

SINCE

New York
Sheet Music Society

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1980

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF CLASSIC POPULAR MUSIC

It's Delicious! It's Delightful! It's Lynn DiMenna! With a tribute to Dinah Shore

What a Wonderful Way to Start Our Season

By Jerry Laird

Everyone was delighted with the kickoff program for our new year. And how could they not be, for in addition to the wonderful presence of Lynn Dimenna, she brought her trio with her, and they are outstanding performers on their own. Paul Greenwood was her musical director and duet partner. Rick Petrone played bass. Joe Corsello was on drums. And Lynn let each of them shine in solo performances. And shine they all did.

The afternoon was a wonderful tribute. Lynn obviously did her homework on researching Shore's life and career. No matter how much you thought you knew about Dinah, Lynn managed to provide more information and paint a glowing picture of this lady that (as Lynn reminded us) no one ever had a bad word to say about. But better than the story behind the star, was the selection of songs she chose (out of the hundred she had to choose from)

to bring that story to life. Many in the audience, I'm sure, never knew or had forgotten her work with Disney in several of his early (and pre-computerized!) feature length cartoons. And I'm sure that her recording of *Buttons and Bows* had more to do with its getting an Academy Award than the rendition in the movie, "The Paleface."

And Lynn's rendition of *The Last Time I Saw Paris* was a special highlight of the afternoon, clearly showing how you can pay tribute to someone without trying to imitate that star.

Watching this show for the third time I was reminded about one of the wonderful things about cabaret: there's no such thing as a repeat performance: each show is brand new. As Lynn reviewed Dinah's life

and sang the songs she had made famous, every show was a whole new trip down memory lane for me. During World War II, I was lucky enough to see Dinah Shore in person, thanks to the generosity of the USO and the sponsors of many radio programs during those years. *I'll Walk Alone. The Gypsy*. Each song was delivered so perfectly by Lynn that I was back again, in uniform, rushing to get a good seat at the Eddie Cantor program, or one of the special recording sessions where everyone donated their time for the special V-Discs that were sent all over the world.

I believe that Lynn is planning on recording this show. I hope she is putting it on DVD as well. It was truly great.



Lynn DiMenna



President's Message...

November is the month of Thanksgiving, and I want to thank all of you who joined, renewed and introduced friends to The Society. It is our members' enthusiasm and generosity that keeps this wonderful organization going and allows us to bring you so many exciting programs.

What a way to begin our 21st season, with the fabulous **Lynn DiMenna's** Tribute to Dinah Shore accompanied by her splendid trio consisting of Musical Director **Paul Greenwood**, **Rick Petrone** on bass and **Joe Corsello** on drums. The Program was a delight from beginning to end and Lynn will be bringing this show to Tavern On The Green in early 2007. I know that she will be as much of a hit there as she was at The NYSMS.

We are hoping to have our Annual "Fun-Raising" Raffle for the December meeting, just in time to find gifts for the holiday season. 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! I would like to know which members would be interested in performing so that we can figure out the logistics of rehearsals, music, dates, etc. Supporting these events will be your way of helping our organization continue bring you extraordinary Programs, Newsletters and fulfill our mission of being the "Guardian of the Classic American Songbook."

We are working on a new Brochure / Application Form to send out, put in the clubs and so that 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. **Glen Charlow**, our new Treasurer and Newsletter designer, has arranged for you to renew and join online at our Website – www.NYSMS.org. Many people have already taken advantage of this easy way to join and/or renew. 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, our hardworking Newsletter Editor just celebrated a birthday and performed at The Triad in The Singing Experience on October 17. He, is going to be at Don't Tell Mama in his own show on November 15 and 28 with members **Laura Slutsky** and **Lynn DiMenna** (our 1st VP) as guest stars ... don't miss this one!

What a year we have planned for you! We are all looking forward to November 12 when the one and only Jane Sheckter sings the songs of Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields in her presentation of *Together and Apart* accompanied by **Barry Levitt**.

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...

