

**Chicago welcomes the 6th international exchange of
Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion**
Monday, October 28- Monday, November 4
plus a bonus concert November 9



**Thurs
Oct 31**

KURT WEILL CIRCUS by Anne Fromm (Lyon). Opening with **WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?** Paulus the Cabaret Geek (London), and a bevy of Parisian chanteuses hosted by Claudia Hommel (Chicago). Halloween costumes encouraged!

7:30 PM — DANK Haus, 4740 N Western Ave (Lincoln Sq)



**Fri
Nov 1**

OH LA LA ! Isabelle Georges, from Paris to Broadway! Opening with Chicago diva Lynne Jordan and host Jeff Harnar (New York)

8 PM — Rhapsody Theater, 1323 W Morse (Rogers Park)



**Sat
Nov 2**

PIAF & PIZAZZ ! Featuring Steve Normandin (Québec), Jeanie Carroll (Las Vegas), Michèle Barbier, Angélique Dessaint, Mylène Launay, Jean-Claude Orfali, Wilfried Touati (Paris)

6 PM — Alliance Française, 54 W Chicago (River North)



**Sun
Nov 3**

ON THE FUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET — a light-hearted showcase of Cabaret Connexion participants led by Angelina Réaux (San Diego) and Carla Gordon (Chicago)

3 PM — DePaul School of Music Recital Hall
2380 N Halsted (Lincoln Park)



**Mon
Nov 4**

FROM CHICAGO TO PARIS WITH LOVE — Anne & Mark Burnell host an international cast to celebrate Old Town's twin neighborhood of Montmartre. You can can-can, too.

6 PM — Franklin Fine Arts Center
225 W. Evergreen (Old Town)



**Sat
Nov 9**

TOUJOURS L'AMOUR—Pianist Jean-Claude ORFALI from Cabaret Lapin Agile and guest vocalists offer improvisations on new and favorite melodies from Piaf, Michel Legrand, and ORFALI

7:30 PM—PianoForte Chicago
1335 S. Michigan Ave (South Loop)



**Signup remains open for master classes, workshops,
round tables and supplementary events!
Visit CABARETCONNEXION.ORG for schedules,
session descriptions, personnel profiles and signups**

OCTOBER 31 at DANK Haus —HALLOWEEN SPECIAL —WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

Accompanied by pianist Jean-Claude Orfali and accordionist Wilfried Touati

Claudia Hommel	Memories, Part A	Charles Ives
	Pirate Jenny ... an excerpt	Kurt Weill, Marc Blitzstein
Angélique Dessaint et Mylène Launay	La queue du chat	Robert Marcy
Angélique Dessaint	La rate qui se dilate	Vincent Scotto, Gaston Ouvrard et Géo Koger
Clotilde Rullaud	La squelette	Claude Astier
Michèle Barbier	Le petit clown triste	Patrick Pernet et Michèle Barbier
	Le fantôme de Brantôme	Patrick Pernet et Michèle Barbier
Claudia Hommel	Bravo pour le clown	Louiguy et Henri Contet

KURT WEILL CIRCUS performed by Anne Fromm and Wilfried Touati

Songs composed by Kurt Weill, lyrics by various authors.

Projections by Julien Lachal

Bilbao Song.	Bertolt Brecht
Abschiedsbrief.	Erich Kästner
Song from Mandalay.	Bertolt Brecht
Je ne t'aime pas.	Maurice Magre
Barbara Song.	Bertolt Brecht
Tchaikovsky.	Ira Gershwin
J'attends un navire.	Jacques Deval
Alabama Song.	Bertolt Brecht
Nana's Lied.	Bertolt Brecht
Salomon Song.	Bertolt Brecht
Das Lied von der Unzulänglichkeit menschlichen Strebens.	Bertolt Brecht
Seeräuber Jenny.	Bertolt Brecht
La complainte de la Seine.	Maurice Magre
Kanonensong.	Bertolt Brecht



NOVEMBER 1 at Rhapsody Theater —OH LA LA !

Opening act: LYNNE JORDAN! and JEFF HARNAR's ode to Cole Porter. Howie Pfeifer at the piano

Featuring ISABELLE GEORGES with FREDERIK STEENBRINK at the piano, bassist Jim Cox, drummer Phil Gratteau and Kevin King on saxophone.

LA GRANDE ÉVASION	Lyrics Isabelle Georges & Music Philippe Maniez
PUTTING IT TOGETHER	Lyrics & Music Stephen Sondheim
C'EST SI BON	Lyrics André Hornez & Music Henri Betti
JE T'ATTENDS	Lyrics Charles Aznavour & Music Gilbert Bécaud
NE ME QUITTE PAS	Lyrics & Music Jacques Brel
PARIS SERA TOUJOURS PARIS	Lyrics Albert Lucien Willemetz & Music Casimir Oberfeld
NEXT	Lyrics & Music Jacques Brel
QUIET LOVE	Lyrics & Music Charles Aznavour
MON HOMME	Music Maurice Yvain
UNE PETITE FILLE EN PLEURS	Lyrics & Music Claude Nougaro
RHYTHM IS MY BUSINESS	Lyrics Sammy Kahn & Music Saul Chaplin
HOW DO YOU KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING	Lyrics Alan and Marilyn Bergman & Music Michel Legrand
LES POITRINES	Lyrics & Music Cole Porter
YOU'VE LET YOURSELF GO	Lyrics & Music Charles Aznavour
LE TEMPS	Lyrics & Music Charles Aznavour
LA VIE EN ROSE	Lyrics Edith Piaf & Music Louiguy

NOVEMBER 2 at the Alliance Française —PIAF & PIZAZZ

Michèle Barbier, Jeanie Carroll, Angélique Dessaint, Claudia Hommel, Mylène Launay, Steve Normandin on accordion, Jean-Claude Orfali on piano, Angéline Réaux, Clotilde Rullaud, Wilfried Touati on accordion

