



Chicago May 8-16, 2022 --
the Cabaret Connexion Playbill

EVENTS

May 8 Jeff Harnar's *Because of You*
 May 9 Divas' Round Table
 May 10 Clotilde's *Pieces of a Song*
 May 14 Connexion Showcase Concert
 May 16 *Josephine Baker and the Legacy of Fervor*

PERFORMER PROFILES

SUPPORT and more



To further the essential conversation on the art of cabaret, we host international exchanges among performers, teachers and coaches, writers, historians, and fans.

Join us LIVE IN CHICAGO for a unique opportunity to advance the art of cabaret, to be inspired by fellow artists, and to create an intimate connection with the public. Sign up for master classes and workshops at cabaretconnexion.org/rsvp

Produced by
**Working in
 Concert**
 A performing arts collaborative
workinginconcert.org

Chicago Cabaret Week

May 6-16, 2022
Citywide Festival

www.ChicagoCabaretWeek.org

Get carried away by Chicago Cabaret!

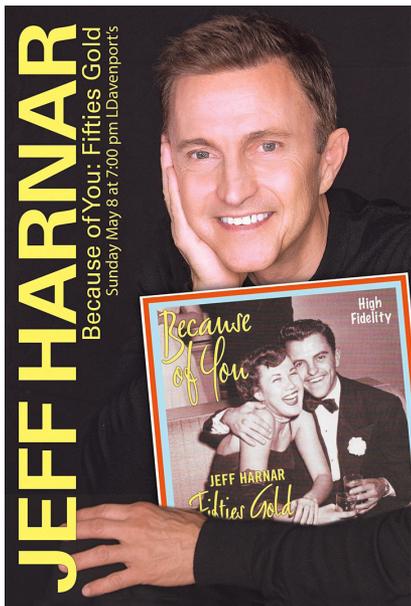
Experience Chicago's finest cabaret artists at intimate venues throughout the city, as they bring you their personal renditions of the Great American Songbook, blues, jazz, burlesque, pop, comedy and Broadway.



Chicago Cabaret Week is brought to you by:



Working In Concert is proud to work side by side with our sister cabaret organizations. We've shared three years of activity to create a successful citywide festival celebrating Chicago Cabaret in 2022! We're participating in the May 6 Kickoff and have several more events to share during the week! Conference by day, cabaret by night!



SUNDAY, MAY 8 at 7 PM

Davenport's Cabaret

Music Director: **ALEX RYBECK**

Director: **SARA LOUISE LAZARUS**

Bassist: **STEVE DOYLE**

Jeff and Alex also present a Cabaret Connexion workshop on **How to Build Your Show**, Tuesday, May 10 at 10 AM and again at 2:30 PM. Holy Trinity High School, 1443 W. Division.

Register for sessions at
cabaretconnexion.org/rsvp

MONDAY, MAY 9 at 10 AM — DIVAS' ROUND TABLE

Holy Trinity High School, 1443 W. Division

Creating and promoting the diva in each of us

An intimate discussion emceed by Southside's Jazz heroine **Margaret Murphy Webb** with Chicago's Queen of Cabaret **Denise Tomasello**, the Great Big Diva **Lynne Jordan**, and lessons from Josephine Baker shared by her private secretary **Michèle Barbier**. Come with your questions, get ready for some surprising answers!



Register for sessions at cabaretconnexion.org/rsvp

This performance is part of
Chicago Cabaret Week
May 6-16, 2022



TUESDAY, MAY 10 - 8 PM at the Fulton Street Collective
CLOTILDE's PIECES of a SONG

With this duo, the interdisciplinary French artist **Clotilde** and the acclaimed American pianist and keyboardist **Chris McCarthy** deepen their collaboration.

