

40th
MAC
 
AWARDS

MONDAY MARCH 23, 2026
at 7 pm

CONGRATULATIONS

Karen Akers

and

Lillias White

on receiving the

2026 Lifetime Achievement Award

Anya Turner

& Robert Grusecki

on receiving the

2026 Hanson Award

Vicki Burns

and Joe Alterman

on receiving the

2026 NiteLife Exchange

Barry Levitt Jazz Award

**The Season:
Goldie's Kids!**

on receiving the

2026 Ruth Kurtzman

Benefit Award

Linda *and* Peter Hanson



Monday, March 23, 2026 at 7pm

PETER NORTON
**SYMPHONY
SPACE**

HONORING

Lifetime Achievement Award
LILLIAS WHITE
Accompanied by John Fischer
Presented by Daniel Dunlow

Lifetime Achievement Award
KAREN AKERS
Accompanied by Larry Yurman
Presented by Lee Roy Reams

Ruth Kurtzman Benefit Award
THE SEASON: GOLDIE'S KIDS
Presented by Sidney Myer

Hanson Award
ANYA TURNER & ROBERT GRUSECKI
Presented by Frank Dain

NiteLife Exchange Barry Levitt Jazz Award
VICKI BURNS and JOE ALTERMAN
Presented by Marilyn Lester
and Sue Matsuki

Musical Director **JOHN FISCHER**
Stage Manager **CAROLYN REICH**
Director **AMY WOLK**
Producer **JULIE MILLER**

PRESENTERS and PERFORMERS*

JOE ALTERMAN
SCOTT BARBARINO
CHEO BOURNE
VICKI BURNS
NATASHA CASTILLO
ERIC COMSTOCK
FRANK DAIN
CHRISTOPHER DENNY
NATALIE DOUGLAS
MELISSA DRISCOLL
GOLDIE DYER
DANIEL DUNLOW
BARBARA FASANO
TEDD FIRTH

JEFF HARNAR
JULIE GOLD
DAVID KENNEY
LINA KOUTRAKOS
MARILYN LESTER
LORINDA LISITZA
KAREN MACK
KAREN MASON
SUE MATSUKI
MARILYN MAYE
JOHN McDANIEL
SUSIE MOSHER
LENA MOY-BORGEN
JULIA MURNEY

SIDNEY MYER
JUSTIN DYLAN NASTRO
KATI NEIHEISEL
KELLI RABKE
LEE ROY REAMS
RUBY RIMS
RICKY RITZEL
MARTA SANDERS
JON SATROM
SETH SIKES
KT SULLIVAN
LENNIE WATTS
LARRY YURMAN

*Subject to change

40th **MAC** Awards



Production Credits

JULIE MILLER Producer
AMY WOLK Director
CAROLYN REICH Stage Manager
JENNIE LITT Announcer

2026 MAC AWARDS BAND

JOHN FISCHER
Musical Director/Piano

JERRY DeVORE
Bass

ERIC HART
Drums

JEAN-PIERRE PERREAUX Technical Advisor
JUSTIN DYLAN NASTRO Production Assistant
ROBERT IMA and AARON VALENTINE Trophy Presenters

ANALISA BELL Program Advertising Director
FRANK DAIN Press and Public Relations; Program Design
MICHAEL STEVER Videographer
AMY WOLK Membership Director
JULIE MILLER Voting Manager
**NATASHA CASTILLO, GENEVIEVE RAFTER KEDDY,
MARYANN LOPINTO, CONOR WEISS** Photographers
HANNAH JANE Social Media
KRYSTAL ROWLEY Envelope Preparation
JOSEPH MACCHIA FLORACULTURE Flowers

2026 MAC AWARDS COMMITTEES

Eligibility **JULIE MILLER** (Chair), **SIDNEY MYER, ROY SANDER, LENNIE WATTS**

Hanson Award **ROY SANDER** (Chair), **FRANK DAIN,
SIDNEY MYER, LENNIE WATTS**

Song **KATI NEIHEISAL** (Chair), **ARON BEDERSON,
PATTI BOTTINO-BRAVO, ELANA POLIN**

Comedy/Novelty Song **JENNIE LITT** (Chair) **SIDNEY MYER,
LENORE STEFANIK, MATTHEW MARTIN WARD**

Recordings **KRISTOFFER LOWE** (CHAIR), **ANALISA BELL,
ERIN DAVIE, ANTHONY LaMATTINA**

SPECIAL THANKS

**GENEVIEVE RAFTER KEDDY, MARY LAHTI, MARYANN LOPINTO, CONOR WEISS
and the staff of PETER NORTON SYMPHONY SPACE**

40th MAC Awards

Honorees



LILLIAS WHITE

Lifetime Achievement Award

Lillias White, a native New Yorker, made her Broadway debut in *Barnum*. She has also appeared on Broadway in *Hadestown*, *Cats*, *Carrie*, *Dreamgirls*, *Once on This Island*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Chicago*, and *Fela!* (Tony Award nomination). In Cy Coleman's and Ira Gasman's *The Life*, she won the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award and Outer Critics Circle Award for her portrayal of a world-weary, no-nonsense hooker named Sonya. Lillias was seen in the world premiere of *Half Time* at the Papermill Playhouse and has performed at the Public Theater in the production of William Finn's *Romance in Hard Times* (Obie Award), *Dinah Was* at the Gramercy Theatre, the world premiere of *Crowns* at the Second Stage (Audelco Award), and *Texas in Paris* at The York Theatre Company.

Lillias White's concert appearances include the critically acclaimed cabaret show at Feinstein's 54 Below, entitled *The Lillias White Effect* (Bistro Award) and for the Actors Fund in *Funny Girl*, *Hair*, and the 25th Anniversary concert of *Dreamgirls*. She was Bloody Mary in the PBS Great Performances broadcast of *South Pacific*. Lillias has toured internationally with her one-woman show, *From Brooklyn to Broadway*, and she's graced the stages at Kennedy Center in Washington, DC; Carnegie Hall; Lincoln Center; Jazz at Lincoln Center; the Sydney Australia Opera House; the Singapore Opera House; and the Palm Beach Pops.

Lillias' television appearances include a regular role on *Sesame Street* for which she won an Emmy Award, a current role Netflix in *The Get Down*, *Gotham*, *Person of Interest*, *Law and Order SVU*, *Law and Order*, and *NYPD Blue*. Her film credits include the lead muse in Disney's *Hercules*, *Anastasia*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* with Jim Carrey, *Game Six* with Michael Keaton, *Pieces of April* with Katie Holmes, *Nasty Baby* with Kristin Wigg and *Then She found Me*. Lillias holds an Honorary PHD in fine arts from The City University of New York.