John Wallowitch is excited about the reissue of his *MY MANHATTAN!* CD after 25 years. He recorded it at the old RCA Victor Studios on 43rd Street on Arthur Rubinstein's Steinway with the great engineer Paul Goodman, the wonderful producer Ettore Stratta and an audience of friends and fans who are still revered after all this time. Five tracks were added in 1991, with Bertram Ross singing "Oy Vey;" and Dixie Carter never sounding better on "Time To Come Home Again." Also, the Shaggy Dog Choir (consisting of Hal Holbrook, Bertram, Dixie, Audrey Thomas, Dick Pohlers, Frances Ray and Laurence Sharpe) had a swell time delivering "Old Friends". For more info, contact: wallowitch@verizon.net

Julie Wilson & John Wallowitch will be receiving Lifetime Achievement Awards in Chicago mid-November. And, they have a couple of dates at the Davenport while they are there.

York Theater Benefit for one night only: "Busker Alley," at Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College, East 68th St (betw Park & Lex), on Monday, November 13th at 8 pm, directed by acclaimed theatre/film designer and director Tony Walton. Scheduled to appear: Jim Dale, Jessica Grové, Simon Jones and Glenn Close! For complete details visit <http://www.yorktheatre.org/BuskerAlley.htm>.

Linda Amiel Burns' next Singing Experience will be *Season's Greetings*, with rehearsals beginning Thursday, November 9 and performance at The **Triad** on December 14 Mus Dir: **Richard Danley**

The Singing Experience Cable TV Show on MNN – Time Warner: Chan 56 – RCN: Chan 111 Broadcast every other Sunday at 5:00PM. Nov 12 Nov 26

Midtown Jazz at Midday: Wed at 1 PM Saint Peter's, 54th & Lex, NYC Hosted by **Ronny Whyte** Admission \$5. Nov 8: Bob Dorough, Singer / Pianist / Songwriter; Nov 15: Jill McCarron on Piano, Ada Rovatti on Tenor Sax; Nov 22: Kelley Johnson, Singer (direct from Seattle), John Hansen on Piano; Nov 29: Jay Leonhart & Family: Jay on Bass and Vocals, Carolyn and Donna doing Vocals, Michael on Trumpet, Piano, and Vocals, Ted Rosenthal on Piano.

Vince Giordano & the Nighthawks —Wed, Nov 8 at 7pm & 9pm; Wed, Nov 15. 7 pm & 9:pm **Iridium** Wed, Nov 29 – 7 pm & 9 pm; Wed, Dec 6 at 7 pm & 9 pm; Wed, Dec 20 7pm & 9pm (At the **Iridium Jazz Club** 1650 Broadway & 51st St, NYC Res Call: 212-582-2121) **New Year's Eve** - Sun, Dec 31st Dinner & Dancing 8:00pm - 1:30am, Algonquin Hotel 59 W 44th St, NY 10036 For Reservations Call: 888.304.2047 or 212.840.6800

John Capocci will be performing a 20-minute set with two other singers at **Don't Tell Mama** for two shows on Fri. Nov. 3 at 7pm and Sat. Nov. 4 at 6 pm. More details to follow.

Following three sold-out shows in Sept, Manhattan attorney **Marty Geiger** will make two additional performances of his NYC debut show - "Making it Fit." **Danny's**. 5 p.m. on Sun, Nov 12 & 19 Dir by **Lina Koutrakos**. Mus Dir **Paul Greenwood**. \$12 min (212-265-8133) for reservations

Jane Schecter, will do her show, *Together & Apart*, The songs of **Dorothy Fields & Cy Coleman** at the Sheet Music Society Meeting on Nov 11th. She'll also be encoring her performances of her critically acclaimed show featuring songs and arrangements of **Bobby Short** at **Danny's**, 346 W 46th, NYC res~ 212.265.8133 at 9:15 on Nov 6. 13. & 20th. **Tedd Firth**, Mus Dir. **Chip Jackson** on bass. **Peter Grant** on drums.

Jerry Laird will be at **Don't Tell Mama**, with his *Magic Window* show on Tues Nov 15th (Ted Simons, Mus Dir) and Weds Nov 28th (Paul Chamlin, Mus Dir) at 6:30. \$15 cov (\$10 for NYSMS) & \$10 cover

Cynthia Crane will be reprising her show, "If I Knew Now..." at **Helens** on Nov 4, Sat Brunch at 2 pm, Nov 11 – Sat at 7 pm, and Nov 16 – Thurs Nov 16 at 7 pm. Res: 212-206-0609 after 4 pm. Cov \$12 (\$6 to trade) and \$15 min.

