Cabaret Connexion 2026
Concert Festival in Chicago
cabaretconnexion.org/rsvp2026

Sunday Nov 1 7pm

WOMEN . . . and EXPECTATIONS
Mamzelle Amandine and Julie Morel
at Sonia Oyola's salon

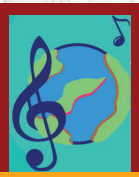


Tuesday Nov 3 7pm

OH LA LA — direct from Paris !
Isabelle Georges
& the Kevin King combo



followed by
INTERNATIONAL SONG FEST
directed and hosted by Lou Ella Rose
at Gateway Lounge–Copernicus Ctr



Wed Nov 4 7:30pm

KABARETT —direct from BERLIN !
Anne Fromm, Thomas Kellner and
Johanna Paliege
at DANK Haus



Thurs Nov 5 7:30pm

PIAF in PERSPECTIVE
Anne-Sophie Guerrier and
Angélique Dessaint
at l'Alliance Française de Chicago



Friday Nov 6 7pm

THE BLACK SONGBOOK
VOLUME I: BRONZEVILLE
directed by Carmen Bell
at Kennedy-King College U-143



Saturday Nov 7 2pm

SEASONS — Showcase Concert
directed by Angelina Réaux
at The CheckOut



Saturday Nov 7 7pm

OLD TOWN CELEBRATES MONTMARTRE
with Chicago and Paris sounds
at Old Town Triangle Association



Sunday Nov 8 2pm

COLOR and LIGHT — Showcase
Concert directed by Michael Sokol
at DePaul School of Music



Post-Connexion Concerts

Monday Nov 9 7pm

HOMAGE to the CABARET LAPIN AGILE
Part I JEAN-CLAUDE ORFALI – Solo Piano
Part 2 A tribute to YVES MATHIEU led by
Anne & Mark BURNELL
at PianoForte Chicago



Wed Nov 11 7pm

BIG BAND! French singers join the
BRASS TRACKS JAZZ ORCHESTRA
at North & Maple Kitchen, Tinley Park



Nov 14 Nov 15 Nov 21 7pm

SUZIE TELEP at the CheckOut
PATRICIA TYSON at Sonia's Salon
LOU ELLA ROSE at Sonia's Salon



FEATURED EVENTS IN CHICAGOLAND:

November 1, 7 pm—**Women and Expectations** - Mamzelle Amandine and Julie Morel bring us a new duo show written in English, for Chicago! with accordionist Wilfried Touati. Join us in the intimate environs of Sonia's Salon in Logan Square to get in touch with two vibrant women of Lyon, France. November 1, 7 pm.

November 2, 6 pm to 9 pm —**Meet & Greet at DANK Haus** - Meet the Artists and Teachers of the 2026 Cabaret Connexion! Light dinner is included.



November 3, 7:00-9:30pm—**Isabelle Georges' Oh Là Là !,** a joyful combination of musical theatre, French songs, classical, jazz and Yiddish music accompanied by Frederik Steenbrink and the Kevin King combo. **International Song Fest** The second set is Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion's International Song Fest, emceed and directed by Lou Ella Rose of SamaSama Project with a dozen singers offering songs in Spanish, Portuguese, German, Italian, Créole, Tagalog, and possibly Polish (to honor our venue host Gateway Lounge of Copernicus Center).



November 4, 7:00-9:00pm—**A Brief History of Berlin Kabarett** - Direct from Europe: Anne Fromm and Thomas Kellner, with special guest star Angelina Réaux. What remains of cabaret today? It lives on. Sometimes steeped in historical nostalgia, other times loud, cheeky, and underground, the scene across Berlin, Munich, and Cologne is constantly being reinvented by international artists and diverse, boundary-pushing art movements. At DANK Haus German-American Cultural Center.



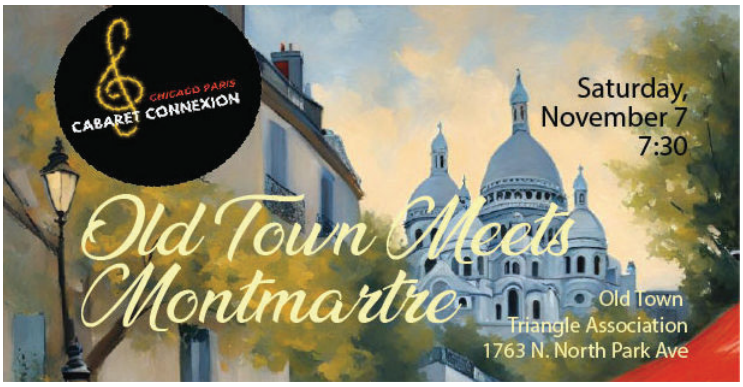
November 5, 7:30-9:30 pm—**Piaf in Perspective**- Anne-Sophie Guerrier and Angélique Dessaint are joined direct from Paris by singer-songwriter-author (and once private secretary to Josephine Baker) Michèle Barbier, singer-songwriters Maryline Rollet and Louise Roy, pianist Jean-Claude Orfali and accordionist Wilfried Touati. From Chicago: Claudia Hommel, Lou Ella Rose, and the Swingin' Sisters. Directed by Jeanie Carroll from Las Vegas. At the Alliance Française de Chicago.



November 6, 7 pm-9 pm—**The Black Songbook Vol. 1:Bronzeville**- invites the audience to step out to Chicago's South Side, experience the ambiance of historic Bronzeville cabaret through its music, nightlife, people, stories, and cultural legacy. Singers Sheran Goodspeed Keyton and Terrence Patrick Davis serve as our guides along with an ensemble of Ava Logan, Kenesha Reed, Suzie Telep, R. Darryl Thomas, Patricia Tyson, and Gene Williams. Conceived and directed by Carmen Bell (managing director of Black Voices in Cabaret) with music director Theodis Rodgers, Jr. At Kennedy King College's Black Box Theater.



November 7, 2 pm-4 pm—**Seasons: A Showcase Concert**- Performers from Paris, Berlin, Chicago and beyond step into the limelight to explore Seasons in all their musical variations, from *Les feuilles mortes* ("Autumn Leaves) to *Summertime*. Participants of the Cabaret Connexion conference are directed by Angelina Réaux and Michael Sokol with Howie Pfeifer and Stefan Kukurugya at the piano. At the CheckOut.



November 7, 7 pm-9 pm—**Old Town Meets Montmartre** Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion helped instigate the twinning of two neighborhoods: Old Town Chicago and Montmartre Paris in 2023. The Commune Libre de Montmartre shakes hands with Old Town through its many civic organizations (Old Town Merchants & Residents Association (OTMRA), the Old Town Triangle Association (OTTA), Near North Library, the Special Services Area). Together we celebrate with music, art and encounters in both cities. Led by Anne & Mark Burnell with a lineup of musical genres and performers from Paris and Chicago to swap songs and stories. At Old Town Triangle Association.