Michèle Barbier	L'accordéoniste	Michel Emer
	Edith	Michèle Barbier
	Mon Dieu	Charles Dumont & Michel Vaucaire
Jeanie Carroll	Je ne regrette rien	Charles Dumont & Michel Vaucaire
Angélique Dessaint	Padam	Norbert Glanzberg & Henri Contet
	Je m'en fou pas mal	Michel Emer
	Correquèt réguyer	Paul Maye & Marc Hély
Claudia Hommel	Mon manège à moi	Norbert Glanzberg & Jean Constantin
	Milord	Marguerite Monnot & Georges Moustaki
Mylène Launay	Mon truc en plumes	Jean Constantin et Bernard Dimey
	Mais qu'est-ce que j'ai	Henri Betti
Steve Normandin	Le petit homme	Marguerite Monnot & Henri Contet
	Je n'en connais pas	Marguerite Monnot & Raymond Asso
Angelina Réaux	J'attends un navire	Kurt Weill
	Les Feuilles Mortes	Joseph Kosma & Jacques Prévert (Fr), Johnny Mercer (Eng)
Clotilde Rullaud	L'homme à la moto	Robert Chauvigny, adaptation by Jean Dréjac of
	Black Denim Trousers and Motorcycle Boots by Jerry Leiber & Mike Stolle	
	Les amants d'un jour	Marguerite Monnot, Claude Delécluse, Michelle Senlis
Ensemble	L'hymne à l'amour	Marguerite Monnot et Edith Piaf

Reception follows with book signings by Steve Normandin and Michèle Barbier



Ein herzliches Dankeschön to DANK Haus for hosting the Cabaret Connexion conference: Master classes, workshops and round tables from October 29 to November 2, and the opening concert on October 31.



DePaul University School of Music | Community Music Division



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Our school provides the opportunity for serious musical study and growth in a nurturing environment

- Individual instruction - Traditional and Suzuki
- Dalcroze Eurhythmics (4-6 years)
- DePaul Youth Orchestra/Chamber Music Program
- DePaul Community Chorus
- New Horizons Band and Orchestra
- SongShop, the art of song interpretation

Music instruction for all ages in a university setting

SONGSHOP at DePaul Community Music Division welcomes singers each Tuesday evening for an ongoing workshop as we hone our song interpretation and performance skills. Led by Claudia Hommel and music directed by Howie Pfeifer, SongShop Live concerts are an initiative of Working In Concert.

Visit songshoplive.com.

On the FUNNY SIDE of STREET

NOVEMBER 3, 2024

At the DePaul School of Music Recital Hall.

DIRECTED by Angelina Réaux.

MUSICIANS Stefan Kukurugya, Steve Normandin, Jean-Claude Orfali,
Howie Pfeifer, Peter Storms, Wilfried Touati.

ACT 1

Carolyn Broquet	<i>Twisted</i>	Wardell Gray & Annie Ross	Howie
Melissa Flavia	<i>The Lady Is a Tramp</i>	Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart	Jean-Claude
Deborah Good	<i>Gorgeous</i>	Jerry Bock & Sheldon Harinck	Howie
Susan Dennis	<i>To Keep My Love Alive</i>	Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart	Peter
Lydia Stux	<i>Arthur Murray Taught Me Dancing in a Hurry</i>	Victor Schertzinger & Johnny Mercer	Stefan
Helene Alter-Dyche	<i>Ah, quel diner</i>	Offenbach (<i>La périchole</i>)	Wilfried & Jean-Claude
Suzanna Griffith	<i>Life of the Party</i>	Andrew Lippa	Howie
Mylène Launay	<i>Mon homme</i>	Albert Willemetz, Jacques Charles & Maurice Yvain	Howie, Wilfried, Steve
Beverly Tyree	<i>When You're Smiling</i>	Joe Goodwin & Mark Fisher	Stefan
Lauren Lassen	<i>Now You Know</i>	Stephen Sondheim	Howie
Christine Steyer	<i>Dream</i>	Johnny Mercer	Howie

ACT 2

Tirzah Joy	<i>A Swing in the Yard</i>	Tirzah Blomberg	Stefan
Shelley Schneider	<i>An Occasional Man</i>	Hugh Martin & Ralph Blane	Stefan
Beth Halevy	<i>Vanilla Ice Cream</i>	Jerry Bock & Sheldon Harinck	Howie
Staci Kelley	<i>Popular</i>	Stephen Schwartz	Peter
Angélique Dessaint	<i>Tel qu'il est il me plaît</i>	Maurice Alexander & Charlys, Maurice Vandair	Steve & Wilfried
Sue Benjamin Berke	<i>Ring Them Bells</i>	John Kander & Fred Ebb	Howie
Lealiza Lee	<i>Quick Death</i>	Lealiza & Kevin Lee	Stefan
Sheri Flanders	<i>You're No Good for Me</i>	Josh Levine & Sheri Flanders	Stefan
Ruth Fuerst	<i>We Don't Talk About That</i>	Lou & Peter Berryman	Howie
Barbara Smith	<i>The Dog</i>	Susan Werner	Peter
Lou Ella Rose	<i>When You're Good to Mama</i>	John Kander & Fred Ebb	Peter

Working In Concert has just learned of the award being granted us for our 2025 operating budget. We invite our fans to help us match the \$5,000 with more donations at workinginconcert.org/donate! THANK YOU - MERCI !

Illinois
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NOVEMBER 4 "From Chicago to Paris with Love"

A community fest at the Franklin Fine Arts Center in Old Town

Celebrating the twinning of Old Town Chicago and Montmartre Paris

Introduction by our Ambassador David Reithoffer

Singers: Susan Arjmand, Michèle Barbier, Sue Berke, Anne Burnell, Angélique Dessaint, Elizabeth Doyle, Suzanna Griffith, Jeff Harnar, Mylène Launay, Ava Logan, Lexa Maxa, Angelina Réaux, Spider Saloff, Swingin' Sisters (Barbara Smith, Tirzay Joy, Carolyn Broquet),
Accompanied by Mark Burnell, Elizabeth Doyle, Stefan Kukurugya, Jean-Claude Orfali, Howie Pfeifer, and Wilfried Touati

Stefan Kukurugya at the keys:

Swingin' Sisters	La Vie en Rose	Édith Piaf & Louiguy
Sue Benjamin Berke	It Had to Be You	Isham Jones & Gus Kahn, French lyrics by Sue Benjamin Berke
Lexa Maxa	Ma Belle Amie	Tee-Set

Mark Burnell at the keys, Wilfried Touati on accordion:

Suzanna Griffith	All That Jazz	John Kander & Fred Ebb
Anne & Mark Burnell	Isn't This a Lovely Day	Irving Berlin
Anne Burnell	Sunday Kind of Love	Barbara Belle, Anita Leonard, Stan Rhodes & Louis Prima

Howie Pfeifer at the keys:

Susan Arjmand	Ah Quel Diner!	Jacques Offenbach, Henri Meilhac & Ludovic Halévy. <i>La Perichole</i>
Angelina Reaux	Les chemins de l'amour	Francis Poulenc

Featured Segment of Bricktop & Cole Porter in Paris, Elizabeth Doyle at the keys:

Elizabeth Doyle	Primitive Man/Un homme primitif	Cole Porter
Ava Logan & Elizabeth	Let's Do It - Elizabeth	Cole Porter
Ava Logan	J'ai deux amours	Vincent Scotto, Géo Koger & d' Henri Varna s
Ava Logan	Miss Otis Regrets	Cole Porter

ENTRACTE

Jean-Claude Orfali at the keys, Wilfried Touati on accordion

Angelina Réaux	L'accordéoniste	Michel Emer
Mylène Launay	C'est vrai (de Mistinguett)	Casimir Oberfeld & Albert Willemetz
Mylène Launay	Pigalle	Georges Ulmer, Géo Koger & Guy Luypaerts
Angélique Dessaint	La Parisienne	Marie-Paule Belle
Michèle Barbier,	La complainte de la Butte	Georges van Parys & Jean Renoir

Mark Burnell at the keys:

Jeff Harnar	World Goes Round/That's Life	John Kander & Fred Ebb Dean Kay & Kelly Gordon
Spider Saloff	I Love Paris	Cole Porter
Spider Saloff	Chicago	Fred Fisher

Stefan Kukurugya at the keys:

Swingin' Sisters	Donnez-moi tout ça	Henri Betti & André Hornez
Lynne Jordan	Work Song	Oscar Brown Jr.
Ensemble	All You Need Is Love	John Lennon & Paul McCartney



ESSENTIAL CONVERSATIONS for the CABARET CONNEXION —Advancing Together the Art of Cabaret

Cabaret . . . a way to share stories through song, creating a community of audience and performer. Let's make the art of cabaret performance more visible, and gain new audiences from Paris to Chicago and beyond. Be part of the international conversation on the state of cabaret, from "professional development" toward "developing our profession".

Lunchtime ROUND TABLES : at the DANK Haus from 1 pm - 2:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

October 29: The history and future of cabaret -with Martin Pénet (via livestream in Paris) & Dan Johnson

October 30: Take Your Show on the Road

October 31: Overcoming Stage Fright, Michèle Barbier

November 1: Promotion and Business of Cabaret with Anne Burnell, Juliana Engel, Lexa Maxa, Jeanne Franks

November 2: Technology as an aid for singing, an exploration with Lou Ella Rose

Toujours l'amour

Saturday, November 9, 2024

PianoForte Chicago

Jean-Claude ORFALI solo piano

Guest artists Angélique DESSAINT, Claudia HOMMEL, Christine STEYER

PART 1

Hymne à l'amour	Marguerite Monnot & Édith Piaf
Speak Softly Love (<i>The Godfather</i>)	Nino Rota
Aranjuez, mon amour	Guy Bontempelli/Joaquín Rodrigo
Sunny	Bobby Hebb
Les feuilles mortes/The Autumn Leaves	Jacques Prévert/Joseph Kosma/Johnny Mercer
À quoi ça sert l'amour	Michel Emer
Les moulins de mon coeur/The Windmills of Your Mind	Alan et Marilyn Bergman/Michel Legrand
La chanson des vieux amants	Jacques Brel & Gérard Jouannest
C'est si bon	Henri Betti & André Hornez
Crocodile vert	Jean-Claude Orfali & François Alfonsi

A BRIEF INTERMISSION

PART 2

Ziad Love Theme	Jean-Claude Orfali
Paris, une coupe de champagne	Jean-Claude Orfali & François Alfonsi
Amazing Things	Jean-Claude Orfali & Christine Steyer
Les Étangs de Sologne/The Ponds of Sologne	Henri Betti & Paul Vialar <i>premiere of the official English translation by Christine Steyer</i>
Misty	Erroll Garner & Johnny Burke
Ne me quitte pas	Jacques Brel
The Lady is a Tramp (<i>Babes in Arms</i>)	Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart
La chanson de Maxence/You Must Believe in Spring	Michel Legrand & Jacques Demy
Oblivion	Astor Piazzolla
Comme d'habitude/My Way	Jacques Revaux & Claude François

SPECIAL THANKS

- Rachel Frazier and Thomas Zoells of PianoForte Chicago
- The Illinois Arts Council
- The dozens of participants of the 2024 Cabaret Connexion
- The volunteers and team of Working In Concert
- Our donors, from major to modest, because all contributions count.

We invite you to join our sustaining donors' Encore Ensemble. Visit workinginconcert.org/donate

CABARET CONNEXION FESTIVAL PERFORMERS, TEACHERS AND PANELISTS

SUSAN ARJMAND (Chicago) is a family medicine physician with academic appointments at Rush Medical College and the University of Illinois College of Medicine. She has published and lectured nationally and internationally on the topic of primary care and vocal health for singers. As a professional classical singer, she has performed with Light Opera Works, Bowen Park Opera Company, the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company, L'Opera Piccola, Chamber Opera Chicago, and several choral groups. She organizes the monthly salon series Opera Inter Alia.

MICHÈLE BARBIER (Paris) began as an actress, left everything for the circus, then was discovered by the legendary Josephine Baker to become her private assistant. After 3 years, she returned to circus and later the stage. She has produced several song albums, novels, historical essays, theater pieces, poems, and her one-woman-shows. She is Secretary-General of the Paris-based Cabaret Connexion.

