

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF CLASSIC POPULAR MUSIC

Richard Skipper = Carol Channing = Richard Skipper = Carol Channing Again, Proving That "Diamonds" Are An Audiences Best Friend

By Jerry Laird

When Richard Skipper is Carol Channing, he really IS Carol Channing. And, he is 200% entertaining. Once again, the New York Sheet Music Society was treated to a fabulous, over-the-top afternoon. Skipper is so professional that it is hard to refer to him as Richard Skipper when praising him for becoming Carol Channing.

(To add to the spookiness, I interviewed Carol Channing at the Broadmore in Colorado Springs when she was on tour in "Lorelei." I almost asked Richard if he remembered me from 33 years ago! Talk about

Richard opened our afternoon with the wonderful *Bye, Bye, Baby*, and I was gone. *mesmerizing!!)*

The second show I saw on Broadway, when

I moved East from Omaha in 1950, was "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes." Richard opened our afternoon with the wonderful *Bye, Bye, Baby*, and I was gone. He was Carol Channing, and I was back in my theater seat in 1950.

None of us needed reminding of how cheated we felt when the original Channing did not appear in either movie version of her two biggest hits. But we were reminded that Monroe spent weeks in the audience studying Channing before she went before the cameras for GPB. Oh, well... that's show business.

Skipper is not only brilliant at performing, he's equally brilliant at picking a fantastic pianist (Paul Stephan) to accompany her (I think I mean him) and two guys





President's Message...

Happy Spring – finally! Can you believe that The 2006-2007 NYSMS season has gone by so quickly? This has been a terrific year of programs: October – **Lynn DiMenna's** tribute to Dinah Shore; November- **Jane Sheckter's** tribute to Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields; December – **Barbara Brussell** on Alan Jay Lerner; January – the Great Hotel Pianists, produced by **Elliott Ames**; February – **Sandy Marrone's** Collectors' Meeting; March – the remarkable Mark Nadler; April – Richard Skipper as Carol Channing. We still have two more exciting programs to go before we take a break for the summer. Read all about **Sandi Durell's** upcoming program on May 12th, with fabulous new songs and songwriters – truly a wealth of talent. We will close the season with a Program featuring Ernie Harburg, son of “Yip,” produced by **Jerry Laird**.

Thank you all for telling so many people about the NY Sheet Music Society. Let's make 2007-2008 just as wonderful, and increase our membership base. Where else can you experience such amazing programs, find music, tapes and memorabilia, learn about all aspects of music, and receive a monthly informative Newsletter? Visit our website managed by **Debi Smith** (www.NYSMS.org). It is chock full of information, photos, a schedule of events and our glorious history. **Glen Charlow**, our Treasurer and Newsletter designer, has arranged for you to be able 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, so that you do not miss any mailings.

We still have an opening on the Board for the Recording Secretary – so if any of you are interested, please contact me to discuss the responsibilities of this position. It is your Society, and we really appreciate your participation.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting on May 12th. We expect the turnout to be SRO, so get there early, and get your seats! See you then!

Best wishes,

Linda

September is
membership renewal time.
 Go to www.NYSMS.org
 to renew!!

New York Sheet Music Society

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR & PUBLISHER:
Jerry Laird
lairdstdio@optonline.net
214 Highland Ave., Norwalk, CT 06853

ASSISTANT EDITOR:
Joan Adams

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:
Glen Charlow
designer@gcdtp.com

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.

**Now you can
 join or renew your
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It's all right there, spelled out for you, in 3 easy steps!

www.NYSMS.org

and follow the **NEW** link in the maroon bar.



Member News...

New member, **Helen Mandlin** will be debuting her new act, *So Far, A Musical Memoir*, **Downstairs at the West Cafe**, Wed, May 30th & Sat. June 2nd, 7:00 pm show. Musical Dir. **Ross Patterson**, Directed by Elissa Wolfe. 212.695.6909 for reservations.

Josh Vogel is in the movies, singing his song "I Flunk Adultery" in the documentary "51 Birch Street", which A.O. Scott of the *NY Times* called "a work of art" and put on his 10 Best List for '06. It will be on Cinemax on May 8th. Josh's CD, "Josh Vogel's Country Blues" is available at each meeting's CD table, where \$2 from every sale goes to **The Sheet Music Society**. The story, and a 2 minute clip from each song, can be heard on the internet at [CDBaby-Josh Vogel](http://CDBaby-JoshVogel.com).

Congratulations to **Barbara Fasano** for her Bistro Award for the 2007 Outstanding Recording, *Written in the Stars*, a tribute to Harold Arlen. She graciously performed for one of our 2006 programs, using much of this material. We knew then she was a winner.

