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February 2020

“Brother Can You Spare A Dime?”

Well, maybe “You’d Be Surprised” to learn that 2020 marks the **35th Anniversary of The Mabel Mercer Foundation**. In 1985, Donald F. Smith created The Mabel Mercer Foundation to both honor its namesake and to keep alive the repertoire that she and her compatriots introduced, popularized, or revitalized. There’s no question that Donald would be delighted by the milestones we’ve recently realized, and we think he’d be thrilled (and perhaps dazzled) by our attainment of 35 years. Such achievement, however, has “Always” come “Because of You”. Thus, this letter: the annual and sole occasion we appeal to you for contributions to ensure the Foundation’s health, stability, and the ongoing fulfillment of our charter.

The work here for 2020 is well underway. We’ve already launched our 6th cabaret season at **Boca Raton’s Lynn University**. The third annual **Adela and Larry Elow American Songbook High School Competition** is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, at 5 p.m. at the Laurie Beechman Theatre. On Monday, June 1, at Carnegie Recital Hall, a dozen remarkable cabaret vocalists will present **“I Like Men”**, a centennial celebration extolling the incomparable **Miss Peggy Lee**. Additionally, we’ll continue our series of master classes and lectures to encourage students and fledgling singers to pursue and perform the timeless music and lyrics of the last 120 years.

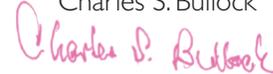
As always, we especially anticipate the **New York Cabaret Convention**, and 2020 marks our 31<sup>st</sup> such annual amalgam of acclaimed entertainers and newcomers. There were, for the record, sixteen debuts on the bill across our four shows in 2019. Even after three decades, the Convention continues to generate new levels of enthusiasm. This year’s productions, from October 19-22 at Jazz at Lincoln Center, already promise commensurate excitement. For details of the **2020 New York Cabaret Convention**, enjoy the enclosed bookmark. Also, visit [mabelmercer.org](http://mabelmercer.org) and subscribe to our e-newsletter *Spotlight* for weekly announcements of future events.

We at The Mabel Mercer Foundation will continue to revere, perform, and proudly present to audiences everywhere the greatest and most diverse achievements in popular song - dating back to the onset of the twentieth century and right up to the present day. Since the day Donald Smith launched us, however, our successes continue to occur in direct relation to your belief and your assistance. Your financial support is essential to our future. We at the Mabel Mercer Foundation have “High Hopes” that you will take this opportunity to contribute now, as we celebrate our 35th anniversary, so that we can continue to encourage, support, and sustain our songful efforts.

“The Melody Lingers On”,

KT Sullivan  
  
Artistic Director

Rick Meadows  
  
Managing Director

Charles S. Bullock  
  
Chairman, Board of Trustees