



Lynn Lane, Burton Lane's widow, gave us a beautiful program, highlighting her husband's life-long contributions to our Great American Songbook.

The final meeting of the season for the New York Sheet Music Society saluted songwriter Burton Lane with a very special guest: his widow Lynn Lane who offered a vivid account of Burton's musical life. Looking strikingly handsome in her pleated grey skirt and colorful striped blouse, shiny gold belt and glistening jewelry, Mrs. Lane mentioned that Burton started writing when he was very young. As a matter of fact, while in high school, at the age of 16, he showed such talent that the Shuberts hired him to compose the score for "Greenwich Village Follies." Unfortunately, the show was cancelled due to the illness of its intended star James Barron, but Lane's career had just begun.

Eventually, with lyricist Howard Dietz, he contributed songs to "Three's a Crowd," and later wrote with Harold Adamson for "Earl Carroll Vanities" and with Yip Harburg for "Americana" (my favorite song title, "You're Not Pretty, But You're Mine") before going to Hollywood where he remained until 1954. He wrote for more than 30 motion pictures, writing with Adamson, Harburg, Ted Koehler, Frank Loesser, Alan Jay Lerner,

NYSMS Salutes Burton Lane "If This Isn't Love, the Whole World's Gone Crazy!"

by Gregg Culling

and Ira Gershwin. Before he first met Ira, he was so nervous, he said, that he had to take a sedative. When he later told Ira, Ira said he had to take one also before he arrived! Lane returned to write for the stage occasionally during this time, writing for Al Jolson's last show, "Hold On to Your Hats," and for Olsen and Johnson's variety show, "Laffing Room Only."

One day in his early years in Hollywood, he discovered an 11-year old named Frances Gumm singing with her sisters, and he was so struck by the amazing talent of this youngster that he brought her to the MGM executives. He even played at her audition. She was signed almost immediately and of course eventually renamed Judy Garland. Judy always came up to Lane whenever she saw him thereafter, and hugged him and told him that she owed it all to him.

With Adamson, he wrote his first motion picture hit "Everything I Have is Yours" for MGM's "Dancing Lady," which he taught to Joan Crawford. Lane received his first Oscar nomination for "How About You" from

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President's Message...

Can you believe that Fall is here already? Hope you all had a good summer, enjoyed some R & R, and are ready to begin the new season of The NY Sheet Music Society. We have many wonderful Programs scheduled as usual. Just to see ONE of these shows in a club costs the price of a years membership. As many of you have told me, The NYSMS is "the best deal in town" – nine fabulous afternoons + nine informative Newsletters!

There have been very positive comments about the new meeting space at Local 108 – improved sound system, raised stage for good sightlines, nice lighting, complimentary coffee and no stairs. Also, they couldn't be more gracious and happy to have us hold our meetings in their auditorium. Thanks again to our 1st VP, **Sam Teicher** for making this happen.

Last season, we didn't have time to organize our Annual "Fun-Raising" Raffle and hope to hold it at one of our Fall meetings. If any of you have items to donate to us – please do. We are looking for stuff to raffle off ... CD's, Books, Sheet Music, Dinners at Restaurants, Shows, Jewelry, Services and anything that people would be interested in to raise funds to help cover our expenses. Another event in the planning stages: a Benefit Show put on by our talented members ... a NYSMS IDOL! Supporting these events will be your way of helping our organization continue bring you extraordinary Programs and Newsletters, and fulfill our mission of being the "Guardian of the Classic American Songbook."

The dues are only going up slightly – we have not had a raise in years and our expenses continue to skyrocket. \$50 for individual membership, \$65 for a couple (specific criteria apply) and \$40 for out-of-towners. We are working on a new Brochure/ Application Form to send out, put in the clubs and if anyone asks you about the Society, you will have the information to hand to them. Right now you can always send people to our Website managed by **Debi Smith** (www.NYSMS.org). It is chock full of info, photos, schedule of events and our glorious history.

Many thanks to **Dan Singer** who has been our Treasurer for many years. His busy schedule does not allow him to continue in this position. We are fortunate that **Glen Charlow**, a graphic designer and our Newsletter designer, will take over that position. Glen has arranged for you to renew and join online with PayPal at our Website – www.NYSMS.org. When you renew or join the NYSMS by sending in your payment, make note of our new P.O. Box Number and Glen will add you to our mailing list, which he already handles. If you have moved, please let us know. Remember that if you don't renew or join for the 2006-07 season, you will not receive the Newsletter – printing and mailing are very expensive these days and the Newsletter is for MEMBERS ONLY.