Rachel Stone will be one of the performers (with Anne Price, Charles Herold, and Nicholas Levine & Singers) on Friday, May 18, 2007 at 7:00pm (doors open 6:30pm) at **Community Cabaret**. \$15 donation at door, \$10 for Seniors, Students, Disabled, and Members of CCNY-UU, FMSNY, MAC, NYSMS, PMN, PVC, SHOF, TRU, WIM, and CabaretHotline. Food, wine, desserts and beverages are available before and during the show at very reasonable prices. Proceeds donated to Community Church of New York – Unitarian Universalist. - Downstairs at 40 East 35th St. (between Park & Madison Aves.), NYC. Discount Advance Purchase Tickets for only \$7 are available until the midnight before the show, at www.rachelstonemusic.com or from performers. For more information, contact rachel.stone@verizon.net or call 718-472-0472.

Saint Peter's Midtown Jazz at noon, Hosted by Ronny Whyte Wednesdays at 1:00 PM. 54th & Lexington Avenue. Suggested Donation: \$5.00. April 25 - No Concert. May 2nd: **Tom Abbott's** Big Bang Big Band, featuring vocalist Kelsey Jillette. May 9th: **Ronny Whyte** - pianist / singer / songwriter, with **Boots Maleson** on Bass and **David Silliman** on Drums. May 16th :**Joanne Brackeen** on Piano. May 23rd : **Harmonie Ensemble/New York** (31 Piece Orchestra) Steven Richman, conductor, Lincoln Mayorga, pianist, doing an All-Gershwin Program: Historic 1920's Ferde Grofe arrangements for the Paul Whiteman Orchestra, plus "I Got Rhythm" Variations (original small orchestra version), & restored lost Gershwin work: Medley of Four Popular Tunes for Piano & Orchestra. May 30th: **Barbara Fasano**, Singer, and **John DiMartino** on Piano.

The Mac Awards were not announced at the time we are going to press, but let's consider everyone a winner who is nominated: **Linda Amiel Burns, Francesca Blumenthal, Jane Scheckter, John Wallowitch, Darryl Sherman, Eric Comstock, Cynthia Crane, Barbara Fasano, Nicholas Levin, Anthony Santelmo, Jr., Ritt Henn, Valerie Kanofsky, Trudi Mann, Ronny Whyte...**and we know **Dody Goodman** and **Jan Wallman** won, as they were receiving Lifetime Achievement Awards.

The next **Singing Experience** workshop, *The Best of Times*, begins rehearsal on May 15th with performance at the **Triad** on June 12th at 7:30. Call Linda for reservations and information. 212-315-3500

Paul Chamlin and **Rochelle Beyer** are getting married in June and celebrating with a duet show at **Don't Tell Mama** on May 8th & May 16th at 7 pm. Call 212-757-0788 after 4 pm for reservations.

Chamlin will be busy on May 9th as well: **Teresa Fischer** is doing her show, *Lightening My Load*, at **Don't Tell Mama** at 7 pm, the night before Paul & Rochelle do their show.

Lynn DiMenna and Jeffrey C. Williams have resumed their weekly live Sunday radio broadcasts, *At The Ritz*, on WVOF 88.5 FM from 3 to 5 pm. Another way to get their show: go to <http://www.attheritz.org/> and click on 24/7

Joe Franklin and Steve Garrin have re-opened the Joe Franklin Comedy Club at 761 7th Ave. (50th St.) Call 212 541-6592 for the schedule.

Laura Slutsky will be doing her comedy act "Don't Get Me Started" at Don't Tell Mama on May 7th at 7 pm. Call DTM for reservations after 4 pm: 212-757-0788

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

David Berk is at **Tutto Bene** Restaurant, 102-15 Metropolitan Ave., Forest Hills, Fridays and Saturdays at 7 pm. For reservations, call 718-375-3331 or 718-520-9598.

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

The **Singing Experience** Cable TV Show on MNN - Time Warner: Channel 56 or RCN: Channel 111 Broadcasts are every other Sunday at 5:00PM.

Sheet Music Magazine always has wonderful tributes to The Great American Songbook. It includes sheet music for over a dozen songs. NYSMS member Ed Shanaphy (Publisher & Editor-In-Chief) makes sure that each and every issue is equally 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

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>



Laird's Lair

Lest we forget, I have been asked to remind you that when you bring a guest to a meeting, that you must stop at the receptionists' table, and pay the \$10. guest fee. Also, please carry your membership card with you and show it when you check in.

Please keep sending me information about your performances and I will help publicize you, but remember that we need enough advance notice so that our audience still has time to arrange to go and see you. I have received e-mail (which is the best way of contacting me) from some of you, with less than two week's notice of a performance, and there is no way I can get the notice in, and the newsletter out, in time. I really do want to help, so please help me help you.