SUE BENJAMIN BERKE (Metro Detroit) A natural performer, Sue loves to connect with her audience. When in her hometown of Chicago, she participates in Claudia Hommel's SongShop, joined the Singers Jazz Workshop in Paris in 2015 and has attended all Cabaret Connexion conferences thus far.

TIRZAH JOY BLOMBERG (Chicago) is an accomplished and passionate singer with a lifelong interest in music. She studied classical music, art songs and opera. She plays guitar and ukulele, and has written countless songs, releasing her first recording, *Anyway*, in 2021. She began exploring the realm of jazz in 2017. She arranges and sings with The Swingin' Sisters.

DR. SUSAN BOLDREY (Chicago) serves as translator for the Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion in Paris. and Chicago. She teaches French, Spanish and English to immigrant and refugee women. Her online course "Chansons Francophones" provides a creative way to learn French.

CAROLYN BROQUET (Chicago) spent many dedicated years working in television. She started singing, as a hobby, in 2000 at Old Town School of Folk Music of Chicago, studied Doo Wop and has harmonized her way ever since with The Mamas and Papas Ensemble, Higher Choir, and more. Joining Chicago Cabaret Professionals opened a whole new world of singing. She is one third of Swingin' Sisters with Barbara Smith and Tirzah Joy.

ANNE BURNELL (Chicago) has performed for WDCB Jazz Salon, Jazz at the Logan, Chicago Humanities Festival, Mabel Mercer Foundation Cabaret Convention, Metropolis, and the Auditorium Theatre. Along with her husband pianist/vocalist Mark Burnell, she has toured in Paris and Amsterdam, was awarded the 2024 Gold Coast Award by Chicago Cabaret Professionals, and recently released their third duo album. She is managing director of the annual Chicago Cabaret Week.

MARK BURNELL (Chicago) Pianist/Vocalist/Songwriter Hailed by the *Chicago Tribune* for his work as "silky smooth and highly polished," and *Cabaret Hotline* as "one of the most talented pianists and arrangers I've

seen," Mark has worked with Dave Frishberg, Connie Francis, Howie Mandel, Laura San Giacomo, Richie Cole, Rob Marshall, Blair Underwood, and Seth Myers. He has toured Bern, Zurich, Paris, Rieburg, Geneva, Panama, and Amsterdam. Mark was a Master Instructor at the International Cabaret Conference at Yale University, and has taught at Northwestern and Roosevelt Universities, and Carnegie Mellon University, where he received his MFA. One of Chicago's most in demand pianist/vocalists, he can be heard Saturdays at the Tortoise Supper Club. His recording library with Anne Burnell includes *Little Things We Do Together*, *Blues in the Night*, *Summer Days & Dreamy Nights*, and their newest release, *This Could Be the Start of Something Big*. Mark also has two solo recordings: *Christmas Piano* and *Aquacadence*. BurnellMusic.com, iTunes, Spotify, etc.

JEANIE CARROLL (Las Vegas) lived and worked in Paris for several years, singing at Jazz Clubs in Montparnasse and at The Hollywood Savoy. Hailing from Sedona, Arizona, she has had a fabulous career collaborating in shows and gigs including the Sentimental Journey Big Band, Jazz and American Songbook combos, and was the director of Red Rockappella, a Sweet Adelines barbershop small chorus. She is also a K-8 Music Educator and writes reviews for CabaretScenes.org.

JIM COX (bassist) grew up in Champaign, Illinois where he also attended and graduated from the University of Illinois in 1979. Since then, he has worked as a full-time professional musician based in Chicago. He toured with Earl "Fatha" Hines from 1979-82 and worked regularly with Marian McPartland. Jim free-lances locally and globally, in various musical genres including jazz, klezmer, bluegrass, pop, cabaret and classical; recording and performing with Rosemary Clooney, Michael Feinstein, Debbie Boone, Liza Minelli, Ann Hampton Callaway, Christine Ebersol, Wesla Whitfield, Phil Woods, Don Stiernberg, Judy Roberts, Ray McKinley, The Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Chicago Sinfonietta, Shari Lewis and Lamb Chop.

SUSAN E. DENNIS has been singing Musical Theatre, jazz and classical songs for 20 years professionally. Her repertoire includes Kurt Weill, Sondheim, Bernstein, Mozart, Strauss, Gilbert & Sullivan, Villa-Lobos. She most recently played the role of Heidi Schiller in the Harper College production of *Follies*. Susan holds a Master's degree in Vocal Performance from Northwestern University. By day she teaches Vocal Techniques at Elmhurst College, Harper College, is choir director at Lord of Life Lutheran church, and Artistic Director of Bravissimo Vocal Ensemble.

ANGÉLIQUE DESSAINT (France) Angélique's passion began with dance, evolved into singing, spread to the theater (classical repertory to one-woman shows), broke into musicals, tested itself on the street, exposed itself to the camera, then returned to classrooms to entertain kids. Her ambition is to share a line, a note, an image, a laugh, an emotion.

ELIZABETH DOYLE (Chicago). The magnet for many years at Chicago's famed Pump Room, singer-pianist-composer Elizabeth 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*, *Burnham's Dream*, *Treasure Island*, and *Duo*. Elizabeth tours with David Edelfelt their show, *Cole Porter in Paris*. elizabethdoylemusic.com.

DAVID EDELFEIT (Chicago) is not only one of Chicago's top-tier cabaret performers, but also voice teacher, vocal coach, accompanist and arranger to some of Chicago's most talented and in-demand cabaret, musical theater and classical singers. He is also a respected choral conductor. See davidedelfelt.com

SHERI FLANDERS (Chicago) Actor, comedian, vocalist, and writer, Sheri performs improv, stand-up, musical comedy and more as a solo act, or in the comedy duo FLANDERS. A member of the Playground Chicago Theater Company, she has performed in NYC at the Black Women in Comedy Laff Fest, in the feature film *B.A.D.D.*, and was a performer in the WTTW documentary *Inventing Improv*. Her writing has been featured in the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the *Chicago Reader*, and she is the author of TV pilots, screenplays and musicals. sheriflanders.com/

MELISSA FLAVIA (Los Angeles) is a singer, songwriter, and youth music educator. She enjoys singing jazz, inspired by Edith Piaf, Josephine Baker, and Ella Fitzgerald.

