

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

*Whether Solo or in an Ensemble,
have an adventure worthy of a song!*



Travel like a PRO!

Lynda Gordon
Travel Consultant
LyndaG@protravelinc.com
312 - 559 - 9495

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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

SONGSHOP LIVE presents the SATURDAY SOLO SERIES

Located at DAYSTAR CENTER 1550 South State Street Chicago, IL

www.daystarcenter.org or call 312.674.0001 for tickets

songshoplive.com

SEPTEMBER 21st at 7:00 pm

Taking a Chance on

Featuring Vocal Duo
JIM ANDERSON and JO RAINEY



Opening with "New and Artful Songs"
An illustrated concert by Claudia Hommel
and Elizabeth Doyle. Music Director Philip Seward

OCTOBER 19th at 7:00 pm

OUR FIRST CHICAGO-PARIS EXCHANGE



Special Guest Jazz Vocalist from Paris

KERI CHRYST

OPENING WITH JO RAINEY AND PHILIP SEWARD'S
"A WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY WITH SONDHEIM"

November 2nd at 7:00 pm



Thank You for the Music
Featuring

*Carol Weston, Arlene Armstrong,
& Ruth Fuerst*
Music Director Nick Sula

Opening with Amy Lechelt-Basta and
Lynda Gordon's Solo Sets

November 16th at 7:00 pm

Songs for Oz and Beyond

Featuring

RON ANDERSON'S
Tribute to John Denver

CARRIE HEDGES'
"Songs in the Key of Oz"



Opening with Solo Sets by Leona Zions
and Sue Susman. Music Director Bob Moreen

SongShop Solo Sets ARTIST BIOS

CLAUDIA HOMMEL, producer, performer and teacher. 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.

AMY LEHELST-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.

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.

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.

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.

ELIZABETH DOYLE. The magnet for many years at Chicago’s famed Pump Room, she has created, performed in and often music directed an array of shows at Chicago’s major cabaret rooms and theatres. A featured guest on Marian McPartland’s NPR program Piano Jazz, Doyle’s compositions have been featured in New York ASCAP programs, at the Paradiso in Amsterdam and at Disney/ASCAP in California. Her musicals include *Sleepy Hollow*, *Fat Tuesday*, *Alice In Analysis*, *The White City*, *Treasure Island*, and *Duo*, performed last summer at Steppenwolf Theater. She has two CDs, *Elizabeth Doyle* and *Time Flies*. elizabethdoylemusic.com.

JIM ANDERSON. With a transistor radio tucked under his pillow, Jim often fell asleep listening to Chicago DJ’s “play the hits,” in spite of his mother’s best efforts to turn him on to the Great American Songbook. Although a member of choirs and choruses, Jim later fell under a spell—cast by Claudia Hommel and her cabaret cadre of Songshoppers. It turns out that Jim really does love standards. Away from the office, he studies voice with Louise Cloutier and sings with the DePaul University Community Chorus. He has appeared at Cyrano’s, Davenport’s, the Jazz Showcase, and performed with John Bucchino at Stage 773.

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.

KERI CHRYST. With a Master’s in Jazz Pedagogy from Northwestern University, Keri made her way to Paris where she pioneered the Jazz Vocal Program at the American School of Modern Music in Paris, developing a complete ear training curriculum from scratch, and authoring a series of 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 such as New Morning (recently with Fred Wesley—long-time trombonist for James Brown), Hotel Méridien’s “Jazz Club Lionel Hampton” and Café Universel. <http://keri.chryst.free.fr/>

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.

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. His compositions and arrangements have been performed on stage and on national television and he has received the Joseph Jefferson Citation for music direction.. An active member of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals, he performs as arranger/pianist for his vocal group, With A Twist, and can be heard regularly with cabaret artist Scott Gryder. He is music director and pianist on Scott Gryder’s CD, *Pure Imagination*. nicksula.com

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.

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 life in the Cabaret.

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.

SUE SUSMAN started singing and playing the ukelele at eight years old. She performed at camp and had fun. Starting at age ten, she learned to play the guitar and sang and performed folk songs whenever she had the chance. In the high school chorus, she also performed Handel’s *Messiah*, and other classical and non-classical pieces. She has studied voice with Louise Cloutier. She has sung at Cyrano’s, the Jazz Showcase, Buddy Guy’s Legends, the Beat Kitchen and the Abbey.

KERI CHRYST FOUNDER OF THE

Jazz Vocal Academy INTERNATIONAL

OFFERS A SPECIAL, ONE TIME ONLY
MASTERCLASS!

- Our October 19th Masterclass will focus on**
- phrasing and inflection
 - strengthening the internal sense of rhythm
 - the art of “conversational” lyric delivery
 - exploring the freedom of jazz
 - getting to the heart of the story in the song

Masterclass will be held here at Daystar Center
from 1:00PM - 4:00pm



FOR DETAILS ON THE MASTERCLASS AND TICKETS TO
KERI CHRYST’S SHOW VISIT DAYSTARCENTER.ORG
OR SONGSHOPLIVE.COM

inTOURLudes... a trip into the artistic heart of Paris!

TWO TOURS are offered back-to-back:

May 26-June 4, 2014: 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, you'll experience the richness of Parisian culture!

- Our voyage includes a day trip to Giverny's Museum of Impressionism and Monet's gardens, and picnic by the Seine,
- A visit to Josephine Baker's chateau and falconry, and nearby 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.



June 2-11, 2014: our first Jazz Tour & Singers' Workshop

led by master teachers Maja Savić of Croatia, Keri Chryst of the Jazz Vocal Academy International, and Claudia. The week-long exploration of vocal technique, jazz literacy in song, interpretation of lyrics, and performance skills begins with a concert by the three and ends with a public concert by the singer participants.

Along with the incomparable Keri Chryst and Claudia Hommel, you'll study with Maja Savić of Zagreb, Croatia. After intense piano study of piano and working with local bands, Maja moved to Portugal in 2005, recorded her debut album with prominent jazz musician Zé Eduardo, and continued her study of jazz, Bossa nova, Latin and Indian music from Spain to Bosnia, with Romy Camerun, Judy Niemack, Guillermo Rozenthuler and more. She is founder of the Association of Promoting Jazz Music and Culture (JAZZart) and organized the first international jazz summer school and festival in Krk, in collaboration with Global Music Foundation of Great Britain. She teaches at the Mikrofon Star School for Modern Singing.



Call 773.509.9360 or visit cabaret-paree.com/travel

Claudia Hommel

in
Jazz
with a French Flavor

A black and white portrait of Claudia Hommel, a woman with dark curly hair, smiling and resting her chin on her hand. The name 'Paul Nation' is written in small text at the bottom left of the portrait.A vintage-style silver microphone on a stand, positioned to the right of the portrait.

Chicago's favorite chanteuse returns to the Penthouse at The Cliff Dwellers Club for a *nuit du jazz* with ensemble

Bobby Schiff at the piano, Jim Cox on bass & Tim Davis on drums
Friday, November 1, 2013

from 5:30 to 8:30 PM
5:30p Cocktails, 6:30p dinner & 7:30p concert
Enjoy the view from the penthouse of
THE CLIFF DWELLERS
overlooking the Art Institute of Chicago
at 200 S Michigan Ave.

\$45. Cash bar. Reservations required.

Call 312-922-8080
(Reduced-fee parking vouchers available)