KAREN AKERS

Lifetime Achievement Award

As a singer, Karen Akers has appeared in prestigious venues worldwide, including Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl, as well as New York's premiere nightspots, the Cafe Carlyle and The Oak Room at The Algonquin Hotel. She has taken her music to the south of France, Russia, Barcelona's Liceu Opera House and more recently, to Crazy Coqs in London. She is the recipient of the 2005 New York Nightlife Award for Outstanding Female Cabaret Vocalist in a Major Engagement, as well as the 2009 Nightlife Legend Award. Cabaret and concert performances are only a part of Ms. Akers multifaceted career, which encompasses theatre, television, film, and recordings. She appeared at the Martin Beck Theatre on Broadway as one of the original stars of the Tony Award-winning musical *Grand Hotel*, directed by Tommy Tune. She made her debut on the Great White Way in the original production of *Nine*, also directed by Tommy Tune, receiving a Tony nomination and a Theatre World Award. Ms. Akers television appearances include *Cheers*, *The Tonight Show*, *The Equalizer*, *Hart to Hart*, *The Merv Griffin Show*, and the PBS Specials: *Ellington: The Music Lives On* and *Ira Gershwin at 100: A Celebration at Carnegie Hall*. In addition, Ms. Akers had two of her own PBS specials, *Presenting Karen Akers* and *Karen Akers: On Stage at Wolf Trap*. The latter is available on DVD. Her film roles include the femme fatale in Mike Nichol's *Heartburn* opposite Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep, Woody Allen's *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, and *Vibes*. Ms. Akers's CDs include: *If We Only Have Love*, *Feels Like Home*, *Live from Rainbow and Stars*, *Under Paris Skies*, *Just Imagine*, *Unchained Melodies*, *In a Very Unusual Way*, *Like It Was*, *Presenting Karen Akers*, and *Simply Styne* (DRG Records).



THE SEASON: GOLDIE'S KIDS! To benefit ST JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

Ruth Kurtzman Benefit Award

In December, MAC Award winner Goldie Dyer hosted the third in her annual benefit series, *The Season*. These star studded holiday events have raised thousands for St. Jude, giving hope to kids battling cancer and their families. Presented at The Laurie Beechman Theatre, *The Season: Goldie's Kids!* was touted as

one of cabaret's biggest nights—featuring more than 30 of NYC cabaret's most beloved and brilliant talents. These stars took to the stage in a live (and live-streamed) "telethon," giving their all for the kids of St. Jude. The audiences at the Beechman, and those watching the livestream, had opportunities throughout the three-hour extravaganza to make contributions online. Their generosity brought in the biggest donations tally to date: over eight thousand seven hundred dollars! Goldie's indispensable creative team included Music Director Dan Pardo, John Miller on bass and Chip Fabrizi on drums. James Beaman brilliantly directed the evening, which kicked off with a live red carpet hosted by comedienne Trudy Carmichael and Goldie's multi-talented co-host, Justin Dylan Nastro.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is leading the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food—so they can focus on helping their children live.

MAC Award Winner Goldie Dver is a beloved and popular mainstay of the cabaret community. She performed her most recent MAC nominated solo show, *What a Man! Goldie Dver Sings Anthony Newley*, at The Crazy Coqs in London, following multiple sold-out performances in New York. Goldie's new show *The Rhythm of Life: The Dorothy Fields Songbook* will premiere at the Beechman on June 4th! Goldie was nominated for the Best Emcee MAC Award for her bi-monthly variety series at Don't Tell Mama, Sneak Peek. Goldie is on the Executive Board of the American Songbook Association and a member of The Players, Dutch Treat Club, and American Popular Song Society.



ANYA TURNER & ROBERT GRUSECKI Hanson Award

Performers, composers and lyricists Anya Turner and Robert Grusecki write, perform, record and publish works for the musical theatre and cabaret. Turner and Grusecki have twice been named finalists for the Richard Rodgers Award for their musicals, *Greetings from Yorkville* (SoHo Playhouse NYC) and *After All*, a "musical much ado" (The York Theatre Company NYC). Anya and Robert are honored to be receiving the 2026 MAC Hanson Award. They received the 2022

ASCAP Foundation Jamie deRoy & Friends Songwriting Award, the 2017 Bistro Award for Outstanding Songwriting and have also been awarded grants from Meet the Composer and the Anna Sosenko Assist Trust. Cabaret shows include *Joy & Love* (Sid Gold's Request Room) *Hello West 46th Street* (Don't Tell Mama) and their four-character revue, *Look Up!* (Laurie Beechman). They have written and recorded ten albums (*Secret Lovers*, *Mid-Century Modern*, *In This Raggedy Time*, *Listen*, *Dream On*, *Labor of Love*, *A Party*, *Greetings from Yorkville*, *You*

Loved Me, and *Ordinary People*) and published nine songbooks. In 2021 the team published a book of their lyrics entitled *Words Matter*. Anya & Robert have performed in theatres, nightclubs, and concert halls across the U.S.A. Their music has been heard in such NYC venues as David Geffen Hall, The Town Hall, Symphony Space, and The 92nd Street Y. Their songs have been featured on radio shows: WFUV New York (*Woody's Children*), WFMT Chicago (*The Midnight Special*) and The Cabaret Room (UK). Their work has been performed by Karen Akers, Donna McKechnie, Steve Ross, the National Asian Artists Project (Baayork Lee), and the GenOUT Youth Chorus of Washington D.C. Anya & Robert are also the subjects of the music documentary *Dream On, a songwriting life*, directed by Bill Hopkins. They are married and live in a fifth-floor walkup in a neighborhood of Manhattan called Yorkville. AnyaRobertMusic.com



**VICKI BURNS and
JOE ALTERMAN**

NiteLife Exchange Barry
Levitt Jazz Award

Vicki Burns, Jazz Vocalist,
has been performing
steadily almost since the
moment she arrived in New
York from San Francisco in
2009, where she worked

The
Sinesis

regularly at legendary North Beach clubs like Enrico's, Pearl's, and The Purple Onion throughout the early 2000s. NYC Performance highlights include recent sold-out shows at Birdland, The Iridium, Zinc Bar, Mezzrow, and a special six-month stint at The Plaza Hotel. She has had residencies at Zinc Bar, Jazz at Kitano, and Cornelia Street Cafe, and is currently singing monthly at The Lexington Hotel and The Thread Lounge at The Renaissance Hotel. In 2025, she received the prestigious American Songbook Association's Pomranz Performance Grant for live performance. Jazz drumming great Max Roach once described Vicki's singing as a gold mine and renowned bassist Christian McBride has called her "A wonderful singer." In 2022 she released her critically acclaimed album, *Lotus Blossom Days*, which features original music and lyrics and rarely sung gems from the Great American Songbook. *Lotus Blossom Days* received rave reviews and airplay worldwide. Jazz critic Scott Yanow says it "is easily recommended as one of the better jazz vocal albums of recent years." "Happy days are here again for jazz aficionados, thanks to *Lotus Blossom Days*, the warm and winning new album by Vicki Burns. Her vocals, subtle, sophisticated and appealing, achieve a rare level of intimacy and relatability. Her tone is engaging; her phrasing inventive, yet natural. With the first notes she sings, Burns will have you hooked and when you've reached the end of these delicious dozen tunes,

you'll still be craving more." Paul Freeman, *Pop Culture Classics*.

Joe Alterman is a jazz pianist devoted to joy. He plays with swing, soul, and an unmistakable sense of uplift—the kind of piano that makes people lean forward, smile, and stay a little longer. Les McCann called him “a giant.” Ramsey Lewis called him “an inspiration.” Ahmad Jamal hailed him as “a very special artist.” And George Benson once told him, “You play good and you sound good—and there’s a difference.” A longtime mentee of Les McCann and Ramsey Lewis, Alterman has released eight critically acclaimed albums and performed at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Birdland, and the Blue Note. His work appears on two Grammy Award-winning projects—President Jimmy Carter’s *Last Sundays in Plains* and *Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama*. He has also scored several documentary films, hosts *The Upside of Jazz* on WABE 90.1, Atlanta’s NPR affiliate, and is a published writer on the history and culture of jazz.