Opening by **Christy Bennett's Fumée Jazz Duo**

Inspired by the Beat Generation poets Chris and Clotilde create a repertoire of ragaous yet ecstatic original pieces in French and English, infused with the writings of idiosyncratic Beat Generation poet Diane di Prima. With this repertoire, they explore her identity crisis born out of poverty, of rebellion, of being a woman, of standing on the outside of the culture, of making bold choices in a more constraining world. " FREE them / FREE yourself / Help to FREE me / FREE us / DANCE " – Diane di Prima – Revolutionary Letter 49.

Pieces of a Song has been made possible through the Jazz & New Music, a program of FACE Foundation, in partnership with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States. Line up : Clotilde (vocal, flute) and Chris McCarthy (piano, prophet).

Clotilde also offers two classes on Vocal Resonance as part of the Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion international conference.

LIVESTREAM. Audience by invitation only. Please contact Fulton Street Collective for your invitation at 773-852-2481 or **Events@FultonStreetCollective.com**. 1821 West Hubbard Street, #suite 307, Chicago,60612

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SATURDAY, MAY 14 at 2:30 PM
THE CONNEXION SHOWCASE CONCERT
DePaul Recital Hall (North Building)

The participants of our weeklong set of master classes and workshops are directed by **Dale Calandra** and **Howard Pfeifer**. The show begins with a livestream from **Jean-Claude Orfali in Paris!** See the day-of insert for the complete list of performers.



MONDAY, MAY 16 at 7 PM
JOSEPHINE BAKER and the
LEGACY of FERVOR

ALLIANCE FRANCAISE de CHICAGO
54 W. Chicago Ave

From Paris: Michèle Barbier, Mylène Launay, Patrick Pernet, Maryline Rollet, Clotilde Rullaud, Wilfried Touati
From Chicago: Evelyn Danner, Claudia Hommel, Lynne Jordan, Ava Logan, and Howard Pfeifer

Bubbly and book-signing with Michèle Barbier, too!

<https://www.af-chicago.org>

PERFORMER PROFILES

MICHÈLE BARBIER began as actress and singer (Comédie Française, Festival d'Avignon, etc) but left everything for the circus, in Sweden, Germany and her own company in France. She was discovered in Sweden by the legendary Josephine Baker who engaged her as personal secretary from 1969-1971. After thirty years, Michèle returned to theater, writing and song; released three albums; published novels, historical essays, theater and poems; and produced her one-woman-shows evoking the circus world and more recently her upbringing in Algeria. She has created events, often televised, such as the Gala de la Presse and Kréatika, the Festival of Authors-Composers-Performers. She served as vice-president of the Alliance Francophone, taking her to many countries, most notably Japan. www.michele-barbier.com.

DALE CALANDRA specializes in directing/developing solo, concert, and cabaret shows, including his original character "America's Favorite Aunt!" AUNT LOLA CABANA. He has led Beckie Menzie, Brian Lasser, Charlene Brooks, Elizabeth Doyle, Carmen Severino, Lou Galecki, among many others, and directed over 100 productions, is founder of Center Theater Ensemble, was creative director of The Training Center, was artistic director of Illinois' oldest outdoor Shakespeare, has acted in over 200 productions, and played Edna in *Hairspray* in the first national Broadway Tour. www.DaleCalandra.com

CLOTILDE is an international interdisciplinary French artist, artistic director, vocalist-flutist and filmmaker. Her last album *A Woman's Journey* won sixteen awards including four awards as Best Album. Her second album *In*

Extremis was named one of the top five albums by NPR Annual Jazz Critics Poll and by The Sunday Times. As a bandleader, she performs at renowned jazz venues and prestigious festivals around the world. Her recent creation *XXY* [eks/eks/wai], a multidisciplinary music and motion art movie has been screened in 30 international festivals and has received five awards and nominations.