Jerry Laird will continue to be the Editor of our Newsletter and **Joan Adams**, Ass't Editor. See the Masthead to learn who your hardworking Board of Directors are and get to know them at the meetings. Remember that this is your Society and we value the input of our members!

Looking forward to seeing you on October 14th for our first meeting of the year, with VP **Lynn DiMenna's** Tribute to Dinah Shore. "DiMenna Sings Dinah" with the **Paul Greenwood Trio** has been lauded by the critics and performed all over the country. This show is a real treat and not to be missed!

Best wishes,

Linda

New York Sheet Music Society

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION

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We welcome your comments. Information about performance dates, and other items you feel our readers will be interested in. Please be brief, & send it to the Editor at the address above.



Member News...

Ronny Whyte is producer of Midtown Jazz (now in its 23rd season) at Midday at St. Peter's Church (Lex & 54th), every Wed at 1 pm. (\$5 donation suggested.) Always outstanding performances. Returned Wed, Sep 6 and is in full swing (Wednesdays a 1 PM, at St. Peters, 54th and Lexington. -On September 6th they had Barbara Carroll with Jay Leonhart; 9/10 (a Sunday) a *special* Richard Sudhalter Benefit at 7pm; 9/13, Dick Hyman at the Piano; 9/20 Barbara Rosene, singer, with Jesse Gelber, Piano and Pete Martinez, Clarinet; 9/27, Libby Richman, Alto Sax, Tom Landman, Guitar and Bob Sabin, Bass. In October, 10/4 Barbara Lea, High Priestess of American Popular Song with Keith Ingham on Piano; 10/11 Russ Kassoff - Piano

Eric Comstock, piano/vocals, & **Barbara Fasano**, vocals *Two for the Road*, 9:15 pm Sats., 9/ 9, 16, 23 & 30. **Sean Smith**, bass. **Danny's**, 346 W 46th, NYC res- 212.265.8333

Carol Shedlin swings into 2 encore performances of "Swingtime," at **Danny's** Tuesdays, 10/3 & 10/10 at 7 pm. **Jon Delfin**, Mus Dir; **Saadi Zain**, Bass; **Aaron Morishita**, Dir. \$15 cov (\$10 for MAC, NYSMS, SE) \$12 food & drink mn

The Singing Experience, "*Autumn in New York*," is in rehearsal, with performance at the **Triad** on Oct 17th at 7:30., Joshua Pearl, Mus. Dir. For res. call Linda, 212-315-3500.

Ronny Whyte - Fridays, September 8 / 15 / 22 / 29 at 9:15 PM *Remembering Friends: Cy Coleman, Bobby Short, & Ava Williams* - **Danny's** 346 W 46, NYC res: 212 265 8133 Cov: \$15 Min: \$15

Manhattan attorney **Marty Geiger** makes his NYC solo cabaret debut, celebrating many of his life's experiences. **Danny's**, 7PM on Tues, Sep 12 and 19, and Thur, Sep 21..Dir; **Lina Koutrakos**. Mus Dir: **Paul Greenwood**. \$12 food & drink min. (212-265-8133)

Trudi Mann has a new accompanist at the open mic on Sundays: **Gordon Webster**. They're at **La Bella's** back room (581 2nd Ave, 683-3889, 1 to 5, **Saadi Zain**, bass, with Trudi on drums and vocals. Bring 2 copies of music. \$10 min. No cover.

Leslie Orofino's show, "*Let's Misbehave*", will make an encore performance at Helen's (8th Ave, betw 18-19 Sts) June 22nd at 7 \$15 cov/\$15 min Res: 212-206-0609

David Berke is at **Tutto Bene** Restaurant, 102-15 Metropolitan Ave., Forrest hills, Fridays and Saturdays at 7. For reservations, 718-375-3331 o 718-520-9598.

Daryl Sherman continues to play Cole Porter's Steinway her way (which is a great way) on Wed-thru-Sun, 4:30-7:30 (Sat 3-7:30) at **Waldorf-Astoria's** Cocktail Terrace.

Mel Miller offers five musicals for less than one Broadway ticket, with his *Musicals Tonight*. (Actually, a LOT less than some of the prices now!!!) Call 212-468-4444 for information.

Jerry Laird will have a show in November to introduce his CD, "What'll They Think of Next?" at Don't Tell Mama. Exact dates in our next issue.

The Singing Experience— Cable TV Show. Sat evenings on MNN (Manhattan Neighborhood Network) on Chan 56 / RCN 108 at 11 pm; Sun, at 5 pm.