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.

David Berk, is at **Tutto Bene** Restauant, 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 to offers 5 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.

Michael Feinstein will be at Feinstein's at The Regency for the month of December. It is expensive but worth it to see

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Send your Member News to Lairdstudio@optonline.net

JAZZ: Tapping The Great American Songbook

By Elliott Ames
SMS Board Member

Over the past two seasons, the lyricist and fellow SMS member **Ray Passman** and I have presented programs advancing the concept that The Great American Songbook and jazz are not incompatible. In point of fact, the theme of our programs suggested that the complex harmonies and melodies — along with lyrics that simply say “I Love You” — have always been warmly received by jazz musicians of worth.

In this regard, an article (Aug. 7th) by the N.Y. Times’ Nate Chinen reiterated this premise noting that “jazz has always had use for the music of old Broadway, those crafty 32-bar love songs that take up the pages of the Great American Songbook. And the relationship... has been mutually beneficial: more than a few standards would have quietly expired without the fresh inhalation of a Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald or Sonny Rollins.”

Coincidentally, at our meeting last February, one of our own jazz celebrities, **Warren Chiasson**, after playing a medley of standards, demonstrated this thought, stating that it is a given that “real jazz musicians embrace

the American Songbook and pay tribute to it by giving the music his or her own personal stamp.”

In this vein, the esteemed critic Ben Ratliff (N.Y. Times, Sept. 8th) in a much discussed essay on the jazz giant John Coltrane, wrote that the saxophonist had no peer as a player of romantic ballads...(and worked) in the tradition of jazz musicians who made sure they knew the lyrics of a song before playing it on the horn — Lester Young, for the best example.”

‘If You Respect the Frame, You Can Put Anything Inside It’

In referring to the relationship of the American Songbook to jazz, perhaps the revered jazz drummer Paul Motian summed it up best by explaining that “jazz mostly is about testing the integrity of a song’s frame — and if you truly respect the frame, you can put anything inside it.”

His words were dramatically underlined last summer during the 92nd Street Y’s annual Jazz July Festival under the artistic direction of Bill Charlap, jazz pianist extraordinaire and accompanist for

his mother, Sandy Stewart, who reign as one of our finest interpreters of the Great American Songbook. The series included evenings honoring Duke Ellington, Dick Hyman, Antonio Carlos Jobim and, for the series finale, a salute to a composer who always considered himself a jazz and blues player — yet one who epitomizes The American Songbook: the great Harold Arlen!

Popular Standards are an integral and essential part of every jazz musicians repertoire and throughout the Y’s series, the music of the Songbook’s greats was interpreted with affection and respect along with the unique stamp of such outstanding artists as Dick Hyman, Jay Leonhart, Winston Marsalis, Bill Mays, Bucky Pizzarelli, Carol Sloane and Warren Vaché. Their interpretations triggered a renewed appreciation of our music to older audiences while, I trust, impressing younger listeners with the beauty, literacy and passion of works by the men and women who represent the Golden Age of American music.

The Simple Sincerity of a Lyric Enhanced by Melody and Harmony

In this connection, many of our Society’s programs for this season will highlight the music and musicians that reach to the very heart of The American Songbook as exemplified by our **Lynn DiMenna’s** endearing October program saluting Dinah Shore. As

reviewed in these pages, it was a program that reflected all the warmth, charm and talent of this unique singer who used radio and television to open the eyes of literally millions to The American Songbook during her long and brilliant career. Lynn and her trio brought out the simple sincerity of the lyrics enhanced by the subtle melodic complexities and chord changes that stir and renew our affections for the “tunes” we love as Standards.

And talk about brilliant, for this November’s meeting, our **Jane Sheckter** will feature the work of Cy Coleman whose jazz-inflected scores were incubated in the 1950’s as the Cy Coleman Trio, just off 52nd Street and up the Avenue at the Embers Jazz Club and cross town at the Park Central’s Mermaid Room. At our meeting, Jane will be accompanied by **Barry Levitt**.

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

To begin the New Year, this writer will offer a tribute to those grand old hotel pianists who brought a new sophistication to the music that was played in hotel lounges and dining rooms. Do you remember Charles DeForest, Joe Derise, Hugh Shannon, Cy Walter?

And, of course, Joey Bushkin, Irving Fields, and Bobby Short.