The
MAC Board of Directors
congratulates
the 2026
MAC Award Nominees
and our
2026 Special Honorees

40th MAC Awards

Running Order

ACT I

Comedy/Novelty Song
Song
Recurring Series
Ensemble Instrumentalist
NiteLife Exchange
Barry Levitt Jazz Award – Vicki Burns and Joe Alterman
Duo/Group
Special Production
Piano Bar Instrumentalist Downtown
Piano Bar Instrumentalist Uptown
Piano Bar/Restaurant Singing Entertainer Downtown
Piano Bar/Restaurant Singing Entertainer Uptown
Hanson Award - Anya Turner and Robert Grusecki
Debut Male
Debut Female
Recording (The Lamott Friedman Award)
Major Recording
Lifetime Achievement Award – Karen Akers

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Ruth Kurtzman Benefit Award - The Season: Goldie's Kids
Celebrity
Tribute Show
In Memoriam
Major Duo/Group
Emcee
Technical Director
Director
Musical Director
Lifetime Achievement Award – Lillias White
Major Male Artist
Major Female Artist
Male Vocalist
Female Vocalist

(order subject to change)

40th **MAC** Awards



Nominees

FEMALE VOCALIST

CORINNA SOWERS ADLER

All That Matters

Don't Tell Mama

DIANE D'ANGELO

Closing Credits

Chelsea Table + Stage, The Green Room 42, The Laurie Beechman Theatre

ANN KITTREDGE

Romantic Notions, When in Love, You Sleigh Me

Chelsea Table + Stage, Act2PV (Puerta Vallarta)

SUSAN MACK

Tis Autumn, The Susan Mack Quartet

Birdland, Jazz on Main

LINDA MIRONTI

Perfectly Imperfect

Don't Tell Mama

DEBORAH STONE

String Theory

Don't Tell Mama, The Green Room 42

EVELYN SULLIVAN

The Ev Sullivan Show

Don't Tell Mama

MALE VOCALIST

FRANK DAIN

A Celebration 24 Years in the Making

Don't Tell Mama

MICHAEL KIRK LANE

Right Where I Belong

The Laurie Beechman Theatre, The Green Room 42, Pangea

FRANK McDONOUGH

Frank Sings Frank

Don't Tell Mama

JOHN MENDIOLA

Are You Ready For Me?

Don't Tell Mama

MAJOR ARTIST - FEMALE

MARIEANN MERINGOLO

*Shades of Love, You Must Believe In Spring, A Century of Song:
Celebrating Alan and Marilyn Bergman, In the Spirit:2025*

Chelsea Table + Stage, 54 Below

CHRISTINE PEDI

Snow Bizness/With a Little Help From My Friends

The Laurie Beechman Theatre

STEPHANIE POPE

Livin' It Up!, Simple Joys

54 Below, Josephine's Cabaret at Club Café

MAJOR ARTIST - MALE

ARI AXELROD

A Place For Us: A Celebration of Jewish Broadway,

Now That That's Off My Chest

54 Below, The Green Room 42

SEAN HARKNESS

Just Me

Don't Tell Mama

CRAIG POMRANZ

Berlin to Dylan to Simon and Garfunkel: It's All Kosher!;

It's All Kosher: Part 2!; It's The Holidays!

Don't Tell Mama

NEW YORK DEBUT - FEMALE

BILLIE BROUSE

Thinking Out Loud

Don't Tell Mama

TERRI DANNENBERG

Everything!

Don't Tell Mama

JANICE McCUNE

Let's Start Tomorrow Tonight!

Don't Tell Mama

GRACE PEÑA

Heartstrings!

54 Below, Don't Tell Mama, The Green Room 42

DEBI TONI

Double Trouble

54 Below, Don't Tell Mama

NEW YORK DEBUT - MALE

ETHAN MATHIAS

Outside the Lines

Don't Tell Mama

MACON PRICKETT

Macon: His Own Way

54 Below

CELEBRITY ARTIST

ANN HAMPTON CALLAWAY

The Best of Ann Hampton Callaway

54 Below, Crazy Coqs, many more

LIZ CALLAWAY

Liz Callaway Sings Stephen Schwartz

54 Below

NATALIE DOUGLAS

Sammy at 100; Juneteenth Jubilee 2025,

The Nat Pack: Sammy & Nat & Stevie & Joe; Tributes: The '70s

Birdland

CHRISTINE EBERSOLE with BILLY STRITCH

54 Below

NORM LEWIS

54 Below

DUO/GROUP

MARIA CORSARO and LESLIE VINCENT

Jazz à Deux

Chelsea Table + Stage, Josephine's Cabaret at Club Café,

Jazz On Main, Deer Head Inn

JENNIE LITT and MIRABELLE ALPHER

Relatively Singing!

Don't Tell Mama

CHRISSY and DAN PARDO

*Dreams Don't Come True in Pennsylvania,
Christmastide for Empire State Ride*
Wine Hour at the Hotel Edison, Chelsea Table + Stage,
The Stonewall Inn, The Hotel Edison

THE RANDY ANDYS

Vintage Valentines, Spring Swing, Holiday Spectacular
Pangea, The Green Room 42

MAJOR DUO/GROUP

LAURA and LINDA BENANTI

Mothers Know Best
54 Below

JIM CARUSO, BILLY STRITCH and KLEA BLACKHURST

A Swinging Birdland Christmas
Birdland

ERIC COMSTOCK and BARBARA FASANO

Spring Swing, 20 For 20, Painting the Town, So Nice to Come Home To
Birdland, Don't Tell Mama, Brownville Concert Series

RECURRING SERIES

THE AMERICAN POPULAR SONG SOCIETY SERIES

Created, produced, and hosted by Linda Amiel Burns
Don't Tell Mama

BARBARINO'S BIG NITE OUT

Produced by Scott Barbarino
Lips Drag Queen ShowPalace

JIM CARUSO'S CAST PARTY

Created, produced, and hosted by Jim Caruso
Birdland

THE LINEUP

Created and hosted by Susie Mosher, produced by Hope Royaltey
The Green Room 42

SCAT SCHOOL

Created and hosted by Kelly Wohlford
Don't Tell Mama

SONDHEIM UNPLUGGED

Created by Phil Geoffrey Bond, produced by Lucia Spina and Rob Maitner
54 Below

SPOTLIGHT ON YOU OPEN MIC

Produced and hosted by Natasha Castillo, co-created with John Koprowski
53AboveBroadway

EMCEE

JIM CARUSO

Jim Caruso's Cast Party
Birdland

GOLDIE DVER

Sneak Peek
Don't Tell Mama

LENA MOY-BORGEN

Mama's Next BIG Act!
Don't Tell Mama

JUSTIN DYLAN NASTRO

*Singnasium Game-A-Palooza, The Season: Goldie's Kids,
BSP Holiday Playlist*
AMD Studios, The Laurie Beechman Theatre, Chelsea Table + Stage

TRIBUTE SHOW

LUCILLE CARR-KAFFASHAN

8 Days A Week – 60 Years of Beatles Music
Don't Tell Mama

DAWN DEROW

Sing Happy: The Wonderful Women of Kander and Ebb
The Triad, The Post Office Cafe

MARNIE KLAR

Karen Carpenter Covers
Don't Tell Mama

LIORA MICHELLE

Songbirds of the Silver Screen
Don't Tell Mama

SPECIAL PRODUCTION

JOE ICONIS AND FAMILY

Created, written, and directed by Joe Iconis
54 Below

MAMA'S NEXT BIG ACT!