Sheet Music Magazine always has wonderful tributes to The Great American Songbook. It includes sheet music to over a dozen songs. NYSMS member **Ed Shanaphy** (Publisher & Editor-In-Chief) makes sure that each and every issue is just as wonderful. If you aren't subscribing, you should be. It's \$14.95 for each one-year subscription, Send to: **Sheet Music** PO Box 58629 Boulder, CO 80323-8629

Annual membership to NYSMS is \$50, which includes nine monthly meetings and Newsletters. \$10 guest fee at each meeting, which can be applied towards membership

Sheet Music Plus is the Internet's biggest sheet music seller, with hundreds of thousands of titles to choose from. You can check the site out for yourself at: <http://www.SheetMusicPlus.com/store/tellfriendsite.html>

From our president, **Linda Amiel Burns**:
Special Theater Discounts for NYSMS Members. We know that you love a good deal....so in association with Marna Mintzer and MGM Consulting, NYSMS members are being offered Broadway & Off Broadway theatre ticket discounts of approximately 48% or more off retail, plus and arts event ticket discounts ranging from 30-50% off. For show updates and ordering info, call 212-935-2664 to hear what is available and please mention your special Membership code "A1." Offerings change frequently so phone the Hotline and listen carefully as the choices change frequently.



Laird's Lair

I hope you get *Sheet Music Magazine*, and I hope you read the articles as well as go tripping down Memory Lane, recalling all the great songs they reprint. Ed Shanaphy had a wonderful editorial in the current issue. That column, titled *Our History Is In Our Music*, hit home for me, as I teach an 8-week course every semester at the Norwalk Community College in association with my membership in an over-55 group called *Lifetime Learners*. The title of the course varies from semester to semester, but the premise is that the lyrics of popular music reflect the true poetry and more personal history of the era in which they were popular. I quote here one paragraph from Shanaphy's editorial:

"Popular music is more integral to the history of our country, perhaps, than any other art form. Nothing can transport one into the spirit of bygone eras, or give one a truer sense of the history of a nation, and mindset of its citizens at particular points in time, as can the music of the day. Post war jazz in the Twenties did that in all the early recordings and in places like *Swing Street*—it exuded celebration. And it was during the wars, World Wars I and II, that America's songwriters bolted into action, when the great ones like Irving Berlin rushed in their pianos, knowing exactly what America was thinking, knowing exactly how to put America's thought, prayers and aspirations into words and music. They

virtually scored the war. In fact, Mr. Berlin actually did create a spirited military musical during World War I, *Yip-Yip Yaphank*, and another during World War II, *This Is The Army*."

In teaching this subject, it's interesting that I can cover the same periods, and not repeat myself. Even using the same song, I get different mental images of the past when I play Dinah Shore's record of "The Last Time I Saw Paris" than I get while using Tony Martin's, or any other version. Each recalls a different moment in my personal history, and I urge the class to contribute their personal memories. The past is always present in our minds, and the lyrics provide undeniable poetry. To prove my point, can you think of a more memorable era than that one you recall when you start thinking about your own favorite years? (Until I was older myself I could not realize why my father's favorite song was *Beautiful Dreamer*, which was popular when he was young! Go figure!)

At the May NYSMS Board meeting, several things were planned that need your cooperation. If you've read Linda's page two message, you know about it, but I would like to emphasize two of the projects: a fund raiser to be held in October, at which members only will be encouraged to perform, and our annual raffle. The fund raiser will be held on a Friday night. It is hoped that we can reserve space at our current meeting place, possibly turning it into a cabaret setting with table setups, etc. For the raffle, we're looking for donations. Theater tickets. CDs or DVDs.

Music Books. Sheet music. Jewelry. Whatever. You know the drill.

Two programs were added to next seasons's schedule, Elliott Ames will be showcasing current hotel pianists, in the tradition of yesteryear's distinguished pianists, such as Cy Walter, Bobby Short, Irving Fields, Mabel Mercer and Marion McPartland. I will be producing a program celebrating the wonderful world of E.Y. Harburg.

Ed Thrasher, Album artist, 74

Ed Thrasher, 74, an art director who worked on hundreds of albums with such artists as Frank Sinatra and received 12 Grammy Award nominations, died Aug. 5 of cancer at his Big Bear Lake, Calif., home, said his son, Jeff Thrasher.

He joined Warner Bros. Records in 1964, and did the photography for many albums as well as print ads and posters.

Albums that bore his stamp included the Jimi Hendrix Experience's "Are You Experienced", Joni Mitchell's "Song to a Seagull", the Grateful Dead's "Anthem of the Sun", and Sinatra's "My Way".