November 8, 2 pm-4 pm—**Color and Light- A Showcase Concert** - Participants of the weeklong Cabaret Connexion master classes and workshops step into the spotlight with musical variations of Color & Light. Directed by Angelina Réaux and Michael Sokol with Howie Pfeifer and Stefan Kukurugya at the piano. At DePaul School of Music Holtschneider Performance Center Brennan Hall.



November 9, 7 pm-9 pm—**Homage to Yves Mathieu's Cabaret Lapin Agile** - The Lapin Agile is the oldest extant cabaret room in Paris, the birthplace of cabaret as a gathering place for musicians and artists. Cabaret Connexion veterans have had the privilege of performing at the Lapin Agile since 2017. We celebrate the family legacy carried on by Yves Mathieu and his sons Frederic and Vincent with more songs and a short video montage by Christine Steyer and Jean-Claude Orfali. At PianoForte Chicago.



November 11, 6:30-9:30pm—**International Shooting Stars** with the Brass Tracks Orchestra. Chicago singers Lou Ella Rose, Anne Burnell, Sonia Oyola, Claudia Hommel, Ava Logan, Jeanne Franks, Robin Watson are joined by Los Angeles-based Suzanna Griffith, French singers Antoine Naik, Jean-Claude Orfali, Suzie Telep, Angélique Dessaint, Lauryle Jacqueminet and Louise Roy for big band classics and surprises! At North & Maple Kitchen in Tinley Park.

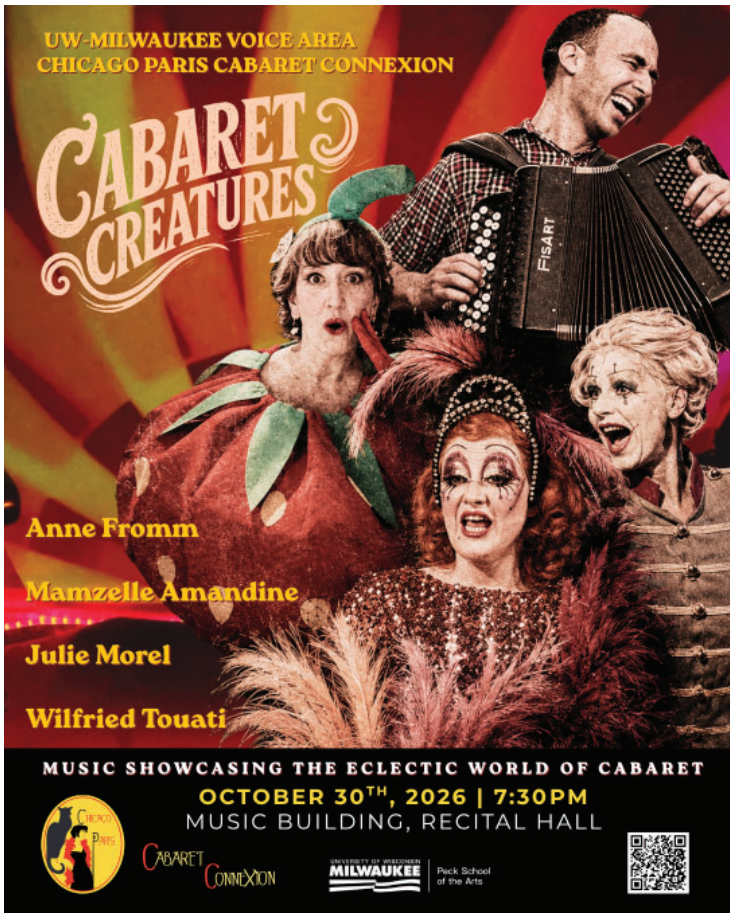
PRE-CONFERENCE SHOWS

featuring this year's Cabaret Connexion artists

OCTOBER 28, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm: More than a dozen singers join the Brass Tracks Jazz Orchestra at North & Maple Kitchen in Tinley Park. Suggested donation $20.

OCTOBER 30, 7:30-9:30 pm. *Cabaret Creatures* at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - Direct from Lyon and Paris, France, Cabaret Connexion artists present a concert showcasing the eclectic world of Cabaret. FREE with a suggested donation of $10-$30.





AND THERE's MORE!

SAINT LOUIS, NOVEMBER 12 at 10 AM, St. Louis Central Public Library. Working In Concert brings Michèle Barbier's "She Had a Dream —Josephine Baker's fight for racial harmony" to support the new Josephine Baker Centre for Arts and Engagement. Joined via videoconference by Luis Bouillon-Baker (one of Josephine's 12 children) and Angélique Delabarre, founder of the Josephine Baker museum at Chateau des Milandes.

OCTOBER 30, 7 pm–9 pm. Halloween Music Showcase with Susan Dennis, Suzanna Griffith, Kathy Hahn and Robin Watson at Borelli's, Chicago

OCTOBER 31, 7 pm–10 pm, Halloween Music Showcase goes to the Espresso Palette in Chicago Ridge

NOVEMBER 8, 6 pm. A Tribute to the Masters of Song with Ken Fobs Quartet at Epiphany Center for the Arts

NOVEMBER 10, 7 pm –9 pm, Mark Burnell leads the open mic for Chicago Cabaret Professionals at Rhapsody Theater Front Bar

NOVEMBER 14, 8 pm. Ladies Nite Production Show: "Shining Moments A Candle Lit Show" at Atlantic Pub 5062 N. Lincoln Avenue in Chicago

NOVEMBER 14, 7:30 pm–9 pm, Suzie Telep presents Paris-Douala-Chicago: An Afropean Musical Journey at the CheckOut

NOVEMBER 15, 4 pm–6 pm, Patricia Tyson, Her Story, Her Songs at Sonia's salon

NOVEMBER 21, 7 pm–9 pm, Lou Ella Rose and SamaSama Project at Sonia's salon

NOVEMBER 21, 7:30 pm, Anna Caldwell's The View from Here at the CheckOut

DECEMBER 7 and 8, Merry Measures—Chicago Cabaret Professionals annual benefit concerts

(For details, see the playbill ads and workinginconcert.org/calendar)

ROUND TABLES

ESSENTIAL CONVERSATIONS for the CABARET CONNEXION —

Advancing together the art of cabaret

Cabaret… a way to share stories through song, to a sense of community between the audience and the performers. Let's raise the profile of cabaret and attract new audiences, from Paris to Chicago and beyond. Join the global conversation about cabaret and its future.

Discussion leaders invite you to bring questions, ideas, and new information to round out the discussion!