Chicago native **JEANNE FRANKS** is a self-employed design professional in the architecture and construction industry. She is a jazz vocalist for private events and long-time on-air radio host at WDCB 90.9 FM, Chicagoland's premier jazz station.

ANNE FROMM (Lyon, France). Singer-actor trained at the Stage School in Hamburg. Since her move to Lyon in 1998, she has explored polyphony, world singing, sacred singing and also body practices such as shiatsu, inspired by teachers such as Frank Kane, Jean-Luc Bosc, Arnaud Didierjean and Borys Cholevka, she has been teaching vocal technique, interpretation and the therapeutic aspect of singing.

RUTH FUERST (Chicago), psychotherapist by day, Ruth joined SongShop in 2012 to dispense wisdom by night. She created with Carol Weston and Arlene Armstrong, *Life is...* and *Thank You for the Music* at Davenport's and senior centers. She created her first solo shows with Bob Moreen: *Wake Up and Dream*, *The Carousel of Time*, and *You Gotta Be Kidding*, an unabashedly progressively partisan show in 2017. Next show with Beckie Menzie: *Quirky!*

ISABELLE GEORGES (Paris) Singer, author, songwriter, actress and tap-dancer, Isabelle Georges has created at the crossroads of musical comedy, French chanson and the classical, jazz and Yiddish repertoires. Ten albums testify to her abundant inspiration, the sensitivity and poetry with which she infuses her shows, whether in duets or with a full orchestra, from the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the Philharmonie in Paris, the Musikverein in Vienna, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, or at the Festival Radio France, the Avignon Festival or 54 Below in New York. Major roles

include Isabelle in Michel Legrand's *Le Passe-muraille* and Kathy Selden in *Singin' in the Rain*, Mrs Barnum in *Barnum*, Kate Mc Gowan in *Titanic the Musical* and Jérôme Savary's version of *La Perichole*. Key collaborators include Frederik Steenbrink, singer and musical director of other shows, composer Maury Yeston, jazz man René Urtreger, the Sirba Octet, concert pianists Jeff Cohen and Bruno Fontaine, accordionist Roland Romanelli, the Trio Zadig.

DEBORAH GOOD (Chicago) A linguist by profession and teacher, Deborah loves traveling the world singing. In addition to her solo appearances, Deborah loves connecting with others in ensembles and choirs. She has participated in all the Connexion conferences to date.

CARLA GORDON (Chicago), singer/songwriter producer, director, was cited by the *Chicago Tribune* among, "Chicago's most accomplished cabaret performers ... a major player in cabaret." *Cabaret Scenes* called her "Honey-voiced wise cracker!" Beyond Chicago venues she has entertained at St. Louis's Sheldon Theater, Manhattan's Metropolitan Room, and Michigan's Acorn Theater. Gordon's songs have aired on WFMT's *Midnight Special*. "The Miracle We Need" (written with Wayne Richards) was selected for the Chicago Humanities Festival. Other songwriting collaborators include Shelly Markham, Michelle Brouerman, Beckie Menzie, Elizabeth Doyle and Bob Moreen. Projects include *Blacklisted* at the Milwaukee Jewish Museum. carlacabaret@aol.com.

PHIL GRATTEAU (drummer) has been utilizing his versatile drumming skills in virtually all phases of the music scene in Chicago over the past five decades. Performers and fellow musicians he has accompanied include jazz luminaries Joe Henderson, Judy Roberts, Marian McPartland, Von Freeman, Ron DeWar, Eric Schnieder, Andy Brown, Warren Vache and Don Stiernberg; vocalists Spider Saloff, Petra Van Nuys, Joan Curto, Jeff Harnar, Debbie Boone, Solitaire Miles, Bonnie Koloc, Kimberly Gordon and Elaine Dame; and show business legends the Smothers Brothers, The Four Lads, Andy Williams, Perry Como, and Bob Hope. He maintains his busy Chicago schedule performing at Andy's Jazz Club, Winter's Jazz Club, the Green Mill, the Jazz Showcase, Tortoise Supper Club, and Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, and accompanying the many talented members of Chicago Cabaret Professionals including Beckie Menzie, Daryl Nitz, Claudia Hommel, Laura Freeman, David Edelfelt, and Anne and Mark Burnell.

SUZANNA GRIFFITH (Los Angeles), raised in North Carolina, is known as the "Southern Belle-ter" because of her powerful belting voice. She has graced the stage as Guenevere, Adelaide, Hodel, Rosie, and Iolanthe, and performs with bands at The Whiskey, The Roxy, and Catalina Jazz Club. A member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, she coaches contemporary music clients, using the Vocal Power Method created by Elisabeth Howard. A member of SAG/AFTRA and ASCAP, she is the creator, producer, and headliner for special events benefiting Healing Arts Reaching Kids (HARK), to provide music and art therapy classes to critically ill children.

JEFF HARNAR (New York) has won multiple MAC, Bistro and BroadwayWorld Cabaret Awards and The Noel Coward Foundation Cabaret Award. His Carnegie Hall appearances include both the Cole Porter and Noel Coward Centennial Galas. Jeff's televised PBS concerts include *The 1959 Broadway Songbook* with music director Alex Rybeck,

American Songbook: Stephen Sondheim co-starring KT Sullivan, and Michael Feinstein's *Live from NJPAC*. Jeff's fifth solo album, *I Know Things Now—My Life in Sondheim's Words*, was released in 2022 by PS Classics. He has directed Tovah Feldshuh, Rita Gardner, Celia Berk, Dawn Derow, Josephine Sanges and Margo Brown. jeffharnar.com

CLAUDIA HOMMEL (Chicago) singer-actor, is co-founder of Chicago Cabaret Professionals, SongShop, Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion, and serves as executive director of Working In Concert. Born in Paris, raised in Detroit, and seasoned in New York, Claudia moved to Chicago to "do the work." She specializes in international classical and theatre songs and *chanson*. Her recordings and concerts of *Paris/Paree*, *Paris in the Jazz Age*, *Romance Language: French Songs for Lovers*, and the two *Jazz Fauré Project* albums reflect her Paris-centric repertoire. cabaret-paree.com

ELISABETH HOWARD (Chicago), a graduate of Juilliard School, is recognized by National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) as a pioneer in the field of teaching Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) and is the author of the *Teacher's Vocal Power Method Toolkit for CCM* and the *Singer's Vocal Power Method Toolkit for CCM*. In addition to her own stage career of 25 roles, she has had clients on Broadway, National tours, *American Idol*, ten winners on *Star Search* and was a vocal coach on *America's Got Talent*.