For a pre-Valentine’s Day treat, our

Newsletter editor, **Jerry Laird**, will present a program celebrating that unique, wonderful (Wizard of Oz) lyricist, the great Y.P. “Yip” Harburg. (“What is there to do/What is there to say?/My heart’s in a deadlock/I’d even face wedlock with you.”)

On a personal note, may I suggest what a waste and a loss it would be not to have as many as possible enjoy our wonderful programs — each a show in itself that would cost so much more when seen in such venues as Danny’s or the Oak Room at the Algonquin. So make it a point to invite a prospective new member to every meeting. They’ll soon realize that membership in SMS is the best bargain in town.

After all, come to think of it, aren’t we all, in our own way, caretakers responsible for keeping the literate American Song tradition alive!

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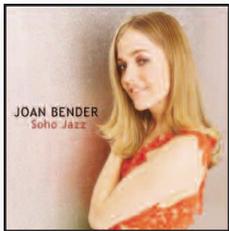
Sheet Music Magazine always has wonderful tributes to The Great American Songbook. It includes sheet music to over a dozen songs. NYSMS member Ed Shanaphy (Publisher & Editor-In-Chief) makes sure that each and every issue is just as wonderful. If you aren’t subscribing, you should be. It’s \$14.95 for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

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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 to the many current choices.

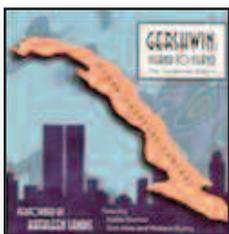
Singer's Singers...

CD Reviews by Dan Singer



Joan Bender "Soho Jazz"
no label, no number,
www.joanbender.com

This is Joan's 2nd cd. See ITI # 118 for my take on her debut disc. Here she's favorably presenting us with 15 songs. "Body And Soul" (Eyton/Sour/Heyman/Green) gets a jazz like rendering, a la Coleman Hawkins, with superb results. Joan takes many chances. As extraordinary as they are they come out just right. The familiar "Over The Rainbow" (Harburg/Arlen) is performed all anew, exhibiting Joan's artistry with a ballad. Ditto her performance of "God Bless The Child" (Herzog/ Holiday). It's sung with just an ever so slight beat in a fine blues arrangement. It's breathtaking. The Artie Shaw swing hit from 1941 "Frenesi" (Dominguez/Russell) gets a fine pleasurable working over. It remains a charmer even with words. Her emotionally tender reading of Walter Gross and Jack Lawrence's "Tenderly" is a dramatic tour de force. I was delighted with the Gershwin's "S' Wonderful" done in a merry uplifting way. The final song "But Beautiful" (Burke/Van Heusen) lovingly sends out a clear message. Ms. Bender continues to impress.



Kathleen Landis
"Gershwin Island To Island"
Nexsonics no number
www.citycabaret.com/klandis

Here's a colossal peerless Gershwin program to delight most everyone who loves great music stylishly and wonderfully performed. Kathleen in this her disc debut tastefully surrounds and caresses by embellishing Gershwin's familiar bottomless catalog with 8 vocals and her piano artistry on "The Cuban Overture" and a medley from "Porgy And Bess". She lovingly

makes this a one of a kind program with her superb extraordinary piano performances of preludes and overtures. This unusual cd requires multiple listening. Her adoration for the superior material certainly shows.



Kathy Jenkins
"From This Moment On" NLO 99
www.nlorecords.com

Kathy on her disc debut sings way out and over on 14 songs with the able assist of her husband Nick Levinovsky's big band. The title song really gets things going as Kathy swiftly soars over the gigantic band. It's big band singing taken to a spectacular degree. Alternatively, the other Porter song "Love For Sale" is slyly sung in a most coquettish rendering. Kathy also dazzles with her trio of Harold Arlen songs. "When The Sun Comes Out" mysteriously and ever so slowly sounds like the sad and tender story of love lost. "Come Rain Or Come Shine" has an exquisite vocal bringing out all of the inner underlings of this never often enough sung song. "I've Got The World On A String" is sung emotionally and dramatically. The band throughout receives ample opportunity to solo, making this a most rewarding cd. It made an important impression on me.

NYSMS BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

Don't miss a single word of news from the

New York Sheet Music Society

Now, each back issue of the past season NYSMS Newsletter is available for purchase.