MONDAY, November 2: Cabaret History: From Paris to Chicago to Berlin — Thomas Kellner, Claudia Hommel, Jean-Claude Orfali

TUESDAY, November 3: Business of Cabaret — Katrina Miller, Anne Sophie Guerrier

WEDNESDAY, November 4: Vocal Health — Dr. Susan Arjmand, Michael Sokol

THURSDAY, November 5: Building Your Press Kit — Anne & Mark Burnell

FRIDAY, November 6: How Cabaret Can Change the World & Politics — Anne Fromm, Thomas Kellner, Carla Gordon

Meet & greet …

Monday, November 2 from 6 pm to 9 pm — in the DANK Haus Brauhaus — for libations and camaraderie

Open buffet of pizza, pastas and salads ($25) and cash bar

Reserve your place for all events at
cabaretconnexion.org/rsvp2026



We thank our VENUES

ALLIANCE FRANCAISE de CHICAGO

The CHECKOUT (and Access Contemporary Music)

DANK Haus German American Cultural Center

DePAUL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL of MUSIC
Community Music Division
The GATEWAY LOUNGE at Copernicus Center

KENNEDY-KING COLLEGE
Center of Equity for Creative Arts (CECA)

NORTH & MAPLE KITCHEN
Tinley Park

OLD TOWN TRIANGLE ASSOCIATION

PIANOFORTE CHICAGO

Private homes of SONIA OYOLA
and BRETT & CAREY AUGUST

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN — Milwaukee
School of Music Voice Area

Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion is an initiative of

Working In Concert

Bellissima Opera & Song
Black Voices in Cabaret
Cabaret Connections
Diverse Voices in Schools
workinginconcert.org

PARTICIPANTS of the 8th CABARET CONNEXION

MAMZELLE AMANDINE (Lyon). Musician, singer and actress, Amandine is drawn to larger-than-life characters, offbeat worlds and women who refuse to fit into a box. Cabaret has become her natural playground, where she embodies a creature as infuriating as she is irresistible: arrogant, condescending, unapologetically bad-faith, and always ready to shake up the audience.

SUSAN ARJMAND (Chicago) is a family medicine physician. She has lectured extensively on the topic of primary care and vocal health for singers. 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. Susan organizes the monthly salon series Opera Inter Alia.

MICHÈLE BARBIER (Paris). Singer-songwriter and playwright has published numerous books, produced several theatre pieces, and released four albums of her own songs. She also directed a circus company for about twenty years and served as Joséphine Baker's last personal secretary. She is currently working on her first feature film.

CARMEN BELL (Battle Creek) is a soprano, composer, producer, educator, and arts administrator. She is the founder and executive director of Authentic Opera Co., dedicated to expanding access to opera through innovative, community-centered productions and new works. Her original works include the youth musicals Princess Lily and The Battle, as well as the Juneteenth opera Tangled Roots: An Opera in One Act. She serves as Program Manager for Academic Support Programs at Western Michigan University; serves on the boards of the Black Arts & Cultural Center and the Southwestern Michigan Urban League and recently joined Working In Concert as Managing DIrector of Black Voices in Cabaret.

YULIA BLOCK (Chicago) is a versatile percussionist, drummer, and educator active in Chicago's orchestral, theater, jazz, and contemporary music scenes. Her performance credits include Chicago Symphony Center, the Ear Taxi Festival, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and numerous Chicago theater productions. She has performed in orchestras accompanying Sigur Rós and Victor Wooten, toured Europe with Krzysztof Penderecki, and recorded with the Moscow Radio Symphony. She is a member of the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra and a percussion faculty member at DePaul University's Community Music Division.

CAROLYN BROQUET (Chicago) spent many years working in television production. She started singing as a hobby in 2000 at Old Town School of Folk Music of Chicago. There she took classes, sang in shows and piano bars and was in two bands. Currently she sings with the trio The Swingin' Sisters. She recently joined the Chicago Cabaret Professionals, which opened a whole new world of singing.

ANNE BURNELL (Chicago) is a singer-songwriter with music streaming on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon, and YouTube. She has performed at the Sarasota Jazz Festival, Jazz at the Logan, and Taste of Chicago. Awards: Billboard Magazine Certificate of Achievement, and the Chicago Cabaret Professionals Gold Coast Award, with her husband Mark Burnell. She is a coordinator of the annual Chicago Cabaret Week. BurnellMusic.com

MARK BURNELL (Chicago) taught at Carnegie Mellon University for 10 years. He has worked with Dave Frishberg, Howie Mandel, Connie Francis, Louie Bellson, Rob Marshall and Seth Meyers, and has performed in Bern, Zurich, Geneva, Panama, Amsterdam, and Paris. In Chicago, Mark plays weekly at Tortoise Supper Club. He and Anne released their fifth album, T*his Could Be the Start of Something Big*. BurnellMusic.com

JEANIE CARROLL (Las Vegas) is a vocalist, guitarist, cabaret enthusiast, DJ, and elementary school music teacher. She has performed world-wide including Saint Petersburg, Russia to Melbourne, Australia, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Sedona, Arizona to Chicago. She lived and sang in Paris for several years.

T. PATRICK DAVIS (Chicago) is known to masterfully belt and croon blues, soul, pop, jazz, and rock. He has performed in Chicago Cabaret Professional's *Musical Mondays*, *Merry Measure*s, in Working In Concert's SongShop Live and Black Voices in Cabaret concerts, also 3 Minutes in the Spotlight, Opportunity Knocks, Harris House of Music, and OTSM Blues Band Live Ensembles. His *Drew & Patrick Sing All-Time Favorites* sold out at Davenport's in 2022 and Epiphany Center of the Arts in 2023. He performs every season with his blues & soul band l'ensemble at Rosa's Lounge.

SUSAN DENNIS (Chicago) sings Musical Theatre, Jazz and Classical songs & arias professionally. She has sung solos with numerous professional orchestras, as well as Broadway shows and Operas. Susan holds a Master's degree in Vocal Performance from Northwestern University. She taught at Elmhurst University and Harper College for 30 plus years. She is a Vocal Power Instructor and serves on the board of Working In Concert.

DONN DeSANTO (Chicago). Bassist with over 40 years experience, Donn teaches bass at Chicago State Univ. and his own studio, performs widely in the Midwest, having accompanied the Calloway sisters and regularly joining the Brass Tracks Jazz Orchestra, Jazz on Planet Flippo and Event Horizon Jazz Quartet. He has a degree in jazz studies from DePaul, and studied with Stephen Lester and Warren Benfield (CSO), Jazz Allstars Larry Gray, Ray Brown, Niels Henning Orsted Pedersen and Rufus Reid.

ANGÉLIQUE DESSAINT (France). Her passion began with dance, evolved into singing, spread to the theater (classical repertory to one-woman shows), broke into musicals, tested herself on the street, exposed herself 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. "Passion drives my boat and the encounters that make it glide along."