DANIEL JOHNSON worked as an actor on the West Coast and on tour before a two-decade stint based in NYC. His musical roles include Franklin in *1776*, Mooney in *Anything Goes*, and Charles in *Pippin*. He toured nationally with John Davidson in *The Music Man* and appeared off-Broadway as the comic lead in the 1988 revival of Porter's *Leave It to Me*. Dan is known locally for his cabaret act, *Wilde & Woolley*. He edited and expanded the online presence of *Chicago Cabaret Magazine*.

LYNNE JORDAN (Chicago). Film critic Roger Ebert declared her his "favorite diva." Backed by her sizzling band The Shivers, Lynne is a Chicago institution, playing jazz and blues clubs, the Chicago Blues and jazz festivals, touring internationally. A noted storyteller, she is 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 served as Artist in Residence at the Raue Center for the Arts in Illinois 2021-22. She is a founder of the Cabaret Connexion.

KEVIN KING is a Woodwindist and Composer from the south side of Chicago, Illinois. King honed his skills on the Chicago music scene under the tutelage of Chicago legends Willie Pickens, Orbert Davis, and Diane Ellis. King is an improviser on all woodwind instruments including oboe, bassoon, flute, clarinet, and saxophone. King has played with Arturo Sandoval, Lauryn Hill, The Fugees, Wyclif Jean, The Temptations, Marcus Strickland, Marquis Hill, Joel Ross, Arturo Sandoval, Willie Pickens, Art Ensemble of Chicago, Buddy Guy, Adam Neely, etc. The Kevin King Regime is a culmination of King's vision of creating a "heavy metal instrumental band with improvisation."

STEFAN KUKURUGYA (Detroit). Versatile pianist and vocalist of Jazz, Pop, blues, R&B to Motown, and Classical, not to mention Funk, ethnic music (Ladino, Latino salsa and folkloric, Arabic, Jewish, French, Albanian, Igbo, Yiddish, Polish, Black Gospel) straight improvisation, New Age and

songwriting. As a bandleader, Stefan knows how to work the crowd and keep the party going! His jingles have been performed on TV and radio, and he has produced children's music with clients such as *Sesame Street* and *The Learning Channel*. "Let's build international goodwill and inclusion through music."

MYLÈNE LAUNAY (Paris), actor, dancer, street and cabaret singer trained in classical dance, modern-jazz, tap, flamenco, Argentine tango (in Buenos Aires) and musical comedy. She co-hosts a weekly street ball at rue Mouffetard with accordionist Christian Bassoul. Mylène wrote her first musical, *In Vitro*, in 2015. She and Claudia Hommel organized the first Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion exchange in France in 2017. She continues to coordinate the Association Cabaret Connexion in France.

LEALIZA LEE is a singer-songwriter with NYC roots and Detroit branches who creates vocally driven folk-fusion in several languages. Re-imagining covers and traditional songs as well, she has performed intimate house concerts, at festivals, and at Carnegie Hall. Lealiza's album, *Thorns and Petals*, recorded at Abbey Road Studios, is out on all platforms. Lealiza explores the world from country to flamenco, with more originals coming in 2025.

AVA LOGAN (Chicago) is an award-winning singer-actor from Washington, D.C. Veterinarian Dr. Logan by day, Ava is classically-trained jazz recording artist and has performed jazz, pop, and rhythm and blues nationally and internationally, in jazz clubs, festivals, hotels and more with duos to 18-piece big bands. She has portrayed her idols Ella Fitzgerald and Nancy Wilson in professional theater performances in Chicago. Her first major CD, *So Many Stars*, produced by guitarist Henry Johnson, was met with critical acclaim. www.avalogan.com

CRISTINA MARINESCU (Chicago) When not teaching Computer Science, Cristina dedicates herself to singing. She is working on a new solo project entitled *Lucky Me!*

LEXA MAXA (Chicago) started her career in solo shows, cabaret, and as a show opener singer-songwriter in New York City (Metropolitan Room, Triad Theatre, The Bitter End, and the Schimmel Center). In addition to choreography, film acting, commercials and print campaigns, she enjoys playing the piano, songwriting, and traveling. By day she is a web designer and has been a stalwart Connexion volunteer.

STEVE NORMANDIN (Trois Rivières, Québec) has been singing on stages big and small around the world with his accordion for 25 years. He has lent his accompanying talents to Quebecois music and theater artists, including Clémence Des Rochers, Marie Michèle Desrosiers, Raymond Lévesque, and Robert Lepage. With Hungarian collector László Pusztai, he published *Edith Piaf: The Unknown Icon. Catalog of Works 1935-2023* featuring Piaf's forgotten and lesser-known songs. Since 2021, he has programmed the Carrefour Mondial de l'Accordéon (Montmagny) and contributed to the exhibition at the Musée de l'accordéon "From La Bolduc to Les Cowboys Fringants: The Accordion in Quebecois Song".