When Sinatra came out of retirement in 1973, it was Mr. Thrasher who suggested the title of the singer's comeback album, "Ol' Blue Eyes Is Back".

Mr. Thrasher received a dozen Grammy nominations as an art director from 1962 to 1974, the year he and fellow art director Christopher Whorf won Grammys for best album package for Mason Proffitt's "Come & Gone".

After leaving Warner Bros. in 1979, Mr. Thrasher formed an advertising company that created art for films, including Prince's "Purple Rain" and Mel Gibson's "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome". Mr. Thrasher's former wife was actress Linda Gray of "Dallas" - AP

Burton Lane

Continued from page 1

“Babes on Broadway” sung by Mickey Rooney and Judy. His second Oscar nomination came from “Royal Wedding” starring Fred Astaire and Jane Powell: “Too Late Now.” He also wrote an animated film “Heidi” with Sammy Cahn, which has never been seen, said Lynn, and with Alan Jay Lerner he wrote for a proposed film “Huckleberry Finn” which was never filmed and the songs have never been heard.

Of course, one of Lane’s triumphs was his melodic score for Broadway’s “Finian’s Rainbow,” written with his friend Yip Harburg. It produced several major hits which have gone on to become standards like “Old Devil Moon,” “Look to the Rainbow,” “If This Isn’t Love,” “How Are Things in Glocca Morra?” sung in her wonderful Scottish burr by Ella Logan (jazz singer Annie Ross’ aunt), and the whimsical waltz “When I’m Not Near the Girl I Love, I Love the Girl I’m Near.”

Eighteen years elapsed before his next Broadway show, this time with Alan Jay Lerner, “On a Clear Day...You Can See Forever” which won the Grammy for Best Original Cast Recording. He went on to become very involved with the American Guild of Authors and Composers, becoming its President, and, as Lynn said, he was the one responsible for requiring music publishers to be audited. Duke Ellington soon after received a check for \$10,000 and immediately sent a thank you note to Lane.

Lynn Lane said Burton had many friendships throughout his life including Morton Gould, Cy Coleman, George Shearing, Sheldon Harnick, Harry Warren, Gene Kelly, and singers Anita Ellis and Michael Feinstein, who recorded two volumes of Lane’s songs on CD.

Actress/singer Charlotte Rae, who was in the audience, asked how they met. Lynn said they were both visiting Martha’s Vineyard after each had recently gone through a divorce. Yip Harburg was there also, and he introduced them. At the time, she had three children and



felt very alone, she said. Burton was there only to play golf, but they went out together, and had some political arguments (over the Soviet Union). It wasn’t until later that he wrote to her, and they met again, began dating and were eventually married for 41 years. She mentioned that, like Harburg, Burton was politically active and cared about the issues of social justice, rights and liberties and if he were alive today he will be very angry at the political situation. She herself spent many years as a fundraiser (the world’s second oldest profession, she joked). She said it is not fun, and she doesn’t recommend it as a profession.

No biography of Burton Lane exists today. Lynn said a book writer at one time offered to write one, but he wanted to be paid up front, and nothing came of it. There are interviews with Burton available at the New York Public Library of Performing Arts conducted by his friend Sheldon Harnick.

A film from the series “American Songwriters” was shown before Lynn Lane’s presentation. It is also available on DVD. Singers include Bobbi Baird, Larry Kert, and Martha Wright. Burton also sings while at the piano a wonderful rendition of “Old Devil Moon,” and he speaks of the difficulty in composing “Glocca Morra,” which was sung here very nicely by Wright with Mike Renzi on piano. Larry Kert sang an energetic “If This Isn’t Love,” and he and Bobbi were delicious on “How Could You Believe Me When I Said I Loved You When You Know I’ve Been a Liar All My Live” which Lane wrote for Astaire for “Royal Wedding” because he knew Astaire loved low-down vaudeville songs. Wright sang “Too Late Now” and Larry Kert later returned for “There’s a Great Day Coming” a la Al Jolson.

Shortly before his friend Yip Harburg died, he stopped by Lane’s apartment with a lyric, which came to be their last collaboration. Bobbi Baird sang the emotional “Where Have I Seen Your Face Before” to thunderous applause, as the film came to an end. It was filmed in 1981. Burton Lane died January 5, 1997.

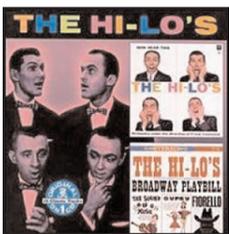
Singer's Singers...