EVELYN DANNER is a vocalist/actor/wardrobe mistress/teacher and costumer by day (most recently, costume designer for Goodman Theater's *Gem of the Ocean*) and professional performer by night. She has been with Chicago's Black Ensemble Theater for more than 25 years; singing, dancing, acting and most recently as "Miraculous Wardrobe Mistress." With more than twenty musical productions to her credit, Evelyn has portrayed the legendary jazz great Ella Fitzgerald in four different productions. She serves in the music ministry of her home church, Covenant Faith Church of God.

ISABELLE GEORGES transmits a joyful combination of French songs, classical music, musical theatre and Yiddish music. Her creativity has resulted in shows including: *Une Etoile et Moi, Padam Padam, Broadway Enchanté, Amour Amor, Oh, La La!... For Yiddish Rhapsody, Broadway Symphonique* or *C'est Si Bon*, Isabelle sought the company of symphony orchestras. This created a range of propositions that permitted her to perform in venues as diverse and prestigious as the Musikverein in Vienna, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, The Hyogo Performing Arts Center in Nishinomiya, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the Bal Blomet and La Philharmonie in Paris, the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, the 54 Below in New York. Her

recordings are available at
www.isabellegeorges.com

JEFF HARNAR has won multiple MAC, Bistro and BroadwayWorld Cabaret Awards and The Noel Coward Foundation Cabaret Award. Carnegie Hall appearances include both the Cole Porter and Noel Coward Centennial Galas. Televised PBS concerts include *The 1959 Broadway Songbook* with Music Director Alex Rybeck and *American Songbook: Stephen Sondheim* co-starring KT Sullivan. In June PS Classics will release Jeff's fifth solo album *I Know Things Now (My Life in Sondheim's Words)*. jeffharnar.com

From Cabaret Lapin Agile in Paris to the Frick Museum in Pittsburgh, Paris-born **CLAUDIA HOMMEL** transports her audiences to Paris, imagined and real, with Cabaret InTourludes and "cabaret in the classroom". She offers *Vocal Canvas* concerts to "hear the painting, see the song". Founder of Chicago Cabaret Professionals (1998), SongShop Live workshops and concerts (2003), Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion (2017). Executive Director of Working In Concert. Her five Maison Clobert recordings are available at cabaret-paree.com.

LYNNE JORDAN is a vocalist, bandleader, solo performer and storyteller. She is included beside Taj Mahal and Etta James on Blues Down Deep a tribute to Janis Joplin; performed in Jazz Operas in Europe; performed her one woman show: *A Great Big Diva*, and has traveled the world with her band Lynne Jordan and the Shivers. Lynne is the 2021-2022 Artist in Residence at the Raue Center for the Arts in Illinois.

MYLÈNE LAUNAY. French actress, dancer, street and cabaret singer, and creator, Mylène was trained in classical-dance, modern-jazz, tap

dance, flamenco (at AID), Argentine tango (in Buenos Aires), musical comedy (AICOM). With accordionist Christian Bassoul, she co-hosts a weekly street ball at rue Mouffetard and performs cabaret events in Paris and the UK. Mylène wrote her first musical, *In Vitro*, in 2015. In 2017, she joined with Claudia Hommel to organize the Chicago and Paris encounters of the Cabaret Connexion.

AVA LOGAN is veterinarian by day and jazz singer/recording artist by night! Accompanied by piano and big band, Ava has performed at clubs and festivals from Bel Air and Beverly Hills to Moscow, Minsk, Paris and Rome, and all over Chicagoland. Theater performances include *Ella Fitzgerald and Friends* and *Lena Horne and Friends* at the Skokie Theater, and portrayals of Ella Fitzgerald and Nancy Wilson at Chicago's Black Ensemble Theater. You can find Ava, her recording, and more information at www.avalogan.com.

HotHouseJazzMagazine described **CHRIS MCCARTHY** as "one of the most imaginative and impressive voices on the New York jazz scene." Since arriving in New York, he has collaborated with established artists such as Jason Palmer and Lion Babe and with rising star, Sasha Berliner. McCarthy graduated with honors from the New England Conservatory in 2016. In 2017, he released his debut album *Sonder*, described by AllAboutJazz as "the promising and first release of many for this broad-minded and adventurous keyboardist."