JEAN-CLAUDE ORFALI (Paris) is a pianist, composer and music director. He comes from a family of musicians. For many years he has played in Paris at venues such as Le George V, le Plaza-Athénée et le Bristol. He is a

principal pianist for the oldest Parisian artistic cabaret Lapin Agile. He composes and performs for film, as a solo pianist, as part of small jazz groups and also leads Parisian Big Band "BB15". He composes for American, Canadian and Middle Eastern singers and is collaborating with his musical partner the American soprano Christine Steyer on multiple projects. He accompanied Claudia Hommel's master class at the École Professionnel de Comédie Musicale in 2016 and participated in the Cabaret Connexion in Paris (2017) and Chicago (2018). He is now an organizer of the Paris-based Association Cabaret Connexion. jean-claudeorfali.com

MARTIN PÉNET, journalist and historian born in Paris, specializes in French chanson of the 19th and 20th centuries. A producer for France Musique, Martin has published numerous articles and reference works on chanson, and directed numerous legacy reissues on CD. www.radiofrance.fr/francemusique/podcasts/tour-de-chant

HOWIE PFEIFER (Chicago) has worked extensively as pianist, composer, arranger and musical director in the fields of television commercials, feature films, variety shows, T.V. series and record albums in Los Angeles and Chicago, including Patti LaBelle, Mel Torme, Aretha Franklin, Karen Carpenter, The Lennon Sisters, B.B. King, Marie Osmond, and the singing voice of Alvin on *The Chipmunks*. He plays keyboards for Broadway musicals in Chicago from *Hamilton*, to *Dirty Dancing*. He serves as SongShop Live's principal pianist and for many Chicago Cabaret Professionals events. howard@pfeifermusic.com

ANGELINA RÉAUX (San Diego) has performed on and off-Broadway, in repertory, and in the world's leading concert and opera houses. She appeared as The Beggarwoman in *Sweeney Todd* directed by Harold Prince and toured with *Side by Side by Sondheim*. Her first performance of Mimi in *La Bohème* was conducted by Leonard Bernstein, televised throughout Europe and nominated for a Grammy. She created her own one-woman shows, including *Stranger Here Myself, the music of Kurt Weill* for New York's Public Theatre and recorded for Koch Classics. She has been featured in tributes to Sondheim, Weill, and Bernstein worldwide. Her discography includes recordings with Deutsche Grammophon, Decca, Teldec, Naxos, and Koch Classics.

LOU ELLA ROSE (Chicago) is the lead singer and founder of Filipino folk-fusion band, SamaSama Project. A musical theater actress for Repertory Philippines and Tanghalang Pilipino in Manila and Theaterworks in Singapore, she acted in Philippine Television soap operas, the Knowledge Channel, and ABS-CBN's Wansapantaym. Lou is passionate about sharing Filipino culture in the modern world and supports all outstanding Filipinos around the globe.

CLOTILDE RULLAUD is an international interdisciplinary creator, artistic director, vocalist, flutist, producer, and facilitator who employs a range of art forms to generate new poetic languages. Her music and body in motion art movie *XXY* (2018) has won several prizes and nominations. Her album, *A Woman's Journey* (2016) received sixteen awards in France and the USA. *In Extremis* was ranked among the top five albums of 2011 by *The Sunday Times* (UK) and 2013 by the NPR Annual Jazz Critics Poll (USA). Her international career

has led her to perform at venues and festivals in Australia, Burkina-Faso, China, Germany, Korea, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK and the United States. <https://clotilde.art/>

SPIDER SALOFF (Chicago) has been heard around the world as the host/star of the syndicated public radio series *Words and Music*, and thousands have enjoyed her jazz stylings through live performances. Spider was featured at Ravinia Music Festival, Chicago Jazz Festival and New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center. Her one-woman tribute to George Gershwin, *The Memory of All That*, (with the blessing of the Gershwin estate) headlined the Gershwin Centennial in St. Petersburg, Russia. International tours include Poznan, Poland; Florence, Italy; Melbourne and London. Spider has also composed concert tributes to Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Stephen Sondheim and partners with Dee Alexander and Frieda Lee as 3 Ellas Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald. spiderjazz.com.

SHELLEY SCHNEIDER (Nashville) A native Texan and Baylor graduate of vocal performance, Shelley's performing career includes Shakespeare plays, musicals, operas and cabaret. She studied at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York and has performed across Texas with Houston Grand Opera's educational outreach program. Some favorite performances include Amy in *Company* and Dinah in *Trouble in Tahiti*. She is on the board and performs with Franklin Light Opera and has also music directed and conducted several musicals. Shelley taught voice in Ft Worth, Houston and Austin and is a voice professor at Lipscomb University.

BARBARA SMITH's repertoire includes jazz, blues, folk music and cabaret. She has performed at Davenport's, Underground Wonder Bar, Rosa's Lounge, Chief O'Neill's and the Cliff Dwellers Club, and was the winner of the 2018 Skokie Idol Contest. She has been an active volunteer organizer of the Cabaret Connexion since the first in 2017. She is one third of the popular Swingin' Sisters.

FREDERIK STEENBRINK (Paris) Frederik has been at the crossroads of songwriting, musical theater and musical comedy from Paris to New York, performing, singing, composing and collaborating with an array of key directors. including *Irma la douce* (2000, Jérôme Savary), and *Titanic* (2000, Jean-Louis Grinda). He won several song competitions in France and his native Netherlands. Along with film work and headlining his own shows, he worked with artists such as Anne Cordy, Herman van Veen, Ivo Niehe, Caroline Nin and the Sirba Octet. His encounter with singer Isabelle Georges and the creation of their company Encore Music opened up even wider horizons, without hierarchy: Brahms, Rachmaninov or Bach, but also Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and Rodgers and Hart; or the operatic universe of Verdi, Puccini and Wagner...to create more than nine unique shows plus symphonic programs including *Broadway symphonique*, *C'est si bon*, and most recently *Eve & Adam*. www.frederiksteenbrink.com

CHRISTINE STEYER is the 2020 Honored Artist of The American Prize for outstanding contributions to the arts. The soprano has received acclaim for her portrayals of *Madame Butterfly* and *Violetta*, and has sung in 40 productions at Lyric Opera of Chicago. Steyer is an avid recitalist and producer, showcasing unique works by contemporary and by women poets and composers. She is the librettist with composer David Shenton of the award-winning operas *On Call: COVID-19* (2021) and *Future Perfect* (2022), for which she also premiered the roles of Rio de Janeiro Healthcare Worker and Flana. Excerpts of their new

work *Outside the Ring* premiered in 2024. Most recently, Steyer has an active performance schedule singing *Elijah*, *Speed Dating Tonight*, songs of Florence Price and Ernst Bacon, Steyer has brought music to 24,000 youths in underserved areas with Bellissima Opera's In the Classroom. She is co-founder of Working In Concert, and Artistic Director of its Bellissima Opera initiative. She is on faculty at Concordia University in River Forest and teaches music at Ascension Catholic School in Oak Park, Illinois. www.christinesteyer.com/