HELENE DYCHE (Chicago) made her professional solo theatrical debut at the Chicago Theater at the tender age of 4 and has been singing, dancing and acting for much of her long life since. She has sung leading operatic roles here, in Europe and in Israel, was an 18-year company member of Perceptual Motion modern dance company, has written over 130 songs (lyrics and music copyrighted by the Library of Congress), appeared in solo cabaret shows, legit theatre and film (see YouTube). Improv is her new love. She sang solo at Pritzker Pavilion recently to an audience of thousands!

DAVID EDELFELT (Chicago) is one of Chicago's busiest and most versatile musicians. As a much sought-after master voice teacher and vocal coach, his private voice studio on the north side of the city is comprised of some of Chicago's most successful musical theater, cabaret and classical singers, appearing on stages across the world, As a singer, the *Chicago Tribune* declares David "a consummate song interpreter [who] probably sounds great singing the weather forecast" - "one of Chicago's best", entertaining audiences in the Midwest to NYC, San Francisco and Paris. Two acclaimed CDs: *Love is Born at Christmas* and the inspiring *better*.See davidedelfelt.com.

HILARY FELDMAN (Chicago). Called a "tour de force of cabaret, opera, and jazz" by the Chicago Tribune, and named one of the Top 5 Female Musicians in Chicago

by CBS2, Hilary's reputation for clever storytelling through song, unique subject matter, and an exquisite, versatile singing voice has taken her across the US and to the UK. For over 35 years, Hilary has been a sought-after voice and performance coach for singers of contemporary styles, teaching private students and leading masterclasses and workshops. She recently launched Vocal PLAYground, a science-backed online program that accelerates vocal progress. See www.HilaryAnnFeldman.com and HAFVoiceWorks.com

SHERI FLANDERS (Chicago). A company member of the Playground Chicago Theater Company, Sheri is an athletic and bubbly actor, writer, comedian and vocalist based in Chicago, IL. She is a graduate of the Artistic Home's Meisner Technique training program, Second City Conservatory, and iO Improv An alumnae of the Infinite Sundaes, Second City's Musical House Ensemble. She has performed stand-up in the Black Women in Comedy Laff Fest in NYC, and Engaging Women's Conference at St. Mary's College. Sheri has taught improv and musical improv at Second City and in the UK at the Robin Hood Improv Festival, appearing in the WTTW documentary *Inventing Improv*.

KEN FOBS (Chicago) winner of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals 2024 Emerging Artist Showcase, Kenneth's performance credits cover acting, singing, musical theatre, commercials, film and print in Chicago and New York including: the ETA Theatre, Theatre on the Lake, the Kathryn Dunham Theatre, the Nuyorican Poets Café, the Billie Holiday Theatre, and the legendary Don't Tell Mama's. He is blessed to continue his passion in Black Voices in Cabaret productions and his own solo performances including November 8 solo show at Epiphany Center for the Arts.

JEANNE FRANKS (Chicago) has been a host of "DCB Jazz" (WDCB-90.9 FM radio) for more than a decade. As a kid she listened to her father's jazz combo rehearse the popular tunes of the day. After one of those rehearsals, the 5-year old informed her dad that she wanted to play the piano. He took her seriously, bought her a piano and she's been playing music ever since. She played the flute in her school bands and studied classical and jazz piano. She currently performs as a jazz vocalist for corporate and private functions.

ANNE FROMM (Lyon) is a Franco-German singer and actress, having performed in musical productions in both countries. She also explores polyphony, world singing, sacred singing and body practices such as shiatsu. She teaches vocal technique, interpretation and the therapeutic aspect of singing, including at the Villeurbanne Conservatory.

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 has appeared for Rotary International Cabarets and SongShop at the Jazz Showcase, Cyrano's, etc. Music directed by Bob Moreen, her first solo show was Wake Up and Dream, followed by The Carousel of Time, a 50th anniversary love song. She brought You Gotta Be Kidding, an unabashedly progressively partisan show, to Davenport's in 2017. Her *Quirky* show was featured Chicago Cabaret Week 2026.

ISABELLE GEORGES (Paris). Singer, author, songwriter, actress, tap-dancer and recording artist, Isabelle has created at the crossroads of musical comedy, French chanson and the classical, jazz and Yiddish repertoires, from the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the Philharmonie in Paris, the Musikverein in Vienna, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, to New York's 54 Below and Chicago.

LISA GOLDBERG (Chicago) began performing in her hometown of Houston, and has performed in Saint Louis, Austin, and Chicago. She received degrees in Comparative Arts and French from Washington University, and studied at l'Université de Caen. She serves as a cantorial soloist and performs in musical theater.

DEBORAH GOOD (Chicago) is a linguist and world language teacher. Deborah enjoys singing and traveling around the world. A regular soloist at the Bahá'í House of Worship in Wilmette, Illinois, she also performs in ensembles throughout Chicagoland. A lover of the cabaret style, this season marks her eighth year with the Cabaret Connexion.

SHERAN GOODSPEED KEYTON (Fort Worth) has toured nationally and internationally as singer and actor, awarded best actress for her portrayal of *Bessie Smith: Empress of the Blues* at Jubilee Theatre and Best Actress Award by the Fort Worth Black Chamber of Commerce Film Festival. In 2008, Sheran formed the nonprofit theater company, DVA Productions, Inc., to produce educational outreach and mainstage shows and in 2010 formed Sheer Heaven Entertainment to focus on film and television production. She is Director of Civic Engagement at Lyric Opera of Chicago. She made her Black Voices In Cabaret debut in March 2025.

CARLA GORDON (Chicago) singer, songwriter, producer, and director holds Chicago Cabaret Professionals' Gold Coast Award, with her songs performed nationwide. She has appeared at major U.S. venues, earned acclaim for Blacklisted, and represented Chicago at the national Cabaret Scene's 25th Anniversary celebration.

SUZANNA GRIFFITH (Los Angeles). Known as the "Southern Belle-ter", Suzanna's performances span jazz, blues, Broadway, and contemporary music. A North Carolina native based in Los Angeles, Suzanna has performed cabaret in France and graced stages from Hollywood's legendary Whisky a Go Go and Roxy Theatre to the Catalina Jazz Club. She appeared as a featured vocalist with Chicago's Brass Tracks Jazz Orchestra.She studied at North Carolina School of the Arts and trained with Broadway legend Betty Buckley. She is a certified Vocal Power instructor (taught by Elisabeth Howard) and a member of National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), SAG-AFTRA, and ASCAP.

ANNE-SOPHIE GUERRIER (Paris) began singing in the Paris metro in 2019, then established herself in Montmartre in 2021 as a street performer by creating "Montmartre en chansons," a singing tour that blends heritage and French repertoire. After going viral in 2022 with a video viewed 3.8 million times, she represented Île-de-France in the Grand Concours des Régions (France 3), performed with an orchestra in a European tour tribute to Édith Piaf, and has since been developing new formats of musical tours, from the Marne to Saint-Germain-des-Prés.