Anthony DiFlorio, who used to edit this newsletter, is still very helpful in contributing items for you. One of his latest is about Davey Lee, who was Al Jolson's original "Sonny Boy." Lee was the first child star of the talkies, and co-starred with Jolson in "The Singing Fool in 1928—Hollywood's box office champion until "Gone with the Wind" came along. Become a member of a small group that will help Davey Lee realize that he has not been forgotten. Kevin Spacey recently appeared on the Jane Pauley show and told of how he often visited the retired performers at the Motion Picture Home: "The toughest part for them is the feeling that they have been forgotten," he said. Send a card, or if you're in the Southern California area, pay him a visit: Davey Lee c/o The Windsor Gardens, 13000 Victory Blvd, N. Hollywood, CA 91606 (818) 985-5990, "When there are grey skies, I don't

mind those grey skies. Climb up on my knee, *Sonny Boy*."

I also get notices about birthdays. Unfortunately, I didn't get the Happy Birthday notice about Jack Lawrence until today, which is past April 7th, when Jack became 95. He was one of our guests not that long ago (When you get to a certain age, "not that long ago" can be anytime from 2 to 20 years!). The year that Jack got his degree to become a dentist, his first song was published: *Play, Fiddle, Play*. He also wrote *If I Didn't Care, Yes, My Darling Daughter, All or Nothing at All*, and (of course) *Tenderly*. Keep it up!

Another great item I got was about another artist who has entertained us at one of our



Quinn Lemley

monthly meetings: Quinn Lemley. The show she did for us is knocking 'em dead

from coast to coast. By the time this prints, she will have appeared in Hightstown, NY (4/29), and she will be at Palm Desert, CA (May 1st) and Ridgfield, CT (May 11th), Proctors Theatre - Schenectady, NY (Oct 6). "*The Heat is On!*"

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 arts event ticket discounts ranging from 30-50% off. For show updates and ordering information, 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 choices currently available.



Kitty Carlisle Hart 1910-2007 Une Femme Du Monde

by Lynn DiMenna - Co-host of AT THE RITZ! www.attheritz.org

She may have been the “quintessential” New Yorker but Kitty Carlisle Hart was much more than that! Women all over the world can learn a great deal about how to live their lives by studying the life of this indefatigable “grande-dame!

I hadn't really known her for very long but she certainly made me feel as if I had. I would see her often on the New York club and benefit circuit and never missed her appearances at Feinstein's to celebrate one extraordinary birthday after another! She always displayed

her characteristic warm, demure smile and gracious, easy manner regardless of the circumstances. I remember fondly two particularly revealing recent incidents.

The first was last year when I arranged for her, Margaret Whiting and Julie Wilson to be interviewed by Chris Cain and Adelmo Guidarelli for their new television pilot, “Voices Among Us!” all on the same day at the Soundtrack Studios in New York. It was a logistical challenge, to say the least, since I was providing transportation for all of them at different times throughout the day. When the driver arrived at my home in Connecticut in a huge “Cadillac Escalade” rather than the “Chrysler Town Car” I had requested, I was horrified! How was I ever going to ask these three “legends” to navigate their way gracefully into a “truck!”

I needn't have panicked. Kitty appeared in her lobby, on the arm of her doorman, in the most gorgeous melon colored suit (“It's couture dear!”) I'd ever seen before or since and allowed herself to be hoisted up off the ground, with no reservation or fear whatsoever, and positioned

securely in the back seat without a single hair out of place. I was dumbstruck!

Several months later in August, as a thank you for the aforementioned interview, Chris Cain and I made a date with her for lunch at one of her favorite restaurants, La Goulue, on Madison Ave. It turned out to be the hottest day in decades! Chris and I were certain she would cancel but “true to form” we picked her up and she appeared, once again, looking “fresh as a daisy” and “cool as a cucumber” in a crisp navy blue and polka-dotted frock! I'll NEVER forget that dress!

Lunch was a delight! She told her stories, all of which we had heard before but they were nevertheless riveting. Even more impressively, she made a genuine effort to find out more about “us!” After two hours she graciously



Kitty, Chris Cain, Lynn DiMenna at La Goulue.

announced that she had to get home to meet with her musical director, David Lewis for a rehearsal. It seems they were leaving the next morning for a sold-out run in LA! She was 96 years old and it was registering 109 degrees in my car when we dropped her off at her apartment! She never batted an eye nor did I ever notice a scintilla of mascara running down her cheek from perspiration. I wish I could

say the same for Chris and me. We were drenched!

When I asked her that day how she kept such a youthful appearance, she answered directly, “Well, dear, I really don't know. I went to my plastic surgeon, and I said, Doc, do I need another tuck? (Apparently she had some previous “work” done thirteen years ago at age 83!) And he said to me, Kitty, when you look in the mirror, what do you see? And I said, Well, I see Kitty Carlisle! And he said, Exactly, and that's my answer...Kitty, you're fine! Go home! So, I guess I'm just lucky!”