CD Reviews by Dan Singer



"St. Louis Woman"/"Harold Arlen And His Songs" DRG 19078 www.drgrecords.com

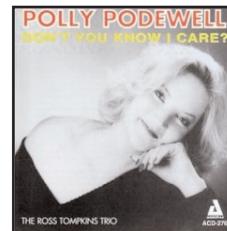
Hock the valuables for this one. Monumental in every respect this long overdue reissue from DRG answers my continued pleas. In 1946 Capitol wisely issued the original cast album with lyrics by Johnny Mercer who was 1/3rd owner of that label. You can hear the amazing Pearl Bailey sing out "It's A Woman's Prerogative" and "Legalize My Name". (as if that wasn't enough) But here's the colossal headline news. Also on this most impressive cd is the Peter Matz arranged and conducted session with the composer himself singing on 12 of his wondrous catalog. Take my word for this - it can't possibly be improved upon musically. I have bid often and a lot for the lp. Once you own this you can hear for yourself just what audio perfection is all about. Arlen was just about the best person to interpret his songs and here finally on cd for all to hear he's in his zenith. I envy anyone who hasn't been exposed to the Arlen singing for it's actually the 8th wonder of the world.



Hi-Lo's "Now Hear This"/"Broadway Playbill" Collectables 6465 www.oldies.com

Collectables has done it again. Bravo. Finally at long last on one cd comes these sensational pair of lps from the golden age Columbia years. The 12 standards from 1957 feature Frank Comstock's delicious varied arrangements. For example there's "Two Ladies In De Shade Of De Banana Tree" (Arlen/Capote) from Broadway's 1955's "House Of Flowers". It is just

about the zaniest treatment this song has ever had. It's just what might have occurred if the Marx Bros. had lent their voices to it. Alternatively, there's a soft enchanting deeply moody "Little Girl Blue" (Rodgers/Hart) to die for. Take your pick. Every song is spellbinding. There are 13 additional songs from "Gypsy", "Sound Of Music", and "Fiorello" which are certainly, without exception, all show stoppers. This twofer is a grand slam indeed.



Polly Podewell "Don't You Know I Care?" Audiophile 276 www.jazzology.com

From 1994 Polly, formerly a big band singer with Benny, Woody, and Buddy, (not cartoon characters) delves into 16 delightful songs. Her voice often reminds me a great deal of Mary Martin. There are three Porter masterpieces: "Why Can't You Behave" rhythmically moves along quite briskly. And "So In Love" (from Broadway's 1948 "Kiss Me Kate") is straightforwardly classically sung. "After You" from the 1932 "Gay Divorce" is a pure and understated vocal. "Just In Time" (Styne/Comden/Green) receives a light beat with a pleasurable arrangement. "Never Never Land" from Broadway's 1954 "Peter Pan" is dramatically and ever so slowly sung. It impresses me totally. And then there is Arthur Hamilton's "He Needs Me" from the 1955 film "Pete Kelly's Blues". It contains an extended soft yet deeply rich vocal. Ellington and David's title song is wonderful. It is tenderly executed with an unforgettable vocal. There's a zippy swinging "Nobody Else But Me" (Kern/Hammerstein II) which rocks the joint in it's agreeable swiftness.

Membership renewal is due in October. Please complete the form and return with a check.

02. . .

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Sheet Music Society*

Linda Amiel Burns, President

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You may photo-copy this form instead of cutting up your issue of this beautiful newsletter!!

What's Coming Up Next...

**LOCATION – Local 802 – Musicians' Hall at 322 West 48th Street.
Flea market 12:30 – Great place to find music sheets, tapes, CD's etc.
Program: 1:45 – 3:30PM. Non-member guest fee \$10. Membership only \$50 per year...quite a bargain! 9 great Programs and a monthly Newsletter.**

The start of our 2006-07 season:

OCTOBER 14, 2006

Lynn DiMenna will open our season with her brilliant salute to Dinah Shore, a unique singer whose warmth, charm and talent opened the eyes of literally millions to the beauty of the American Songbook during her long and brilliant career.

NOVEMBER 11, 2006

Jane Sheckter will feature "Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields - alone and together".
Tedd Firth, Musical Director.

DECEMBER 2, 2006 - Just this once Date Change

How do you explain the genius of Lerner & Lowe? As a Holiday gift this month, the gift-ed **Barbara Brussell** reveals the magic of these two contrasting personalities in a stunning musical theater piece.

JANUARY 13, 2007

Elliot Ames salutes Hotel Pianists, including Daryl Sherman, Kathleen Landis, Ronny Whyte.



P.O. Box 564
New York, NY 10008



Meetings -
2nd Saturday of
every month!

October 14	March 10
November 11	April 14
December 2	May 12
January 13	June 9
February 10	