*Produced by Don't Tell Mama and Lennie Watts, created by Lennie Watts,
musical direction by Yasuhiko Fukuoka*
Don't Tell Mama

PENZANCE-ISH

Book and music adapted by Jason Ellis and Ted Stafford, directed by Jason Ellis, musical direction by Ted Stafford

53AboveBroadway

THE BEAT OF A WANDERING HEART: THE SONGS OF MARTY SILVESTRI AND JOEL HIGGINS

Directed by Mark Nadler, score by Marty Silvestri and Joel Higgins

The Laurie Beechman Theatre

DIRECTOR

JAMES BEAMAN

Dan and Chrissy Pardo/*Dreams Don't Come True in Pennsylvania* (Chelsea Table + Stage), *Richard Skipper Celebrates* (The Laurie Beechman Theatre), *Goldie Dver/Sneak Peek* (Don't Tell Mama), *Alex DeSuze/Nina & Sarah & Aretha & Alex* (The Green Room 42), *The Season: Goldie's Kids* (The Laurie Beechman Theatre)

JEFF HARNAR

Celia Berk/*For the Record* (54 Below), Christy Trapp/*The Tender Trapp* (Don't Tell Mama), Renee Katz/*Lost in His Arms* (54 Below), Judi Mark/*Merely Marvelous* (The Triad)

BARRY KLEINBORT

Ann Kittredge/*When in Love, Romantic Notions, You Sleigh Me* (Act2PV Theater, Chelsea Table + Stage), Karen Mason/*Encore-Nucopia, SPF, Just in Styne* (Birdland, Don't Tell Mama), Madelaine Warren/*Warren Sings Fields* (Don't Tell Mama), Lorna Dallas/*Snapshots* (Chelsea Table + Stage), *The Kleinbort Collection* (Birdland)

LINA KOUTRAKOS

Deborah Stone/*String Theory* (Don't Tell Mama, The Green Room 42), Diane D'Angelo/*Closing Credits* (The Laurie Beechman Theatre, Chelsea Table + Stage, The Green Room 42), Dorian Woodruff/*Forever Me with Love* (Chelsea Table + Stage), Terri Dannenberg/*Everything!* (Don't Tell Mama), Juliet Ewing/*Simply 'S Wonderful: The Magic of Gershwin*, (Chelsea Table + Stage)

TANYA MOBERLY

Frank McDonough/*Frank Sings Frank* (Don't Tell Mama), Becca Kidwell/*Love Songs* (Don't Tell Mama), Dan Thaler/*Life in 3D* (Pangea), Steve Magnussen/*That Happy Feeling* (Don't Tell Mama), Michelle Della Fave/*Diggin' Life* (Don't Tell Mama)

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

CHRISTOPHER DENNY

Ann Kittredge/*When in Love, Romantic Notions, You Sleigh Me* (Act 2PV, Chelsea Table + Stage), Karen Mason/*Encore-Nucopia, SPF, Just in Styne* (Birdland, Don't Tell Mama), Madelaine Warren/*Warren Sings Fields* (Don't Tell Mama), Lorna Dallas/*Snapshots* (Chelsea Table + Stage), *The Kleinbort Songbook* (Birdland)

YASUHIKO FUKUOKA

Michael Kirk Lane/*Right Where I Belong* (The Laurie Beechman Theatre), *Mama's Next BIG Act!* (Don't Tell Mama), Robbie Rozelle (54 Below), Anthony Nunziata/*Christmas and You* (The Laurie Beechman Theatre), Anne-Marie Kavula/*Songs for a Midlife Crisis* (The Laurie Beechman Theatre)

SEAN HARKNESS

String Theory (The Green Room 42, Don't Tell Mama), Kumara (West Side Community Garden), Sophia Ramos/*No Parental Guidance* (Pangea), *New York Irish Center Christmas* (New York Irish Center), *Broadway by Guitar* (54 Below)

DARYL KOJAK

Laurie Krauz/*Sets* (Don't Tell Mama), Audrey Appleby/*A Seduction Tour* (Gardenia, Pangea), Deborah Stone/*String Theory* (Don't Tell Mama), Jo Walker and Vayle/*Two for the Road* (Don't Tell Mama), Carolyn Montgomery/*Girl Singer* (Long Beach Public Library)

ALEX RYBECK

Jeff Harnar/*Confessions of a New Yorker* (54 Below), Lee Roy Reams/*Me and Betty* (54 Below), *42nd Street* (54 Below), Liz Callaway/*The Wizard and I* (54 Below), Karen Akers/*Come with Me to Paris* (Birdland),

TRACY STARK

Meg Flather/*Walk Home* (Don't Tell Mama), Kim David Smith/*Comme Un Folle* (Post Office Café, Joe's Pub), Justin Dylan Nastro/*Live and In Person Whether You Like It or Not* (Don't Tell Mama), Ethan Mathias/*Outside the Lines* (Don't Tell Mama), Linda Mironti/*Perfectly Imperfect* (Don't Tell Mama)

BILLY STRITCH

Jim Caruso's Cast Party (Birdland), *A Swinging Birdland Christmas* (Birdland), Christine Ebersole (54 Below)

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

ADAM DeCARLO

Janice McCune/*Let's Start Tomorrow Tonight* (Don't Tell Mama), Evelyn Sullivan/*The Ev Sullivan Show* (Don't Tell Mama), Corinna Sowers Adler/*All That Matters* (Don't Tell Mama), Gloria Bangiola/*I Dreamed Last Night* (Don't Tell Mama), Bruno Giraldi/*Love or Death* (Don't Tell Mama)

GIAN RAFFAELE DiCOSTANZO

The Inkwell Singers (Don't Tell Mama), Taylor Beyer/*Pride 2: The Pridening* (Don't Tell Mama), Meri Ziev/*From 8 Tracks to Live Streams* (Don't Tell Mama), Steve Magnussen/*That Happy Feeling* (Don't Tell Mama), Liora Michelle/*Songbirds of the Silver Screen* (Don't Tell Mama)

SHERIDAN GLOVER

Eva Noblezada & Reeve Carney/*An Evening with Eva Noblezada & Reeve Carney* (The Green Room 42), Mark William/*Technicolor Dreams 2.0* (The Green Room 42), Karen Mason/*Christmas! Christmas! Christmas!* (The Green Room 42), Leslie Carrara-Rudolph/*Bizarre Brunch* (The Green Room 42), Marilu Henner/*Memory Girl* (The Green Room 42)

AMANDA RAYMOND

Lee Roy Reams/*Me and Betty* (54 Below), Marilyn Maye (54 Below), Charles Busch/*My Leading Ladies* (54 Below), Lorna Luft & Andrea McArdle/*Two of a Kind* (54 Below), Liz Callaway/*The Wizard and I* (54 Below)

KELLY WOHLFORD

Frank Dain/*A Celebration 24 Years in the Making* (Don't Tell Mama), Karen Mason/*More SPF!* (Don't Tell Mama), American Popular Song Society (Don't Tell Mama), Terri Dannenberg/*Everything!* (Don't Tell Mama), Billy Brouse/*Thinking Out Loud* (Don't Tell Mama)