KATHRYN HAHN (Chicago) is a flutist and vocalist with a music degree from Western Michigan University. She has performed with World Enough & Time, Michael Thorne Group, the South Suburban College Jazz Band, duets with Rick Conners, and as music minister. She is administrative assistant for Family Craft Builders and for Cabaret Connexion.

BETH HALEVY studied voice and acting in New York; performed in regional theatres in Alabama, Chicago, and New York, including leading roles in *The Boyfriend, Company, Oklahoma, Once upon a Mattress,* and *There's a Girl in My Soup*. Beth took a break from theatre to pursue a career in law, and now returns to her first love, performing.

DAVID HOFFMAN (Chicago) is a teacher in Chicago and Milwaukee, and a lifelong learner discovering innovative ways to unleash the creative power in performers. He

teaches at Carthage College and University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and is a Master Trainer of the Estill Voice Model. He performs with the cabaret group Opera Inter Alia.

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." Her recordings and concerts reflect her Paris-centric repertoire. cabaret-paree.com. She was awarded the Médaille d'or for francophone cultural values by La Renaissance USA in 2024.

ELISABETH HOWARD (Chicago). Ms Senior America 2012, Juilliard grad, internationally renowned "Vocal Power" teacher: Sting, Lionel Richie, Priscilla Presley, Paige O'Hara. Equity actress, singer, dancer, performed in NYC, LA, summer stock, cabaret. Songwriting contract with MCA. Her musical Crazy Love premiered as Sextet in 2025 Chicago Writers' Bloc Festival of New Plays.

ALISON ISSEN (Chicago) is a transplant 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. Here in Chicago, she has performed at the Oil Lamp Theatre, enjoys open mics regularly, and has performed with Chicago Cabaret Professionals, Working in Concert and SongShop Live. Other passions include extreme gardening, silk painting, pottery and civil rights activism.

LAURYLE JACQUEMINET (Paris) is a singer and backup vocalist who gradually transitioned to becoming a pianist over the course of her career. She is influenced by jazz, soul, and blues, as well as contemporary music. She has gained solid stage experience and a deep understanding of the repertoire through various ensembles—duos, trios, and quintets—performing in small Parisian jazz clubs and at events. She teaches piano and singing in private lessons.

MARY NOEL JOYCE (Chicago) After her first starring role on the high school stage, and singing at weddings and piano bars, her work for the US Congress on Capitol Hill led to performing with the political satire group The Capitol Steps. During her "15 minutes of fame," she performed on radio and TV and for many dignitaries and politicians including President George HW Bush. Since returning to Chicago, she studied at Old Town School of Folk Music and joined the first Cabaret Connexion in 2017.

STACI KELLEY (Schaumburg) is an accomplished actress, singer, and director based in the Chicago area. She has both performed in and directed a variety of productions within the local arts community. Staci created and starred in a two-person cabaret show *A Walk-Through Love* at Davenport's Cabaret in 2006.She was recently seen in the play *Prodigal Son* at the Athenaeum Theatre, CCP's December 2025 *Merry Measure*s, and several SongShop Live productions.

THOMAS KELLNER (Berlin) is a German actor and cabaret artist whose work spans major theaters across Europe and innovative New Music creations with director Aleksi Barrière. Since 2023, he has performed as drag queen Rosetta Stone, directing the Rosa Bonheur Cabaret in Berlin and appearing on stages such as GRIPS Theater and Théâtre L'Anomalie in Paris.

KEVIN KING (Chicago) is a woodwindist and composer from the south side of Chicago. King honed his skills on the Chicago music scene under the tutelage of Chicago legends Willie Pickens, Orbert Davis, and Diane Ellis. He has played across the US with Arturo Sandoval, Lauryn Hill, The Fugees, The Temptations, Marquis Hill, Art Ensemble of Chicago, Buddy Guy, etc. King is influenced by every sound known and unknown to man. His original compositions are in many ways a symbol of the values King lives by. An urgency to improve the world we live in with the art of sound creation, experimentation, and exploration—a reflection of the world itself.

GAYE KLOPACK (Chicago) is a singer and voice teacher. As a Classical and Jazz singer, she has performed in Cabaret and at Symphony Center. She is a member of Chicago Cabaret Professionals and the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

STEFAN KUKURUGYA (Detroit). Versatile pianist and vocalist of Jazz, Pop, blues, R&B to Motown, not to mention Funk, ethnic music from Ladino to Albanian, Yiddish and gospel, straight improvisation, New Age, songwriting, TV jingles and music for *Sesame Street* and The Learning Channel. "Let's build international goodwill through music."

TIRZAH JOY (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 many songs, releasing her first recording Anyway in 2021. She arranges and sings with the Swingin' Sisters trio.

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

LEALIZA LEE (Detroit) is a folk-fusion artist who creates original songs inspired by traditional songs in many languages, exploring the world from country to flamenco. She has performed at intimate house concerts and Carnegie Hall. She recorded her debut album *Thorns and Petals* at Abbey Road Studios and releases singles regularly. Lealiza.com

JONATHAN LEWIS (Chicago) is a jack-of-all-trades both onstage and offstage, spending half of his life as actor. Singer, dancer, director, choreographer, musician in musical theater and half of his life as a writer. He has been singing in cabaret for decades. A longtime theatre critic for Windy City News, he is author of two books, most recently his novel Celestial Navigation.

DR. AVA LOGAN (Chicago), award-winning singer-actor from Washington, D.C. is a veterinarian by day. A classically trained recording artist, Ava has performed jazz, pop, and rhythm and blues nationally and internationally, receiving a standing ovation at the 2025 Chicago Jazz Festival. She is a recent recipient of the Black Arts and Cultural Alliance's Excellence award for Outstanding Achievement in Music—Jazz. She portrayed her idols Ella Fitzgerald and Nancy Wilson on Chicago's Black Ensemble Theater stage. Her debut CD *So Many Stars* was met with critical acclaim. www.avalogan.com.

CRISTINA MARINESCU (Chicago). Born in Bucharest and now at home in Chicago, Cristina has been part of the city's cabaret community for more than a decade, exploring different ways of storytelling through music and drawing inspiration from Parisian cabaret, Chicago-style jazz, and interwar Bucharest vaudeville. A Computer Science educator by day but equally passionate about singing, she moves with ease between algorithms and melodies and returns for her fourth Cabaret Connexion.

