquaintance** — Frank Loesser, *Most Happy Fella*  
Sue **Nearness of You** — Hoagy Carmichael & Ned Washington  
Don **Time After Time** — Sammy Cahn & Jule Styne  
Ruth **Mr. Right** — Kurt Weill & Alan Jay Lerner, *Love Life*  
Carrie **Somebody Loves Me** — George Gershwin, Ballard Macdonald & BG DeSylva, *George White's Scandals* 1924  
Lynda **Whoever You Are** — Tom Snow & Amanda McBroom  
Michael **You Belong to Me** — Pee Wee King, Redd Stewart & Chilton Price  
Daniel **I Really Like Him** — Mitch Leigh & Joe Darion, *Man of La Mancha*  
Bob **We Can't Go On Meeting This Way** — Fred Silver  
Vivian **Porgi Amor** — Wolfgang A. Mozart & Lorenzo Da Ponte, *Le Nozze di Figaro*  
Lynda **Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend** — Jule Styne & Leo Robin, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*  
Claudia **I Like You, You're Nice** — Blossom Dearie & Linda Albert  
Leona **Don't Blame Me** — Jimmy McHugh & Dorothy Fields, *Clowns in Clover*  
Carol, Arlene, & Ruth **Bosom Buddies** — Jerry Herman, *Mame*  
Ron **Put a Little Love in Your Heart** — Jimmy Holiday, Randy Myers, Jackie De Shannon

### ACT II

Beth, Michael & Philip **Old Friends** — Stephen Sondheim, *Merrily We Roll Along*  
Bob **Old Friend** — Nancy Ford & Gretchen Cryer, *I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It on the Road*  
Leona **You Needed Me** — Randy Goodrum  
Beth **Vanilla Ice Cream** — Jerry Bock & Sheldon Harnick, *She Loves Me*  
Michael **Famous Blue Raincoat** — Leonard Cohen  
Ron **Beauty and The Beast** — Alan Menken & Howard Ashman, from the musical  
Don **My Favorite Year** — Michele Brouman & Karen Gottlieb  
Arlene **Nobody Else But Me** — Jerome Kern & Oscar Hammerstein II, *Showboat*  
Sue **To Make You Feel My Love** — Bob Dylan  
Vivian **Till There Was You** — Meredith Willson, *Music Man*  
Ruth **Holiday Dinner Party** — Johnny Marks, parody by Sandy Riccardi  
Dan & Philip **Better with a Man** — Steven Lutvak & Robert L. Freedman *Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*  
Carrie **If We Only Have Love** — Jacques Brel, Mort Shuman & Eric Blau  
Company **Friendship** — Cole Porter

## InTOURLudes to the musical heart of Paris!

*TWO TOURS* are offered back-to-back:

June 9 to 17, 2015: Claudia's 8-day Cabaret Intourlude  
Claudia is your escort to Paris, Giverny and Dordogne, France. With about a dozen delightful people along for the trip, we are sure to have an incredible time filled with magical moments. From the Lapin Agile to Monet's garden, come experience the richness of French culture!

- Our voyage includes a day trip to Giverny's Museum of Impressionism, Monet's gardens, and a picnic by the Seine
- Two nights in Dordogne to visit Josephine Baker's chateau and falconry, and the cliff-dwellers' village of La Roque St. Christophe
- A raucous evening of song at the famous Montmartre cabaret Lapin Agile
- A neighborhood sing-along at the foot of rue Mouffetard
- And an exclusive dinner-concert cruise on the houseboat of our friend and world troubadour Eric Vincent.



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Ask Sue, Leona and Carmen about last year's experience!