

SongShop Live presents
Blooming of Solo Sets
Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 3:30 pm
Chief O'Neill's in Avondale, Chicago
Howard Pfeifer, Music Director
Claudia Hommel, Director/Producer

Ruth Fuerst - The Dinner Party

Consider Yourself Lionel Bart (*Oliver*)
Supertime George Gershwin & Ruth Fuerst
Holiday Dinner Party Sandy & Richard Riccardi
Dinner Party Steven Lutvak

Etienne Colvin - Toujours l'amour

Bravo! Tu as gagné. (Winner Takes It All) Björn Ulvaeus et Benny Andersson, Charles Level
Laisse-moi le temps Michel Jourdan & Claude Caravelli
Tristesse Frederic Chopin & Jean Loysel

Rae-Myra Hillard - Duplicity of Love

Moonfall Rupert Holmes (*Mystery of Edwin Drood*)
Can't Help Lovin' That Man of Mine Jerome Kern & Oscar Hammerstein II (*Showboat*)
Still Hurting Jason Robert Brown (*The Last 5 Years*)
Cry Me a River Arthur Hamilton

Alison Issen - Accepting the Invitation

Surface Pressure Lin Manuel Miranda
Dear Insecurity Brandi Carlile/Brandy Clark
Everybody Says Don't/Yes Stephen Sondheim/Kander & Ebb
Spark of Creation Stephen Schwartz with an excerpt from *Song of the Universe* by Manish Mithra-Marzetti and words by Ysaye Barnwell

Claudia Hommel

I Can Cook, Too Leonard Bernstein, Betty Comden & Adolph Green (*On the Town*)

OUR PERFORMERS

Etienne Colvin. A veteran of musical stage with 8 productions as non-singing actor for Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Wazir in *Kismet* and Captain Brackett in *South Pacific*. A born "character" actor, he is now a chanteur of *chanson française à Chicago*.

Susan E. Dennis serves as our associate producer. Along with an active performance career she teaches voice privately and was formerly at Elmhurst College, Harper College, and Artistic Director of Bravissimo Vocal Ensemble.

Ruth Fuerst Psychotherapist by day, Ruth dispenses wisdom as a cabaret singer by night. She has created several group and solo shows; with *Quirky*, her newest featured May 17 during Chicago Cabaret Week at the Fulton Street Collective.

Rae-Myra Hilliard performs works featuring Black-American composers/ lyricists or works written for a classical singer of color. This includes her debut CD, *Lifescapes: One Woman's Journey* and her forthcoming *Queens of Composition* featuring works by Florence B. Price, Margaret Bond, Rev. Dr. Lena McLin and Regina Harris Baiocchi. Rae-Myra teaches privately, at Theatre Conservatory of CCPA (Roosevelt U) and Senn High School.

Claudia Hommel, singer-actor, is co-founder of Chicago Cabaret Professionals, SongShop, Cabaret Connexion, and the performing arts alliance Working In Concert. She was awarded the *Médaille d'or* for francophone values by the Renaissance Française In 2024.

Alison Issen moved recently to Chicago from Orlando, where she played Mother Superior in *Sister Act*, Aunt March in *Little Women the Musical* and performed in the Orlando Fringe Festival. In her day job, she is a psychotherapist and workshop presenter. In Chicago she has performed at the Oil Lamp Theatre and with SongShopLive.

Howard Pfeifer has worked in Chicago and Los Angeles as pianist, composer, arranger, and musical director with an extensive roster from *Hamilton* to *Alvin and the Chipmunks*.

SongShop (the art of song interpretation) is a program of the Community Music Division of DePaul School of Music, led by Claudia Hommel since 2003. Singers are invited to join us Tuesday evenings.

SongShop Live concerts are an initiative of the nonprofit Working In Concert and help raise funds for the SongShop Scholarship Fund. Join us for more Solo Sets on **Sunday, May 31** at the Labyrinth Club and **Saturday, June 6** in Hyde Park.

songshoplive.com
workinginconcert.org/donate