ENSEMBLE INSTRUMENTALIST

STEVE DOYLE, Bass

Jim Caruso's Cast Party (Birdland)

DON KELLY, Drums and Percussion

Lucille Carr-Kaffashan/*8 Days a Week* (Don't Tell Mama), Marnie Klar/*Karen Carpenter Covers* (Don't Tell Mama), Bennett Silverstein/*Just Sing* (Don't Tell Mama), Chad Peterson/*Late Bloomer* (Don't Tell Mama)

MATT SCHARFGLASS, Bass

Billie Brouse/*Thinking Out Loud* (Don't Tell Mama), Lucille Carr-Kaffashan/*8 Days a Week* (Don't Tell Mama), Scott Coulter & Friends/*Silly Love Songs: 50 Years of #1 Hits* (54 Below) Can Yasar/*Turkish Rhapsody* (Don't Tell Mama)

DAVID SILLIMAN, Drums and Percussion

Carol Sue Gershman/*Carol Sue Gershman at 90!* (Don't Tell Mama),
Kati Neiheisel/*London by Night* (Pangea), Eve Steinberg/*All Blues* (Pangea),
Sidney Myer/*Sidney Myer Rides Again!* (Pangea),
Terri Dannenberg/*Everything!* (Don't Tell Mama)

SKIP WARD, Bass

Sue Matsuki/*Sue Matsuki & The Gregory Toroian Trio* (The Cutting Room),
Terri Dannenberg/*Everything!* (Don't Tell Mama),
Sidney Myer/*Sidney Myer Rides Again!* (Pangea)

PIANO BAR SINGING ENTERTAINER - UPTOWN

ELAINE BRIER

Don't Tell Mama

TARA MARTINEZ

Don't Tell Mama

LAUREN MUFSON

Brandy's

JENNIFER PACE

Brandy's

JON SATROM

Don't Tell Mama, Brandy's

PIANO BAR SINGING ENTERTAINER - DOWNTOWN

SUSAN CAMPANARO

The Stonewall Inn

YVETTE MONIQUE CLARK

Marie's Crisis

MARIA GENTILE

The Duplex, The Stonewall Inn

TYLER KENT

Marie's Crisis

MADDIE McCLOUSKEY

Marie's Crisis

MILES WHITTAKER

The Stonewall Inn

PIANO BAR INSTRUMENTALIST - UPTOWN

NATE BUCCIERI

Don't Tell Mama, Brandy's

GERRY DEIFFENBACH

Don't Tell Mama

DAN PARDO

The Townhouse, Don't Tell Mama, Brandy's

BILL ZEFFIRO

Da Marino, Tudor City Steakhouse

PIANO BAR INSTRUMENTALIST - DOWNTOWN

DAN DALY

Marie's Crisis

BRANDO(N) JAMES GWINN

Marie's Crisis

KENNEY GREEN-TILFORD

Marie's Crisis

FRANCA VERCELLONI

Marie's Crisis

SONG

A SOFT PLACE TO LAND

Music by Ned Paul Ginsburg, Lyrics by Hillary Rollins

I COULD BE A HERO

Music by Peter Millrose, Lyrics by Michael Colby

I USED TO BE YOU

Music by Maria Gentile and Lynn Portas, Lyrics by Maria Gentile

IT'S ALWAYS TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

Music by Drew Paralic, Lyrics by Bob Levy

MISSING A SCREW

Music and Lyrics by Ava Nicole Frances

SWEET LOVE'S EMBRACE

Music and Lyrics by Paul Rolnick

TWO AT A TIME

Music and Lyrics by Marcus Goldhaber

COMEDY/NOVELTY SONG

A BUTT CALL

Music and Lyrics by John Forster

AUTUMN OF MY LIFE BLUES

Music and Lyrics by Ted Georgaklis

HEATHER

Music and Lyrics by Tom Toce

IT'S SUNNY

Music by Amy Engelhardt, Lyrics by Seth Christenfeld

ODE TO A CODE

Music and Lyrics by Marc Segan

TOO MUCH LOVE

Music by Tracy Stark, Lyrics by Mark Dundas Wood

RECORDING (LaMott Friedman Award)

MARIA CORSARO

Love Makes the Changes

FRANK DAIN

I've Had a Love

BRIAN DE LORENZO

Toast of the Town, Vol 1

AVA NICOLE FRANCES

The Dream That I See

BOB LEVY (Featuring Various Artists)

Live, Love & Laugh: The Ronny Whyte and Bob Levy Collaborations

MAJOR RECORDING

D.C. ANDERSON

Songs Stay Sung

ARI AXELROD

A Place For Us: A Celebration of Jewish Broadway

ERIC COMSTOCK and BARBARA FASANO

Painting the Town

CHIP DEFFAA and FRIENDS

Chip Deffaa and Friends: Down in Honkey Tonk Town

PHILLIP OFFICER

You Fascinate Me So – Phillip Officer Salutes Mabel Mercer

40th MAC Awards

Production Staff



JULIE MILLER
Producer

Julie Miller is a NYC-based producer and general manager of theater and film, and before that, practiced law in NYC for many years. She has produced the annual Mac Awards Show for fifteen years, as well as MAC's recurring show *They Write the Songs*. Among the feature films she has produced are the original rock musical *Clear Blue Tuesday* and the science fiction three-part story *Fade to White*. In theater, she produced the new musical *Zapata* at the Pershing Square Signature Center, and was general manager for the shows *Sleepover* at The Cherry Lane Theatre and *Amigo Duende* at the Theater at El Museo del Barrio. Other favorite production and/or general management projects include the FringeNYC production of *The Hurricane Katrina Comedy Festival* at the Soho Playhouse, which won the Overall Excellence of Production festival prize, as well as *Show Choir The Musical* at The American Theater of Actors. Julie has worked on a wide variety of productions including the Drama Desk Awards and The Nightlife Awards. Julie is also proud to be a member of the Board of Directors of Prospect Musicals in New York. Julie is very grateful to be a part of the wonderfully supportive and talented community of cabaret and is honored to be President of the MAC Board of Directors.



AMY WOLK
Director

Director Amy is delighted to direct the MAC Awards show for the 4th time, and is proud to be the Vice President of the MAC Board, which she has served on for over 14 years. Amy is the 2014 Bistro Award winner for Musical Comedy, and has won three MAC awards—two for her cabaret performances, including the 2011 MAC for Musical Comedy for *Amy Wolk Sings Bette Midler's Divine Madness*, and the 2004 MAC for Female New York Debut for her show *Different for Girls*. In addition, her song, "The Brit Song" written with William TN Hall, won the 2015 MAC Award for Comedy/Novelty song, and was the winner of the first Dirty Little Songwriters' competition. A graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts/CAP21, Amy has appeared in shows at The Duplex, Don't Tell Mama, 54 Below, Metropolitan Room, and the Laurie Beechman Theatre in New York City, as well as at Davenport's in Chicago. Amy is also the co-producer and host of the comedy series *I Only Have Lies for You*, which is back in May. A certified

New York school teacher, Amy has a Masters in Education from Fordham University. She works as a tutor with On Location Education, which has given her the opportunity to teach amazing kids, and has allowed her to eat for free at numerous opening night parties.



