



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (September 1, 2022):

**THE SONGS OF DORIS DAY – THE MUSIC OF KURT WEILL --
AND THE ETERNAL “WORDS & MUSIC” OF THE 20TH CENTURY:
FOR THE 34TH YEAR, THE MABEL MERCER FOUNDATION PRESENTS
THE ANNUAL NYC CABARET CONVENTION IN THREE INCOMPARABLE 6 P.M CONCERTS,
OCTOBER 17TH-18TH-19TH AT THE ROSE THEATER, JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER**

(New York, NY) Since 1989 How many classic songs have they shared? How many extraordinary talents have they presented? How many tens of thousands of emotionally exhilarated and grateful patrons have they delighted? Such questions are (perhaps!) unanswerable, but there’s no denying one incontrovertible fact: The Mabel Mercer Foundation will once again increase those numbers in all three categories by presenting, for the 34th time, their annual New York Cabaret Convention. Across Tuesday, October 17th through Thursday, October 19th – each evening at 6 o’clock -- more than 60 spectacular entertainers will “take stage” at the spectacular Rose Theater at Jazz At Lincoln Center’s Frederick P. Rose Hall, Broadway at West 60th Street. And in a concentrated effort to celebrate as many as possible examples of the Great Popular Songbook, there’ll be a different theme, repertoire, and cast for each performance.

This year’s roster encompasses legendary “names,” cherished favorites, and eminently worthy newcomers, with more than a dozen vocalists making a NY Cabaret Convention debut. Additionally, the three concerts are hosted by preeminent entertainers who once again produce their shows specifically for this Mabel Mercer Foundation event. On Tuesday the 17th, the always welcome team of Jeff Harnar and Andrea Marcovicci present the anticipated **Speak Low: The Music of Kurt Weill**, saluting the genius whose theater music alone includes the scores to **Lady in the Dark**, **One Touch of Venus**, **Knickerbocker Holiday**, and **The Threepenny Opera**. Wednesday the 18th offers esteemed arts journalist Rex Reed and **Sentimental Journey: A Tribute to Doris Day**. One of Ms. Day’s cherished friends, Rex has assembled a cast of personal favorites -- with the incomparable Tedd Firth at the Steinway throughout the show -- to melodically recall songs from an exemplary recording and motion picture career. Will they include melodies from **Romance On the High Seas? On Moonlight Bay? Love Me Or Leave Me? Pillow Talk?** (Que sera sera; whatever will be!) Finally, for a triumphal final jamboree on Thursday the 19th, Foundation Artistic Director KT Sullivan opens up an “anything goes!” repertoire for **As Time Goes By: Timeless Tunes**, in which an extraordinary array of talent covers a score of the greatest popular numbers of a dozen decades.

A list of those “on the bill” for 2023 may be found below. As always, though . . . there’s more! Tuesday’s show will reveal the surprise recipient of this year’s Julie Wilson Award, once again graciously underwritten by Peter & Linda Hanson. The same evening includes presentation of the Mabel Mercer

Award itself to Sidney Myer -- quite possibly the most beloved mainstay/champion of the Manhattan cabaret circuit and its purveyors. Finally, on Thursday, the 2023 Donald F. Smith Award (underwritten by Adela & Larry Elow) will be bestowed upon the man who epitomizes class and style in wildly diverse songs, accompaniments, and arrangements: the ebullient and ceaselessly versatile Billy Stritch.