BECKIE MENZIE (Chicago) has appeared at the legendary Carnegie Hall, Jazz At Lincoln Center and Birdland in

New York City, Chicago's Auditorium Theatre and Ravinia Festival, as well as concert halls, art series and with symphonies across the country and internationally. Hailed by Chicago's WGN Radio as "indispensable to Chicago cabaret," Beckie serves as a musical director for Michael Feinstein's Songbook Academy and performs regularly with Tom Michael, as well as the trio, Girls Like Us

KAT VICTORIA MILLER (Chicago) An award-winning actress and eighteen-year Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center veteran, she has also performed at nightclub and cabaret venues including The Apollo Theater in New York, Park West, Davenport's Cabaret, and Piano Forte in Chicago, Skokie Theater, and with Carnival Cruises. She performed in Paris during the CPCx Conference in 2017. Her song repertoire and tributes feature Gladys Knight, Pearl Bailey, Lena Horne, Dinah Washington, Roberta Flack, Etta James, Mary Wells and other Motown greats. Her recording Kat Victoria Hollywood Shine on Me is available on iTunes.

JULIE MOREL (Lyon) has been an actress since age 18 and becoming a musical theater artist soon after. Fascinated by 1940s Hollywood cinema and musicals,she got her start with the Théâtre du Grabuge before she found her theater "family" with Camille Germser's company Her personal play Rouge premieres this year. Passionate about the world of burlesque and striptease, she performs as MC Babette Des Vices.

PATRICIA MOSLEY has performed throughout Chicago and abroad. She has sung with professional choirs, Choral Thunder and The Lakeside Singers, joining The Standing Room Only Orchestra and touring internationally as soloist with jazz pianist Bradley Williams & the 21st Century Review.

ANTOINE NAÏK (Paris). While training as a philosophy teacher and researcher at the Sorbonne, he also studied piano and opera lessons, the latter at the Conservatory of Pantin near Paris. His love of song began at a young age, learning old French songs from his grandfather at family gatherings. After completing his PhD in 2022, he moved to Portugal to immerse himself in the study of Fado (a unique Portuguese style of song). There he gave piano concerts at the French Institute of Lisbon. He returned to Paris in 2026 to bring home authentic Fado.

JEAN-CLAUDE ORFALI (Paris) pianist, composer and music director. He plays at venues such as Le George V, Plaza-Athénée, le Bristol, and regularly at Cabaret Lapin Agile. He performs as a solo pianist, as part of small jazz groups and has also led for many years the Parisian Big Band "BB15". He composes for singers and for films. He volunteers for the Paris-based Association Cabaret Connexion. jean-claudeorfali.com

SONIA OYOLA (Chicago) is an Afro-Colombian vocalist and family physician, bridges cultures through music in multiple languages. Her repertoire spans jazz, boleros, and contemporary genres. Performing with Libélulas, Soul Latina, and cabaret groups, she hosts acclaimed house concerts, combining music, mindfulness, and medicine to inspire, heal, and build community.

HOWIE PFEIFER (Chicago). From *Hamilton* to the *Chipmunks*, Budweiser to Karen Carpenter, Howie has worked extensively as pianist, composer, arranger, vocalist and musical director in the fields of musical theater, television series, commercials, feature films, and cabaret in Chicago and LA. He serves as SongShop Live's principal pianist. howard@pfeifermusic.com. Pfeifermusic.com.

ANGELINA RÉAUX (San Diego) Hailed as 'America's most dramatic singer—the voice of innocence and the voice of experience, often in the course of a single song' *The Boston Globe*. Nominated for a Grammy as Mimi in *La Bohême* conducted by Leonard Bernstein, she performed with the Maestro in Vienna, Rome, NYC. Her one-woman Kurt Weill show *Stranger Here Myself* was produced by Joseph Papp (Public Theater). She made her NY Philharmonic debut with Weill's *Die Sieben Todsunden.* Her work is featured in major recordings for Deutsche Grammophon, Decca, Teldec, Koch Classics and Newport. Cabaret has taken her to NYC's The Ballroom, the Algonquin and Café Sabarski, San Francisco's Plush Room and Chicago's Royal George. As director, designer and performer, Ms. Réaux created *There Is a Garden—The musical genius of Leonard Bernstein* for Chicago Opera Theater.

CARL RATNER, Professor Emeritus of Voice and Opera at Western Michigan University, baritone, director, and voice teacher, has been artistic director for Chicago Opera Theater and Chamber Opera Chicago. A noted recitalist, he has sung in 15 languages across the US and Europe. Associate Artistic Director and President of Working In Concert.

KENESHA KRISTINE REED (Chicago) is a multi-hyphenate performing artist. Born in Chicago and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, Kenesha is proud to come from such culturally rich cities. She has been seen on NBC's *Chicago Med*, AMC's *61st Street*, Pearl Milling Company national commercial, and many theater stages in both cities.She is an alumna of Spelman College (B.A in Drama with a concentration in Dance) and The Boston Conservatory at Berklee (M.F.A in Musical Theater Performance). A member of SAG-AFTRA, she is represented by DDO Artists Agency- Chicago. This is her first season with the Black Voices in Cabaret.

THEODIS RODGERS, JR. (Chicago) Music director, jazz pianist and multi-keyboardist has worked in theater, television and motion pictures as performer, composer, arranger, producer and music conductor nationally and internationally. He has been music director for Curtis Mayfield, Patti LaBelle, Angela Bofill, Jennifer Holiday, Sarah Vaughn, Ramsey Lewis, Freddie Hubbard. Theodis is a former member of the funk/rock band Love Craft. He co-wrote music for A Family Thing featuring Robert DuVal and James Earl Jones. His jazz trio has been featured at Chicago Jazz Festival, Jazz Showcase and WInters Jazz Club. His recording Hot Jazz can be found on all streaming platforms.

MARYLINE ROLLET (Paris) regularly performs at cafes, restaurants, jazz clubs, theaters and in the Paris metro. Her repertoire has the energy of jazz and the sensuality of bossa nova—in French, English and Brazilian Portuguese. She joined the first Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion in 2017 and volunteers as graphic designer. www.marylinerollet.com

LOU ELLA ROSE (Chicago) is the lead singer and founder of Filipino folk-fusion band, SamaSama Project. A musical theater actor for Repertory Philippines and Tanghalang Pilipino in Manila and Theaterworks in Singapore and acted in Philippine Television soap operas, the Knowledge Channel, and ABS-CBN's Wansapantaym. Lou Ella is passionate about sharing the Great Filipino Songbook.

LOUISE ROY (Paris) has been a piano-singing street performer since the age of 16. Louise later became an engineer. She then reoriented herself to be a musical actress and concert performer for private and public events. She sings and composes in both French and English. She wants to make her mark in the world of pop and soul music.

VERONICA SAMIEC (Philadelphia) Veronica is the executive assistant for Working In Concert. She is a classically trained opera singer who has sung in many venues across the United States and Germany. This year, she has advanced in the

Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition and is singing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chorus.