Back issues are \$3.50 each and available starting with issues as of Oct 2005 and while quantities last. Email glen@gcdtp.com your request and to check if the issue wanted is available. Note: back issues are only available to current NYSMS members.

More Member News...

and hear Michael at his club. Go to his website: www.MichaelFeinstein.com to see his full schedule and hear many of the songs that he has recorded. It must have been over twenty years ago when Irving Caesar (Swanee, Tea For Two) phoned to tell me that he was very excited about a talented new singer/pianist at The Algonquin and that I must go. That night, Irving, my father and I went to the Oak Room and saw a very young Michael Feinstein and we all knew that he was going to be a big star. Michael has done so much for the American Songbook and keeping this music alive. He is one of the nicest people the world and said when he is in NY will come to one of our programs, and if his schedule permits - do a program for us!

Sandi Durell is a producer of the upcoming *Ludlow Ladd*, a "wonderfully warped" holiday musical, that will be presented for three benefit performances in December. This staged concert will raise monies for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. The play is the prequel to *Charlotte Sweet*: the 1982 off-Broadway hit for which librettist Michael Colby and composer Gerald Jay Markoe received Drama Desk Award nominations. All tickets are \$30 (tax deductible) General Admission. Early reservations are suggested during this busy holiday season. Res/Info: 212 615-6966. Performances Sunday December 10th, 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and Monday, December 11th at 7:00 pm at TADA!, 15 West 28th Street, (2nd Floor) NYC. Add'l Info.& to order tickets: www.timelessdivas.com <http://www.timelessdivas.com/>

Dennis Livingston has received a 2006-07 ASCAPLUS Award on the basis of the recent performance history of his catalog, including a recording of "It's Time For Roses" by Lua Hadar on "It's About Time" and performances by Sandi Durrell of "Springtime In Boston" at the Society and the ASCAP-MAC Songwriters Showcase last year. Dennis' songs can be heard at www.dennislivingston.com.

Eric Comstock & Barbara Fasano return to Philadelphia in "The Music That Makes Me Dance"—a Jule Styne Songbook, with Kevn MacConnell, bass. 10/25 to 11/5 (Weds thru Suns) Morgan's Cabaret at the Prince Music Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street, Phil (Box Office: 215-569-9700.

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Just a reminder-

December's meeting will be held on **Dec. 2nd**, the first Saturday of the month - **INSTEAD** of the second Saturday.

The DiTalented DiMenna

Lynn DiMenna was, for nearly ten years, host/producer of "**Welcome o the Club**," a radio show heard on WRTN-WVOX in Westchester. She has interviewed well over three hundred Broadway, cabaret and jazz legends, hottest stars and brightest newcomers and introduced her listeners to the music of hundreds more. She moved to WVOF in Fairfield, CT. as co-host with Jeffrey C. Williams of "**At the Ritz!**" covering swing, big band, jazz, cabaret and Sinatra. The show was on Sundays from 1-3 on 88.5FM and also worldwide viz the internet at www.wvof.org. for five years.

As a performer, she has appeared in many of the area's finest cabarets and supper clubs, including the **Oak Room at The Algonquin Hotel, Arci's, Judy's and Danny's Skylight Room**. She has been a featured vocalist with the **Stan Rubin Orchestra** and has also made guest appearances with **The Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, and Count Basie Orchestras**. This summer, she will be returning for a third year as a featured vocalist in **Tavern on the Green's** big Band Summer Garden Series, and appearing in Stamford as part of the "Pops in the Park" series. "Sweet & Swing," her debut recording, was well-received and continues to play on national radio stations.

Special thanks to **Chris Cain, Mike Wills** and especially **Linda Amiel Burns and Paul Greenwood**, for their help and support with this show.



From left: Linda Amiel Burns, Paul Greenwood, Lynn, Joe Corsello and Rick Petrone.

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! Nine great programs and our monthly Newsletter.

The start of our 2006-07 season:

NOVEMBER 11, 2006

Jane Sheckter will perform the work of Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields whose jazz-inflected scores were incubated in the 1950's. Accompanied by **Barry Levitt**.

JANUARY 13, 2007

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

DECEMBER 2, 2006 - Date Change

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P.O. Box 564
New York, NY 10008



Meetings -
2nd Saturday of
every month!

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