



## Louise Cloutier

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"Louise has brought me to places vocally I never knew I had within me." - Ruth Fuerst

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# November 16th, 2013 - From Oz and Beyond...

### Ronald Anderson

### A Tribute to John Denver

Country Road – Denver, Danoff and Nivert

Annie's Song – Denver

Rhymes and Reasons – Denver

This Old Guitar--Denver / High Dakota – Ron Anderson

Marvelous Toy – Tom Paxton

Gramma's Feather Bed – Denver

Follow me – Denver

Forest Lawn – Paxton

# Leona Zions Life in a Nutshell

Thank God I'm a Country Boy – John Martin Sommers

Yesterday When I Was Young – Charles Aznavour My Heart Stood Still -- Lorenz Hart and Richard Rogers Love Walked In – Ira & George Gershwin

The Way We Were - Alan & Marilyn Bergman/Marvin Hamlisch
The Glory of Love - Billy Hill

What Did I Have That I Don't Have – Alan Jay Lerner and Burton Lane
Married, Gay or Dead – Sharyn Lane and Rich Fagan
Somebody, Somewhere – Frank Loesser
We'll Meet Again – Ross Parker and Hughie Charles
You Make Me Feel So Young – Mack Gordon and Josef Myrow

## **Carrie Hedges**

Songs in the Key of Oz: Song inspired by the story The Wizard of Oz

Follow the Yellow Brick Road – Harold Arlen and E.Y. (Yip) Harburg from the 1939 film The Wizard of Oz

Scarecrow – Paul Tietjens and L.Frank Baum (1902 musical)

If I Only Had the Nerve – Harold Arlen and E.Y. (Yip) Harburg (1939 film)

Over the Rainbow – Harold Arlen and E.Y. (Yip) Harburg (1939 film)

Don't Nobody Bring Me No Bad News – Charlie Smalls (The Wiz musical)

For Good – Stephen Schwartz (Wicked musical)

Almost Home – Mariah Carey, Mikkel Eriksen, Justin Gray, Tor Erik Hermansen, Simone Porter, and Lindsey Ray (2013 film *Oz the Great and Powerful*)

Already Home – Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice (2010 musical)

### ARTIST BIOS for November 16

**CARRIE HEDGES**. In September 2010, Carrie retired from her position as a staff attorney with the U.S. District Court and joined Claudia Hommel's SongShop. She has appeared at Cyrano's Bistrot, the Jazz Showcase, and the Venue at the Daystar Center. Carrie made her début at Davenport's in the CCP 2011 Holiday Cabaret, and appeared in Broadway on the Cusp! to benefit the Rotary Near South in 2013. She sings in the University of Chicago Chorus and serves on the Board of the Chicago Children's Choir. She is President of the International Wizard of Oz Club. Items from Carrie's extensive Oz collection have appeared in *Chicago* Magazine and at the Field Museum.

**LEONA ZIONS.** 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; seatmate 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, and the Venue at Daystar.

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 and barbershop scenes prepared Ron for the world of Cabaret. Catch his full tribute to John Denver at **Davenport's Cabaret** on Sundays, January 26 and February 2, 2014 (see ad on reverse side).

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 Hildegarde, 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." He is the 2009 recipient of Chicago Cabaret Professionals' Lifetime Achievement Award.

CLAUDIA HOMMEL (SongShop Director) 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. She is a member of the actors' unions (SAG-AFTRA and Actors' Equity) and is on faculty at the DePaul School of Music Community Music Division. She tours nationally and to France with her concerts and masterclasses. Claudia invites you to join two tours to France, Spring 2014. Visit cabaret-paree.com.

PHILIP SEWARD, the official accompaniast of SongShop, 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 and Light Opera Works Second Stage recently premiered his one-act opera *Eve*. To listen to his music or purchase a CD, visit iTunes or philipseward.com.

Previous 2013 SongShop Solo Set performers include Claudia Hommel, Dennis Luxion, Elizabeth Doyle, Emily Barrett, Keri Chryst, Jim Anderson, Jo Rainey, John Sims, and Philip Seward.

### ARTIST BIOS for November 2

AMY LECHELT-BASTA, aka Amy Fabulous, returns to the stage after a long hiatus during which she went from playing ingenue (Morales/A Chorus Line, Nancy/Oliver and Anne/La Cage Aux Folles) to Grandma! Playing with Second City (including the role of Cinderella with the Children's Theater) helped prepare her for this new reality-character! Today, AF continues to put her dancin' foot forward wearing Gucci shoes—producing fashion shows, styling clients, acting and various other musings! Soon she jet-sets to her home in southern France...

LYNDA GORDON. Northwestern University theater major, alumna of the University of Michigan School and graduate of the Loyola University MBA program, Lynda has returned to her first love—performing and singing. For many years her featured performances were as parent, independent travel consultant, and fund raiser for the Children's Research Foundation. She has appeared in SongShop's Flying, Something to Talk About and Life At Home; in Broadway on the Cusp at the Polo Cafe for the Rotary Club and at Davenport's for Strut Your Stuff. 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! I would like to thank Nick Sula, David Edelfelt, Jonathan Cornell and Walter Kirchner. Special thanks to Claudia and Philip for being there for me for these past 2 years!

### ARLENE ARMSTRONG. Actor-

Director-Musician, a multi-hyphenate before she was out of grade school, Arlene recruited friends to do variety shows in her basement. "Ever since I played the goose that laid the golden egg in *Jack and the Beanstalk*, the stage was mine." She lists Karen Carpenter, Mahalia Jackson and Motown as musical influences. In addition to SongShop performances at the Jazz Showcase, Cyrano's, and for the South Chicago Rotary Club, Arlene took *Just a Girl & a Piano* to

the Harold Washington Library with Bobby Schiff; *Life is...Snapshots in Song* with Ruth Fuerst and Carol Weston sold out at Davenport's Cabaret.

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 around town at Davenport's, Cyrano's, The Jazz Showcase, or playing the piano bar at the Drake Hotel or the Carlton Club at the Ritz. As a founding member of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals, she has been able to live her dream of becoming a cabaret singer. She presented *Life Is*.... at Davenport's with Arlene Armstrong and Ruth Fuerst.

RUTH FUERST. Our very own Dr Ruth, a real live 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, so they're working on a new one. 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.

NICK SULA is a pianist, music director, composer, and arranger born and raised in Chicago, with his degree in music from DePaul University. Theatre credits include Bohemian Theatre Ensemble, Porchlight Music Theatre, Chicago Opera Vanguard, and Light Opera Works, and Nick has received the Joseph Jefferson Citation for music direction. His compositions and arrangements have been performed on stage and on national television. He is an active member of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals, and performs as arranger/ pianist for his vocal group, With A Twist. He performs regularly with cabaret artist Scott Gryder, and is the music director and pianist on Scott Gryder's CD, Pure Imagination.