MARGARET MURPHY WEBB. Award-winning entertainer credits the tutelage of legendary tenor saxophonist Von Freeman. She has been featured at the Taste of Chicago, Winona Indiana Jazz Festival, Mississippi Valley Blues Festival; Chicago Blues, Jazz and

Gospel festivals, Hyde Park Jazz Festival, Andy's, The Green Mill, Jazz Showcase, Pete Millers, Winters Jazz Club; performed for Presidents Obama and Clinton, and Russian and Polish ambassadors. Designated "Chicago's Jazz Hero" by Jazz Journalists of America for leading the nonprofit South Side Jazz Coalition. A Chicago Police Department veteran and breast cancer survivor, Margaret has stories to sing.

JEAN-CLAUDE ORFALI. Pianist, composer, conductor, Jean-Claude plays frequently in Paris from Le George V, le Plaza-Athénée et le Bristol to the oldest artistic cabaret, Lapin Agile. He joined the Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion in Paris (2017) and Chicago (2018) as principal pianist, returned in 2019 to perform with Christine Steyer, taking their concert *Sweet Spot between Our Worlds* to Montréal. He composes and performs for film, as a solo pianist, as part of small jazz groups and also leads Parisian Big Band "BB15". jean-claudeorfali.com

PATRICK PERNET, pianist and arranger, alternates between studio and stage. He has accompanied an impressive array of artists, singers, comedians and humorists, with a repertoire for dance bands, jazz-rock bands, rock bands, country music, and French songs. He has directed, recorded and arranged more than a hundred albums. He appears on the album of New York singer Dawn Harden, Manu Dibango and other foreign artists. He is noted for his improvisational skills and comedy, and leading song workshops.

HOWARD PFEIFER. From Hamilton to the Chipmunks, and Budweiser to Karen Carpenter, Howard has worked extensively as a pianist, composer, arranger, vocalist and musical director for more than 40 years in the fields of musical theater, television series, commercials,

feature films, and cabaret in Chicago and Los Angeles. howard@pfeifermusic.com, pfeifermusic.com

MARYLINE ROLLET. Joyful and melancholy, mixing the sweetness of the ballad, the energy of jazz and the sensuality of bossa nova, Maryline brings us along enthusiastically—in French, English and Brazilian Portuguese. She regularly performs from solo to ensembles, at cafes, restaurants, jazz clubs, theaters, and also in the Paris metro. Her repertoire of standards is tinged with humor and poetry. She has participated in all four encounters of the Cabaret Connexion since Paris 2017. www.marylinerollet.com

New-York based music director, pianist, arranger and composer, **ALEX RYBECK** has worked with showbiz legends George Abbott, Hal Prince, Tommy Tune, Burt Bacharach and Eartha Kitt and music directed Faith Prince, Karen Akers, Liz and Ann Hampton Callaway, Donna McKechnie, Marni Nixon, Kitty Carlisle Hart, Karen Mason, Jeff Harnar, among others. With Broadway credits *Merrily We Roll Along* and *Grand Hotel*. Mentored by Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Stephen Schwartz, Arthur Laurents, and Comden & Green, he has coached singers since 1982.

CHRISTINE STEYER. The 2020 Honored Artist of The American Prize for outstanding contributions to the arts, soprano Christine Steyer has distinguished herself as an artist of great versatility. Steyer received acclaim for portrayals of Madama Butterfly and Violetta (*La Traviata*) and has sung in 40 productions at Lyric Opera of Chicago. With the Connexion, she sang in France at the Montpellier Opera House, Paris' Salle Olympe de Gouges and the Lapin Agile. Steyer has brought classical music to 23,000 youth in underserved areas. Additionally, she

has written award-winning librettos for Bellissima Opera's Tales of Transcendence: *On Call: Covid-19* and *Future Perfect*—the latter premiering this June.