Tickets for all three evenings are priced at \$100 (prime orchestra), \$50 (orchestra and mezzanine) and \$25 (balcony); they go on sale via Jazz At Lincoln Center on Tuesday, September 5th, and are available in three different ways: **In Person:** *Jazz At Lincoln Center Box Office, located within the Shops at Columbus Circle, Broadway at 60th Street, on the ground floor. Hours: Monday -- Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Sunday, 12 p.m. – 6 p.m. (During ticketed performances, the Box Office will remain open an additional half-hour after the scheduled start time of the show.)* **Online:** *Tickets may be purchased online 24-hours a day, seven-days a week, from the website: www.jazz.org.* **Or by Phone:** *212 721-6500 CenterCharge (Open daily, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.) All times above listed are EDT. On the day of the performance, tickets are available via jazz.org and by phone until 3 p.m. Thereafter, please visit the Box Office.*

TWO IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) \$10 “rush tickets” will be available for students and Manhattan Association of Cabarets & Clubs (MAC) members with ID on the day of each concert only – at the Jazz At Lincoln Center box office.

b) “Premium Patron Seating” – at \$500 per ticket – is limited to fifty seats each concert (a portion of which is tax deductible). This ticket includes an invitation to a post-show cocktail reception with the evening’s artists. “Premium Patron Seating” is available ONLY through The Mabel Mercer Foundation itself; please call 212 980-3026 for information and orders.

Last week, Ms. Sullivan rapturously exclaimed about the ever-expanding scope of The Mabel Mercer Foundation, its work, and (most particularly) the Cabaret Convention. “We were so fortunate to be able to maintain a certain amount of momentum, even during the pandemic. And now, we look at the full-strength range of this year’s presentations and partakers, and the level of wonder and gratitude I feel is pretty much overwhelming. Look at the 2023 list of artists -- even from a geographic perspective! There are almost countless representatives from the greatest contemporary names on the New York City circuit – and extending all the way to the United States West Coast: from Brownville, Nebraska, to Durango, Colorado (by way of Talequah, OK!); to Las Vegas to Los Angeles . . . plus singers from England, Brazil, and Sweden.

“Something else of which we’re proud: we haven’t raised our ticket prices in two decades. And that’s proof positive that these melodies and lyrics are – always – meant for the hearts and souls of everyone, of any age.”

For further information: The Mabel Mercer Foundation, Suite 402, 630 Ninth Avenue, N, NY 10036
Telephone: 212 980-3026. Website: <http://www.mabelmercer.org/> Donations may be made via mabelmercer.org (which gratefully accepts funds 24/7/365) or by check payable to The Mabel Mercer Foundation.

The 2023 New York Cabaret Convention Roster

An Asterisk () Indicates Cabaret Convention Debut / Please Note: All Artists Subject to Availability*

Tuesday, October 17 -- ***Speak Low: The Music of Kurt Weill***, hosted by Jeff Harnar and Andrea Marcovicci. Starring Karen Akers, Ari Axelrod, Danny Bacher, Elena Bennett, Celia Berk, Dawn Derow, Natalie Douglas, Tovah Feldshuh, Clint Holmes, Karen Kohler, Minda Larsen*, Therese Lee*, Ute Lemper*, Maude Maggart, Madalynn Mathews, Donna McKechnie, Beckie Menzie, Marieann Meringolo, Tom Michael, MOIPEI, Sidney Myer, Marta Sanders, Those Girls (Eve Eaton, Rachel Hanser, Karen Mack, Wendy Russell).

Wednesday, October 18 -- ***Sentimental Journey: A Tribute to Doris Day***, hosted by Rex Reed with Tedd Firth at the Steinway. Starring Barbara Brussell, Maud Hixson, Nicolas King, Heather Mac Rae, Marilyn Maye, Karen Oberlin, Linda Purl, Seth Sikes*, Sandy Stewart, Tom Wopat -- and Special Guests!

Thursday, October 19 -- ***As Time Goes By: Timeless Tunes***, hosted by KT Sullivan. Starring Klea Blackhurst, Carole J. Bufford, Lizzie Buller*, Alexis Cole, Eric Comstock, Aisha de Haas, Lianne Marie Dobbs*, Bryan Eng, Barbara Fasano, Eric Yves Garcia, Lincoln Johnson*, Ben Jones, Jonathan Karrant*, Diva LaMarr, Todd Murray, Anais Reno, Josephine Sanges, Filo Sofia*, Olivia Stevens*, Billy Stritch, Darnell White*, Gary Williams*, Amra-Faye Wright, Nicole Zuraitis*.

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