JOHN FISCHER
Musical Director

John Fischer is a music director, pianist, vocal coach, and teacher with decades of experience working with top Broadway and cabaret artists, including Tony winners Ali Stroker, Alice Ripley, Tony nominee Emily Skinner, and many more. He music directed *Broadway's Rising Stars* at The Town Hall for 14 seasons, where he also worked on numerous *Broadway Originals* concerts. He spent seven seasons as music director for the highly acclaimed musical theatre program at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in the Berkshires, and his last season saw him working hand in hand with Stephen Schwartz and Chet Walker on the creation of a new ballet, *The Boy on the Roof*. In recent years, John has joined the symphony world as a guest artist, debuting a new Bacharach show with the Plymouth Symphony, *Blockbuster Broadway* for the Omaha Symphony, a Bernstein/Robbins celebration with the Signature Symphony, and *Music of the Knights* with the Santa Ana Symphony Orchestra. In NYC, he is a regular fixture at 54 Below, music directing everything from Sinatra to Streisand, and as the MD for the long-running series *Sondheim Unplugged*. Recent highlights include Ali Stroker's sold out *American Songbook* concert at Lincoln Center, Alice & Emily's *Unattached* at 54 Below, and the 25th Anniversary Concert of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, part of the award-winning *54 Sings* series for which he also music directed *Applause*, *Mack & Mabel*, and *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*. He currently teaches at Singnasium, ApplauseNY, and also does private coaching. He has been on staff at AMDA, HB Studios, The New School, the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute, and the Growing Studio.



CAROLYN REICH
Stage Manager

Select credits - Broadway: *The Minutes*; Off-Broadway: *Gloria: A Life*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Original Sound*, *Esai's Table*, *Stargazers*; National Tour: *Frozen*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *The Bodyguard*, *The Bridges of Madison County*; Regional: Bay Street Theater, American Repertory Theater, Harford Stage, Trinity Repertory Company, McCarter Theatre Center, and six summers at Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Graduate of the University of Michigan.

40th **MAC** Awards
In Memoriam

Andy Bey	Cleo Laine
Alan Bergman	Sondra Lee
Joyce Breach	Tom Lehrer
Ruth Buzzi	Sunny Leigh
Lou Christie	Chuck Mangione
Connie Francis	Jane Morgan
Eileen Fulton	Ken Peplowski
Barry Gordin	Suzanne Rand
Arthur Hamilton	Neil Sedaka
Harry Haun	Charles Strouse
John Herrera	Diane Templeton
Bret Hanna-Shuford	Ronny Whyte
Sheila Jordan	Brian Wilson
Diane Keaton	Iris Williams
Rebecca Kilgore	Lenny Welch
Jack Kleinsinger	

40th **MAC** Awards



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We thank you all for your generous support

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(as of February 20, 2026)

40th **MAC** Awards

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40th MAC Awards



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40th MAC Awards



Member Clubs

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SAVE THE DATE



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2026 Lifetime Achievement Award

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ANYA TURNER & ROBERT GRUSEKI

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and ALL the 2026 MAC Nominees and Winners

*Wishing MAC and all those who make
cabaret sparkle continued success*

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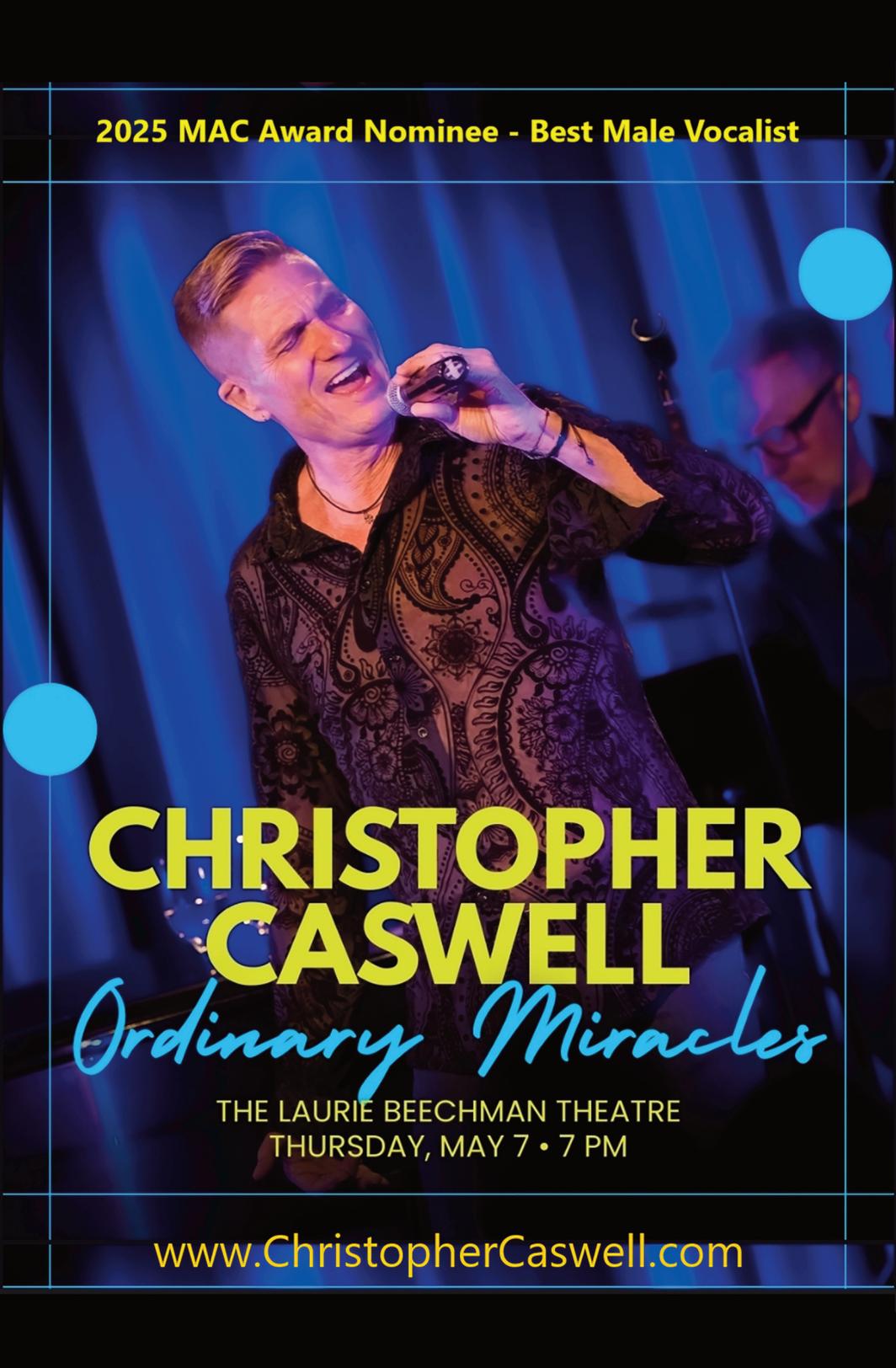
Musical Director
JOHN FISCHER

Director
LENNIE WATTS

Wednesday, April 15 - 7pm
Saturday, April 18 - 7pm

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343 West 46th St NYC

2025 MAC Award Nominee - Best Male Vocalist



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don't tell mama



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Lucille Carr-Kaffashan



Thursday
May 21 at 7 pm

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May 29 at 7 pm

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SUNDAY, MAY 3RD 4PM
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Musical Director
JOHN FISCHER

Director
LENNIE WATTS

Thursday, April 23
Sunday, May 3
Wednesday, May 13
All at 7pm

DON'T TELL MAMA
343 West 46th St



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Photo and Card Design: Helene Blumfield

**Congratulations
to the
2026 MAC Award Nominees & Winners
from
Anya Turner & Robert Grusecki**



AnyaRobertMusic.com



Congratulations
to all of tonight's
nominees!