Crowned "Chicago's Cabaret Queen" by the *Chicago Tribune*, *Sun-Times* and WGN Radio, **DENISE TOMASELLO** is winner of the After Dark Award for Outstanding Cabaret Performer and CCP's Gold Coast Award. Headlining with legends Don Rickles, Jackie Mason and Alan King she had performed at New York's Town Hall, and the Cinegrill and Gardenia in Los Angeles. With sold-out concerts at The Auditorium, The Drake, Park West, and Chicago Theatre, Denise is a Chicago music legend.

AN IMMENSE MERCI TO ALL!

VOLUNTEERS, STAFF and ESSENTIAL COLLEAGUES

Roxane Assaf-Lynn
 Susanne Baker
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 Carmen Bodino
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 Hilary Ann Feldman
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 Kenneth Gourlay

Beth Halevy
 Claudia Hommel
 Kyle Hustedt
 Cappy Kidd
 Mylène Launay
 Carleen Lorys
 Harry Luong
 Jean-Claude Orfalli
 David Reithoffer
 Maryline Rollet
 Barbara Smith
 Christine Steyer
 Lydia Stux

A French graduate in classical and jazz accordion, **WILFRIED TOUATI** participates in all types of projects across musical borders, from solo to symphony orchestra as musician, arranger and composer. In 2018, he formed the Wilfried Touati Quartet to play his jazz compositions. The Quartet's first album *Voyage* was released in November 2021 by the label Jazz Family. This experience led him to create duets with oboist Guillaume Retail and Christelle Raquillet on flute and vocals

A new online magazine for Chicago cabaret! Covering the performers, the events, the venues, the history.

And more!

chicagocabaretmagazine.blog



produced and published by Chicago Cabaret Professionals—an alliance of advocates.

FUTURE PERFECT—a modern tale of curiosity

Christine Steyer *librettist*

David Shenton *composer*

Nick Sandys *director*

Join the adventures of Miranette and friends she meets along her way. All become entwined in a web of quantum entanglement—a state of interconnectedness where anything is possible. A new work for all ages, co-created with 1,300 Oak Park & Chicago youths.

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 The Kehrein Center for the Arts, Chicago

WorkingInConcert.org/futureperfect



Working in Concert

Bellissima Opera
Black Voices in Cabaret
Chicago Cabaret Week
Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion
In the Classroom
SongShop Live

<https://workinginconcert.org>



In the Classroom



Chicago Cabaret Week
May 6-15, 2022

A not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization

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Chicago IL 60625
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workinginconcert.org
info@workinginconcert.org

Working in Concert was founded in 2019 to bring together the projects of Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion and SongShop Live led by Claudia Hommel with Christine Steyer's Bellissima Opera. To that, we added our artist-in-education mission to bring opera and cabaret to the classroom.

As opportunities and challenges arose, we collaborated with colleagues to create Chicago Cabaret Week and the network of Black Voices in Cabaret.

At the core of our united efforts is the belief that performance up close and personal is a powerful way to create community. We're creating new works while sharing the best of traditional repertoires for opera, theatre, salon, and cabaret.

Your financial assistance is the magic ingredient that brings our ambitious projects to life.

Your tax-deductible donations help our songs reach new and needed destinations. Ask us about becoming a sustaining member of the Encore Ensemble.

And if you have a home with a piano and room for 30 or more guests, we invite you to become a SongShop salon host!

Thank you and merci !