SHELLEY SCHNEIDER (Nashville) A Baylor Texas graduate of vocal performance, her career includes Shakespeare plays, musicals, operas and cabaret. She studied at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York, has performed with Houston Grand Opera's educational outreach program and teaches voice at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee. www.themusicalvoice.com

JEFFERY LYLE SEGAL (Chicago) began performing at age 13 as a musical theater actor/singer. He started writing and performing his original material in cabarets after college. His makeup skills led him to become a movie makeup artist as well. He now combines all his talents in his tribute to Tony Bennett. www.lovetonyb.com

ROBIN SIMON (Chicago) began cabaret singing in 2024, after being a choral singer for 50+ years. She's been in the chorus for the Chicago production of Too Hot to Handel (the jazz gospel version of The Messiah) since 2008. Robin was also in the Undertones, an a cappella group in the early 2000s.

BARBARA SMITH (Chicago) started her career as a folk singer, playing guitar and singing at hootenannies. Her repertoire includes jazz, blues, folk music and cabaret. Winner of the 2018 Skokie Idol Contest, she is one-third of the popular Swingin' Sisters. She serves as Vice President of Working In Concert, principally for the Connexion.

MICHAEL SOKOL (San Diego) baritone has had success in opera and music theater from the Met to the Philadelphia Orchestra. He is active in new theater works, and expert in the comic masterpieces of Gilbert and Sullivan and Offenbach. He is a frequent collaborator for his wife

FREDERIK STEENBRINK (Paris) Singer, pianist & producer born in the Netherlands. A crooner's voice, a lifelong love of theater and music, an inspired nature for conceiving and writing shows, a constant appetite for discovery and encounters, with live performance between Paris and New York at the crossroads of songwriting, musical theater and musical comedy. With singer Isabelle Georges he created their company Encore Music, including symphonic programs Broa*dway symphonique, C'est si bon,* and *Que du bonheur*.

CHRISTINE STEYER, soprano, recipient of the 2018 American Prize Oratorio Award and 2011 Johnny Mercer Award, acclaimed for her portrayals of Violetta in *La Traviata* and Madama Butterfly, acclaimed recitalist and voice teacher at Concordia University. Founder and director of Working In Concert's Bellissima Opera & Song.

SUE SUSMAN (Chicago), a veteran of Claudia Hommel's SongShop Live, Sue has studied voice with David Edelfelt and Jackie Allen among others and performed in many group shows. She is a published poet.

DAVID SWANLUND (Chicago) has been rekindling his love for music by singing at various Chicago open mics, learning great music and making a new circle of friends. He is particularly drawn to jazz and how it can communicate heartfelt emotions. He is an architect in real estate and property management.

TERRY TAYLOR (Chicago) grew up on folk music, musicals, and classical music. She has participated in a number of choirs and ensembles over the years and performed various roles in an annual musical parody show (*Purim Shpiel*). Terry plays the flute and is relearning ukulele and guitar. She has eclectic taste in music but is new to cabaret and looking forward to building skills in that genre. When not making music, Terry's main hobby is genealogy.

SUZIE TELEP (Chicago) is a French-Cameroonian vocalist and songwriter whose music weaves jazz, soul, and gospel with African and Caribbean rhythms. She first enchanted Parisian jazz audiences at iconic clubs like 38 Riv' and Péniche Marcounet. By day, she is professor of Anthropology at University of Illinois, sharing her cross cultural music and storytelling with new audiences.

R. DARRYL THOMAS (Chicago) is a "renaissance man," an ecumenical pastor and music director, and tech founder. He has worked with notable musicians including George Duke, Ramsey Lewis, Oscar Brown Jr., Ralph Carmichael, Richard Smallwood, the Chicago Sinfonietta. He co-founded MWSEQ, a platform for fans to help fund their favorite musicians. mwseq.com

WILFRIED TOUATI (Paris) studied classical and jazz accordion, and participated in 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, releasing his album *Voyage* in 2021 by the Jazz Family label. He also started *Les Enfants de la Bal*, a project focused on French song covers.

BEVERLY TYREE (Chicago) retired as a federal contract manager to turn to her lifelong affinity for visual and performing arts, especially dance, flute, voice and photography. From community-based venues and church choir, she now devotes more time to music and studies at the Old Town School of Music.

PATRICIA TYSON (Chicago) is a composer, choral director, vocalist and classical concert pianist. A registered hospice nurse, she avows "Music is healing for the body, soul and spirit." Music minister and ordained minister, she is also an active member of the Jewish progressive Mishkan Synagogue in Chicago. youtube.com/@patriciatysonmusic

ROBIN WATSON (Chicago) Jazzlady Robin has performed at many of Chicago's hotspots. As a vocal performance major at Spelman College, she merited solos at President Carter's inauguration, the UN, and Brazil. She was featured in several musicals, the Kilkenny Gospel Fest and heads the Robin Watson Combo.

DARCELLE WILLIAMS (Chicago). Her many roles have included high school teacher, administrator, theater director, producer, playwright, actress, poet and singer. She is very proud of her two IHSA State Championships for the Group Interpretation activity that she co-directed. Darcelle has performed in the plays *Ragtime* and *Hairspray* with the Drama Group in Chicago Heights and many others, as well as directed the musical *Sister Act* and a reading performance of *Death of the King's Horsema*n. She can be seen in episodes of the popular TV series *The Chi* and *Blackboard Jungle*. After the pandemic Darcelle rediscovered her love of music, singing in several shows of Black Voices in Cabaret and Sunday Serenade productions and hosting shows with her husband, Eugene, singing songs of love.

EUGENE WILLIAMS (Chicago) "Gene" was the Mayor of Lynwood for 16 years, past president of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) and served on several municipal committees and councils. In his retirement he has honed his natural talent for voice and music to sing songs of love with his wife Darcelle, creating their own show and joining many others, playing the piano and "learning new stuff". Eugene made his Black Voices In Cabaret debut in September 2024.