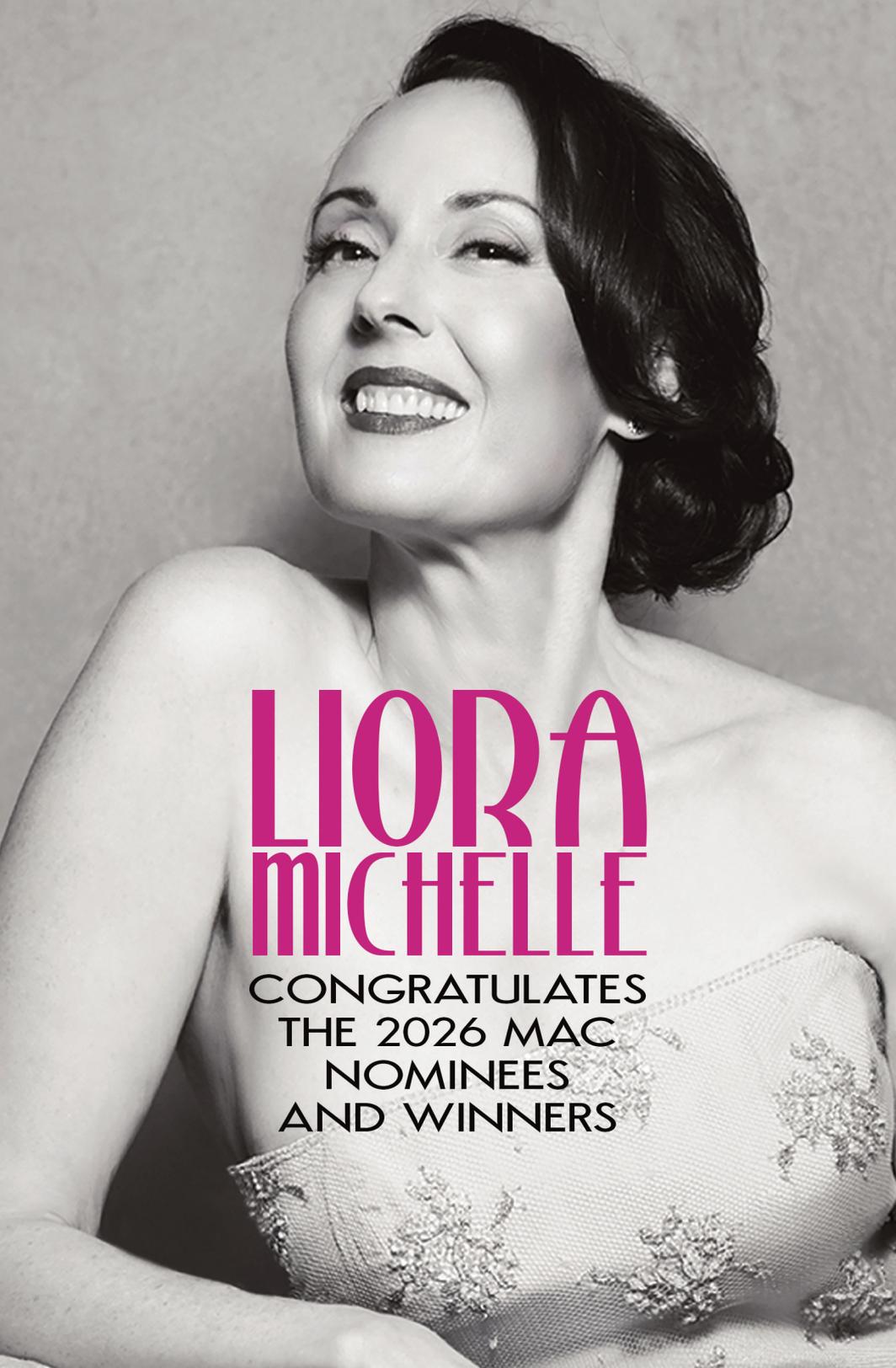
From everyone at:



*(including our very own MAC Award winners:
Daryl Glenn, Janice Hall and Amy Wolk)*