Claudia Hommel

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andybossov.com



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<https://p2p.onecause.com/walkforkidneys/andy-bossov>

**Carey and Brett August are
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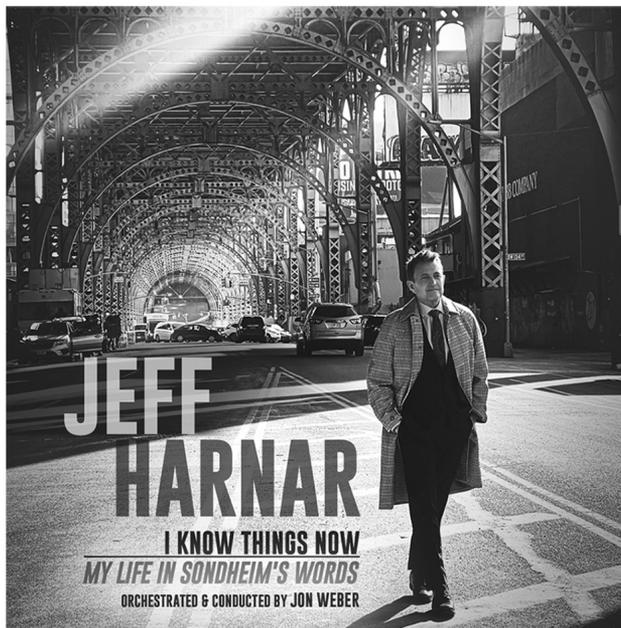
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JEFF HARNAR

I KNOW THINGS NOW

My Life in **SONDHEIM'S** Words

Orchestrated & Conducted by **JON WEBER** Directed by **SONDRA LEE**



Award-winning artist Jeff Harnar heard in the songs of Stephen Sondheim the story of his own life. That story was adapted into an acclaimed one-man show, and has now been expanded and preserved on disc in *I Know Things Now: My Life in Sondheim's Words*, a dazzling tapestry of over 25 songs – from familiar anthems like “Being Alive” and “Losing My Mind” to rarities like *Dick Tracy*’s “Live Alone and Like It” and “More.” Harnar weaves these songs into an original narrative, reimagining them for an LGBTQ+ audience, while renowned jazz artist Jon Weber – serving as conductor and orchestrator – recasts them in a jazz idiom, unleashing an orchestra of 20 in a radical reinvention of Sondheim’s harmonies, one that the composer himself – upon seeing the show onstage – not only endorsed but encouraged. Now, PS Classics – Stephen Sondheim’s label of choice for his final two decades – offers another jewel in its Sondheim crown:
a highly original and personal celebration
of the artist’s work, by one of its foremost interpreters.

Album Release Worldwide June 17 - Preorder now on Amazon





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112
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Preparing Chicago's youth to lead lives of leadership and service

The Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion is pleased to be holding its daytime master classes and workshops at Holy Trinity High School. Join us 10 AM to 5:30 PM, May 9-13 at 1443 W. Division. Free parking at the Cleaver parking lot, two blocks west of the Kennedy and two blocks east of the CTA Blue Line Division station.

C M D

Community Music Division
DePaul University



MAY 7, 2022

The Community Music Division at DePaul University School of Music offers Claudia Hommel's SongShop every Tuesday evening for singers to hone their performance skills. Visit SongShopLive.com to learn more. Support the Community Music Division's annual fundraiser at <https://inspire.depaul.edu/project/31552>

Memorial Weekend Garden Party for the opera



Future Perfect

To support the upcoming opera,
join us for a Mexican brunch,
craft beer from Kinslahger Brewery,
music with Latin Jazz band leader
Joaquin Garcia

**Saturday, May 28:
11 AM - 2 PM
\$50 contribution**

The Magic Flute meets The Wizard of Oz in
this fantastical world premiere opera,
coming June 23-26.

The River Forest home address
will be shared upon reservation:
workinginconcert.org/garden-rsvp



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A black and white photograph of a trumpet being played. The background is dark with bokeh light effects. In the top left corner, there is a circular logo for WDCB 90.9 FM JAZZ. The text "CHICAGO'S HOME FOR JAZZ AND BLUES ... and more!" is overlaid in the bottom left, and the website "www.WDCB.org" is in the bottom right.

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