Facilitating performing artists up close and personal

- ***Bellissima Opera & Song***
- ***Black Voices in Cabaret***
- ***Cabaret Connections***
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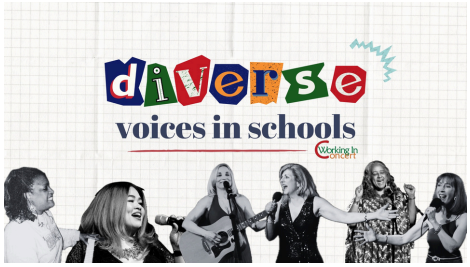
BELLISSIMA OPERA & SONG, led by Christine Steyer and Carl Ratner, creates intimate concert events and operas. Video features from our award-winning *Tales of Transcendence* opera series and the annual International Women's Day concert celebrating women in the arts are also available. **BellissimaOpera.com**

BLACK VOICES IN CABARET Our national award-winning initiative provides a Black lens into the world of entertainment by raising the recognition afforded to artists of color. Cabaret brings the public face to face with artists who perform Jazz, Rhythm and Blues, Soul, Gospel, Theater, Classical song, and more. The *Chicago Sun-Times* says the crowd remains "rapt from start to finish." **BlackVoicesInCabaret.org**

CHICAGO CABARET WEEK We join Chicago Cabaret Professionals and a network of venues to coordinate Chicago Cabaret Week each year. Supported by the tourism bureau Choose Chicago, the citywide cabaret festival takes place in May to feature over a dozen venues and acts from American Songbook, jazz, blues, burlesque, and international flavors. **ChicagoCabaretWeek.org**

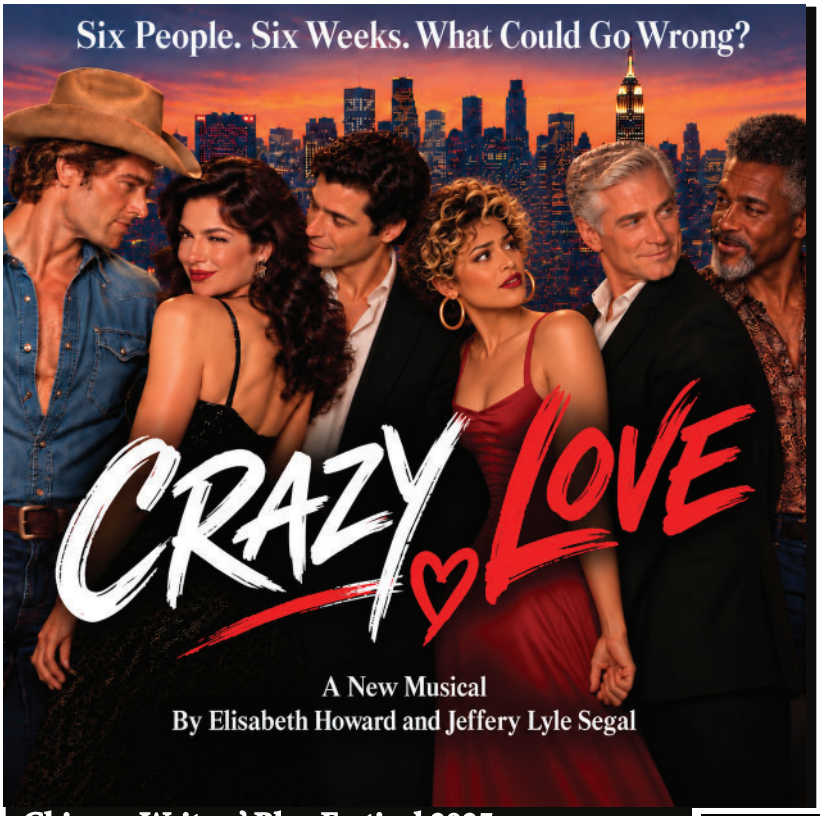
CHICAGO PARIS CABARET CONNEXION Advancing together the intimate art of cabaret, this international exchange brings together cabaret performers from around the world. The conferences have been held in Paris, Lyon, Dordogne, and Chicago, giving singers a chance to exchange knowledge and create a more connected community of cabaret performers. Cabaret fans are invited to join us for evening concerts while artists meet for masterclasses, workshops, and roundtables during the day. **CabaretConnexion.org**

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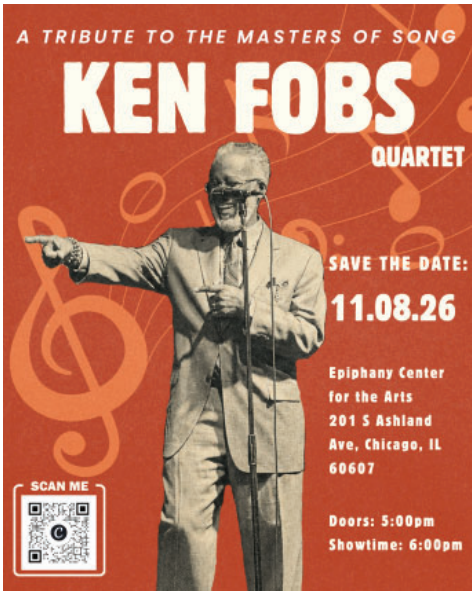
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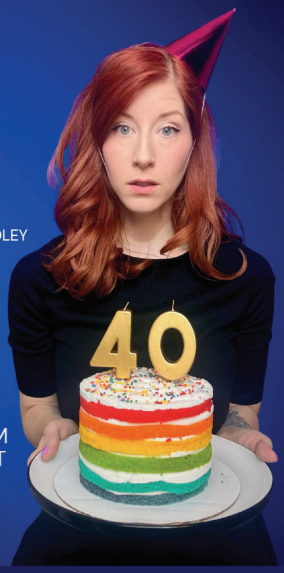
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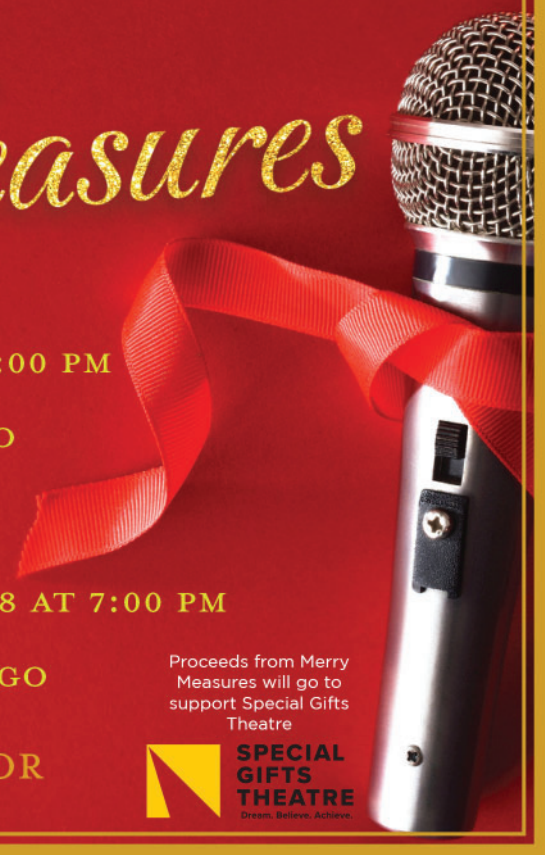


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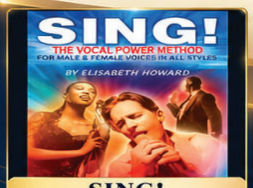
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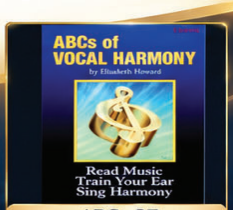
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