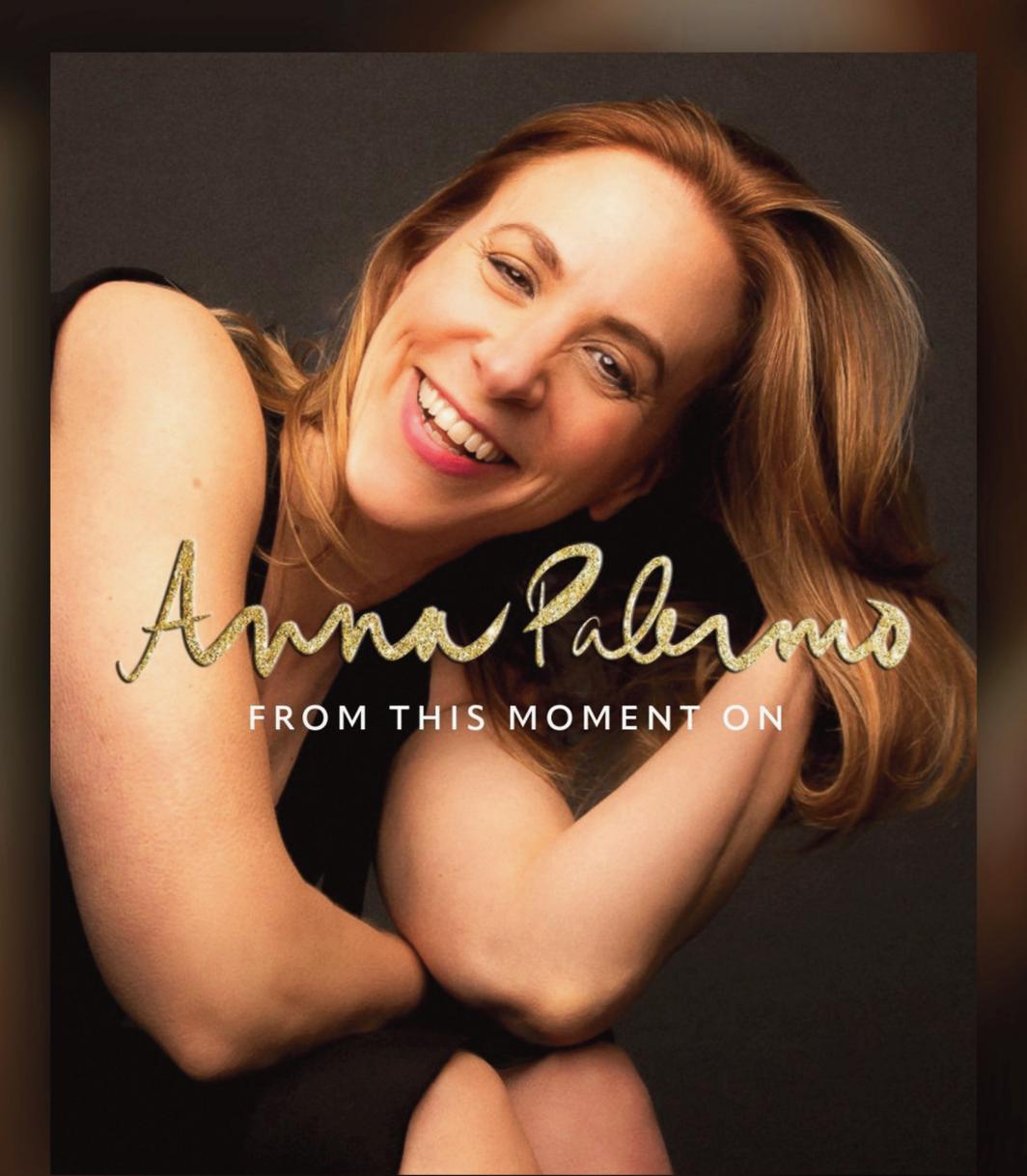


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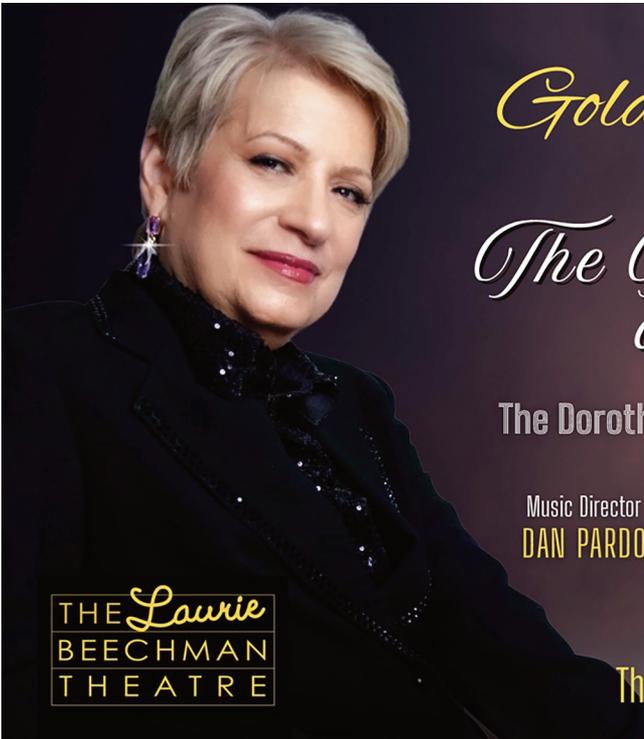
Grace Peña

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

MUSICAL INFLUENCES THROUGHOUT THE GENERATIONS



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*The Rhythm
of Life*

The Dorothy Fields Songbook

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A TRIBUTE TO
BERNADETTE PETERS

DIRECTED BY LENNIE WATTS
MUSIC DIRECTOR TRACY STARK
MARCO PANASCIA ON BASS

Sunday, April 19th at 4pm

Saturday, May 2nd at 4pm

Monday, May 11th at 7pm



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CASH ONLY. FOOD MENU AVAILABLE.

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Laurie Krauz *and* Daryl Kojak

Sets_v3

Just tunes.
Just a set of music.
Just us.
Just you.

*Different Month,
Different Set!*

*We're going back to where we started.
Sets will include songs Daryl and I have
loved performing for the past 30+ years;
music you've loved experiencing.*

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— Remy Block, Broadway World*

*"The vocalist is an unhomogenized jazz lady.
She and Kojak hear things we don't... Krauz and Kojak
are committed, brave and formidably talented."
— Alix Cohen, Theater Pizzazz*

*"[W]hen Krauz and Kojak jazz up the joint,
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— Wayman Wong, New York Daily News*

*"It was a fine day when Krauz met Kojak,
and audiences have been grateful ever since"
— Paulanne Simmons, theaterlife.com*

*"Of course, Krauz' patented style of musical comedy and
bawdiness has a strong creative foundation. This lady can SING.
Her persona can move from mirthful, to romantic, to sultry,
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ALWAYS distinctly Laurie... I cannot overstate just
how skillful Daryl [Kojak] is with those 88 keys."
— Jed Ryan, Lavender After Dark*

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||||| *don't tell mama* |||||

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— Will Friedwald

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Photo: Gene Hood

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She possesses a sage-like quality that pervades her
performance and interpretation dynamic."-Cabaret Scenes

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"Liz Rubino sang Disneyland",
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as well as I've ever heard it sung."
-The Bistro Awards



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MONDAY

MAY 4, 2026

7:00PM

JON WEBER

MUSIC DIRECTOR

RITT HENN

BASS

DAVID SILLIMAN

DRUMS

LYNDA DEFURIA,

EVELYN SULLIVAN

BACKUP VOCALISTS

JEFF HARNAR

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Returning to **54 Below** after her **SOLD OUT** debut.



Apr 2
7:00PM



Music Director

Michael Orland

SPECIAL GUESTS



Edmund Bagnell



Seth Sikes

54 Below April 2nd

"Mary Porter, she's a wonderful singer and a very nice person."

-Marilyn Maye

"...funny and big-hearted gal with a presence that lights up the stage."

-Broadway World

TICKETS



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for \$5 off in Main or Bar Rail

Mary Porter

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A tribute to award-winning artists with North Carolina heritage!

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40th MAC Awards



History

The Manhattan Association of Cabarets (MAC) was founded in 1983, primarily as an organization for cabaret owners, managers, and booking agents to meet and exchange ideas. The organization started accepting performers in 1985.

MAC's first president was Curt Davis who, upon his death, was succeeded by Erv Raible, co-owner of several New York piano bars and cabarets. Past presidents include Jamie deRoy, Michael Estwanick, Barry Levitt, Judy Barnett, Scott Barbarino, Ricky Ritzel, Lennie Watts, and Amy Wolk. Its current president is Julie Miller, appointed in 2023.

MAC's mission is to advance the art and business of live entertainment. A trade association, its activities are designed to heighten public awareness of the field's contributions and vitality, to honor its creativity, to build its current and future audiences, and to speak out as an influential voice on behalf of MAC members and the industry at large.

A fundamental part of MAC's mission is to educate and advance the knowledge and skills of our membership, and to introduce new members to the art form of Cabaret. MAC also strives to help educate members to the business and behind-the-scenes aspects of live entertainment. Each Fall, through our MAC to School weekend, MAC presents seminars and panel discussions on a variety of subjects, offers Master Classes and workshops, and introduces attendees to a wide range of top Cabaret professionals and Teaching Artists.

MAC serves as an advocate for its membership. At various times over its history, MAC has been an active participant in dialogues designed to change or overturn legislation adversely affecting New York's community of performers and clubs. The MAC honorary board has included such greats as Joan Rivers, Kaye Ballard, Phyllis Diller, Jerry Herman, Liza Minnelli, Rex Reed, and Julie Wilson.

Since 1986, the MAC Awards have been presented by the Manhattan Association of Cabarets at an annual ceremony usually held in spring. Initially, MAC Award recipients were selected by the Board of Directors and encompassed people who were recognized for their contributions to live entertainment, whether, whether a business person, local performer, dedicated critic, or cabaret luminary. Currently the annual Awards Show shines the spotlight on up and coming, locally established, and nationally recognized cabaret, comedy, and jazz performers, as well as behind-the-scenes professionals. Awards are voted by the MAC membership.

THIS IS MAC