PETER STORMS is a Chicago-based singer and multi-instrumentalist of many musical styles, a detailed transcriptionist, a fearless sight reader, and a skilled orchestrator and arranger. His work as a music director and Jeff Award winning sound designer has been heard on many stages throughout Chicago. Peter has created music for performing artists and ensembles across the country and has toured with Irish tenor Michael Londra, also conducting the orchestra on Michael's Emmy-nominated PBS special, *Beyond Celtic*. Peter provides IT expertise for a national non-profit organization and advocates for justice alongside his partner Juliana.

LYDIA STUX's background is primarily in musical theater, although she also enjoys singing folk music, Tin Pan Alley songs and American standards, in addition to show tunes. Her favorite musical roles include Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret*, Grandma Tzeitl in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Mr. Twimble/Wally Womper in *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying* and Dot, a Goose, in *Honk!* This is her sixth Cabaret Connexion, so she is not a newcomer to cabaret anymore, but still a novice. Lydia also plays a major volunteer role managing design and communication tasks for Working In Concert.

WILFRIED TOUATI (Paris) graduated in classical and jazz accordion, and now 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 compositions in a jazz aesthetic. Its first album *Voyage* was released in November 2021 by the label Jazz Family. This led him to create duets with oboist Guillaume Retail and Christelle Raquillet on flute and vocals.

MICHELE WILLIAMS is a Chicago area vocalist for over 20 years. Michele has been in performances and open mics at many venues including De Paul University, Petterino's, Davenport's, Drew's, Serbian Village, Fuller's Pub, The Atlantic Pub, Fritzi's, The Hidden Cove, and the Cabaret Connexion. This year she curated and co-starred in two two-person shows, with Chicago vocalist Meiya Fitzhugh and singer and guitarist Cliff Edwards. Michele has been co-curating Ladies Nite Production shows with singer-pianist Sami Scot Their quarterly shows feature a rotating cast of women exploring a theme through storytelling, prose, poetry and song. Visit Happy Girl Michele on YouTube and website renaissancewomanmichele.com.

MERI ZIEV (South Florida) As a child Meri began singing standards to the 8-tracks in her father's car. She went on to a career as a speech-language pathologist, promoting human connections through speech and language. Ziev glides from pop to country, through the worlds of cabaret, jazz gigs, and

performing with the Pops Orchestra of Palm Beach County. She has performed in NYC (Don't Tell Mama, The Laurie Beachman, Pangea, Birdland), Chicago (Davenport's), St. Louis (Kranzberg Arts Center & Jazz at the Bistro), Sterling Events Center in Austin, TX, and various venues in FL including The Arts Garage in Delray Beach. Meri is the co-founder of the newly organized South Florida Cabaret Singers community.

We are joined also by **Vanessa Champagne, Valerie Chestnut, Helene Dyche, Caitlyn Glennon, Beth Halevy, Alison Issen, Mary Joyce, Staci Kelley, Gaye Klopock, Lauren Lassen, David Stephens, Beverly Tyree.** You'll find updated profiles and photos at cabaretconnexion.org/personnel-2024/

SO MANY THANKS TO...

Juliana Engel and Peter Storms, videographers **Boyle Wong, Anastacio Gonzalez of the Lincoln Park Room; Christine Steyer and Jean-François Carreau** for photography, our "ambassador" **David Reithoffer** for coordinating guest housing, **Ruth Fuerst, Robin Simon, Clara's owner Julia Galgon** for hosting special events. **Lexa Maxa** for Connexion logistics, **Susan Boldrey** for translation and much more. **Anne Burnell** for promotion and invaluable insights,

To ALL our volunteers and **participating artists** who give more than they get, a huge MERCI !

The Working In Concert home office:

Kerri Burkhardt, business manager; **Juliana Engel**, social media & communications; **Kenneth Gourlay**, webmaster; **Claudia Hommel**, executive director; **Cappy Kidd**, Board secretary and fundraiser; **Lauren Lassen**, Claudia's assistant; **Jade Luo Santos**, Diverse Voices in Schools Education Outreach Director; **Katie Rub**, executive assistant; **Barbara Smith**, VP and Connexion co-coordinator; **Lydia Stux**, graphic design

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And THANK YOU to our audience

We invite you to stay connected via our email newsletters, to donate when you can, and to join us as fellow artists.



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Prof. Allen and Caroline Shoenberger, Pam Farley & Andreas Antoniou; Near North Library branch manager Sharon Anderson, Old Town Merchants & Residents Association, Old Town Triangle Association, Special Service Area #48. Your donations and promotional activities have supported the following activities:

October 28: “Cabaret Busking” at the Burton Place Plaza with Angélique & Wilfried

November 4: “Chicago to Paris with Love” for 50 Franklin family tickets

School visits by French teaching artists: November 5 to 7 at Holy Trinity High School, Franklin Fine Arts Center, Marie Curie High School, Ascension Elementary in Oak Park

November 9 at 2 PM: Michèle Barbier recounts her days with Josephine Baker (Near North Library)



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Saturday Soirée

Piaf & Pizazz



November 2 — 6 PM

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From Québec: Steve NORMANDIN

From France: Michèle BARBIER, Angélique DESSAINT,
Mylène LAUNAY, Jean-Claude ORFALI,
Clotilde RULLAUD & accordionist Wilfried TOUATI

From Chicago: Claudia HOMMEL

From San Diego: Angelina RÉAUX

From Las Vegas: Jeanie CARROLL

Wine reception follows
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biographies by Barbier and Normandin

Brought to you by Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion (Oct 28-Nov 4)
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