

ARTISTS for October 19

Pianist **DENNIS LUXION** has been a mainstay of the Chicago jazz scene since 1985, and performs both as a solo pianist and in ensembles at Chicago's most famous clubs. Active as arranger/composer, performer, teacher/clinician, and recording artist, most notably he has played with Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Carla Cook, Diane Delin, Greg Fishman, Von Freeman, Curtis Fuller, George Garzone, and Slide Hampton. While in Europe from 1979-85, he toured with jazz greats Chet Baker and Jean "Toots" Thielemans; In 2012, the Dennis Luxion/Michael Raynor Quartet toured Southern Africa as part of Jazz at Lincoln Center's Rhythm Road program under auspices of US Department of State. He has an extensive discography (including Claudia's *Jazz Fauré Project*). He teaches piano, improvisation and composition, at Columbia College and elsewhere.

EMILY BARRETT is a graduate of Columbia College in Piano Performance. Her passion lies within dance accompaniment and musical theatre music. Music directing highlights include *Hairspray*, *The Fantasticks* (Columbia College), *The Wizard of Oz* (Chicago Women Charity Players), *Mommy Will the World End Tonight?* (Independent), *Annie*, & *Bye, Bye Birdie* (Camp Watitoh, Becket, MA). Emily studied in Prague with Martin Vojtisek through New York University and with Musician's Mentorship program at Canada's National Ballet School in Toronto, Ontario. Emily accompanies ballet and masterclasses at Chicago High School for the Arts and Hyde Park School of Dance.

JO RAINEY, aka Joanne Pakieser, has enjoyed sharing her songs ever since her first kindergarten solo. A classically-trained musician who also grew up singing to Peggy Lee, Motown and Rock 'n' Roll, Jo loves the cabaret repertoire for the eclectic story-telling mix that allows her to draw from all of her musical loves. A member of Chicago Cabaret Professionals, Jo has performed at various venues around Chicago, including the Polo Club, Little Bucharest, Cyrano's Bistrot, Davenport's Cabaret, Underground Wonder Bar, Old Town School of Folk Music, Jazz

Showcase and The Venue. You can also see her perform Balinese gamelan around the country with Indonesian Dance of Illinois.

Bassist **JOHN SIMS** attended Arizona State where he received undergraduate degrees in Jazz Performance and Economics. John has enjoyed teaching and playing in Los Angeles, but is most excited to have recently moved to Chicago in hopes of furthering his musicality and development. John has been honored to play with greats such as Ron McCurdy, Lucas Pino, Tamir Hendelman, Ohad Talmor, Dan Weiss, and jazz legend Lee Konitz. He was also privileged to perform for a week at the "Jazz Showcase" to open up for jazz master, Benny Golson. John has also enjoyed performing internationally at the Grenoble, France International and World Music Festival.

KERI CHRYST. With a Master's in Jazz Pedagogy from Northwestern University, Keri soon after pioneered the Jazz Vocal Program at the American School of Modern Music in Paris, developing a complete ear training curriculum and authoring courses for the Jazz Vocal Academy International. Her spunky "in the pocket" swing, together with an instrumental approach to singing and improvisation and "lighter than caramel" voice have charmed audiences across the Western Hemisphere and fast earned her a reputation as a "musician's singer." She performs regularly in Paris clubs (at New Morning with Fred Wesley—trombonist for James Brown—and the Méridien. Most recently toured several African countries as cultural ambassador for US State Department. <http://keri.chryst.free.fr/>

PHILIP SEWARD 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.

ARTISTS for November 2

AMY LEHELTT-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...

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.

The CAR Trio reprises *Thank You for the Music* at Davenport's on Friday, November 22 at 8 PM!

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—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* and *Something to Talk About*, 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!

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*.

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.

ARTISTS for November 16

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

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 since at Cyrano's and the Jazz Showcase and made her debut 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; 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, 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 scene and barbershop world prepared Ron for *Cabaret*.

CLAUDIA HOMMEL, Producer-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. Member of 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.

••••• 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 the Daystar Center.

Learn more and sign our list
www.songshoplive.com
773.509.9360

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Piano Maestro Philip Seward
Daystar Center's Amanda Neely and staff
Videographer Jason Madeja
Assistance by Laley Lippard and Cappy Kidd.
Additional SongShop accompanists & coaches: Bob Moreen, Elizabeth Doyle, George Howe, Louise Cloutier

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 2013

THE FIRST HOUR

JO RAINEY AND PHILIP SEWARD "A WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY WITH SONDHEIM" EMILY BARRETT ON PIANO

A Weekend in the Country – A Little Night Music
You Could Drive A Person Crazy – Company
With So Little To Be Sure Of – Anyone Can Whistle
Being Alive – Company

Pleasant Little Kingdoms – Follies
Giants In The Sky – Into the Woods
On The Steps Of The Palace – Into the Woods
Too Many Mornings – Follies

Losing My Mind/Not A Day Goes By – Follies/Merrily We Roll Along
No One Has Ever Loved Me – Passion
Good Thing Going – Merrily We Roll Along
Old Friends – Merrily We Roll Along

Sooner Or Later – from the movie Dick Tracy
Johanna – Sweeney Todd
A Little Priest – Sweeney Todd
Move On – Sunday in the Park With George

- INTERMISSION -

THE SECOND HOUR

KERI CHRYST SINGS THE FRENCH CONNECTION WITH DENNIS LUXION ON PIANO JON SIMS ON BASS