Well, she was indeed both lucky and fine...more than fine...one of the finest...and she is now at home! May she rest in peace!



Singer's Singers...

CD Reviews by Dan Singer



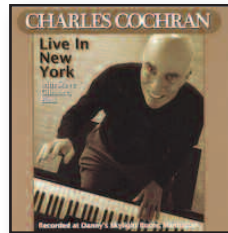
Chris Connor
"Sings Ballads Of The Sad Café"
 Collectables 6277 www.oldies.com

Fortified with some of the most renowned jazz studio musicians that Ralph Sharon could gather, Chris overwhelms in this 1959 Atlantic Records nine song reissue. She squeezes the life out of William Roy's "Bargain Day". Listening to it is an exhausting experience but none the less well worth it. Her take on Edward Redding's masterpiece "End Of A Love Affair" can't be bettered. There is much going on with many mood and music changes throughout. The title song by Charles DeForrest tells volumes on lost and found love. It's a one of a kind staggering performance. Chris performs "Lilac Wine" (Shelton) with such vocal passion it's unforgettable. "One For My Baby" (Mercer/Arlen) is sung with rich openness never heard before. Chris brings brand new great musical passages to the forefront. This unfamiliar, unusual, melancholy song collection is indelible. Collectables has added an Atlantic Records jazz instrumental 8 song lp led by pianist Lou Levy and trumpeter Conte Candoli from 1957 called "West Coast Wailers" to this musically essential cd.



John Pizzarelli "Dear Mr. Sinatra"
 Telarc 83638
www.millerwright.com

I know just what you're saying. "Not another Sinatra tribute album again." Well I'm here to tell you this 12-song collection is certain to grab you. Actually it's all here, except Frank himself that is. The John Clayton/Jeff Hamilton jazz orchestra dominates the session with some bright sparkling, crisp, clear, brass arrangements for Mr. Pizzarelli's tip-o-the-voice energetic tribute to the lean one. Both the soft and swing song material never ever let up. Of note there's a brand new first time on disc "Nice And Easy" Alan Bergman lyric of his standard with Lew Spence. It's a blast. Not only does Mr. Pizzarelli share New Jersey as their home state he's also a crooning swinging songster to be reckoned with.



Charles Cochran "Live In New York" Lanierhall no number
Lanierhall@aol.com

This cd is taken from a 2003 exuberant performance at New York City's Danny's Skylight Room cabaret. Charles on piano and vocals delves deeply and most respectfully into 13 unusual songs. He is guilty of one important thing: He just doesn't sing a song unless he understands it thoroughly. His keen rendering of the songs in this collection accentuate this live session. His choices of two of Berlin's obscure songs from 1946, "You Keep Coming Back Like A Song" and "Falling Out Of Love Can Be Fun" are magical. The first from the film "Blue Skies" is portrayed in a most lovely tear evoking romantic rendering. The second first appeared on Broadway in his flop "Miss Liberty". Charles gives it brand new "legs" with his bouncy performance. The two Cy Coleman /Carolyn Leigh songs are wonderful: "On The Other Side Of The Tracks" from his 1962 Broadway show "Little Me" is a superior swinging curtain raiser to this spirited "live" cd. The second "My How The Time Goes By" was introduced by Patti Page in the fifties and is slowly and charmingly executed with enormous feeling. Charles own "I Love You Again" is thankfully included here and it's astonishing. With each cd Charles showcases for us just what's right with cabaret today.



Sophie Tucker "The Last Of The Red Hot Mamas" Living Era 5611
www.sanctuaryclassics.com

Here are 26 prime examples of Sophie taken from the years 1923 to 1937. These well-polished oldies never sounded better or in clearer sound. The Tucker magic can be heard throughout. Perhaps you just might share a tear as she tirelessly belts out the blues. Known as "The First Lady Of Show Business" this walloping ragtime singer was born Sonia Kalish Abuza. In 1922 she played London's famed Hippodrome in a show called "Round In Fifty" where she insulted the Prince of Wales. Lord Chamberlain became incensed. In 1935 at a Command Performance, she looked up at the Royal Box waved and cried "Hi Ya King". Her lively unpredictable excitement certainly earned this lady the toast of multitudes for scores of years.

New York Sheet Music Society
www.NYSMS.org

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Adam Enright & Kristopher Monroe

(Kristopher Monroe and Adam Enright) as backup singers who added just the right notes (That's also show business).

The afternoon was perfection, as Richard talked about Carol and her life and performed some songs she made famous...and

others not necessarily associated with Channing, such as *Elegance* and *Widow's Weeds*. Of course, the lyricist/composer of that last song was right there in the front row: Ervin Drake, beaming his approval. Skipper was able to get the subtle nuances of such difficult songs as *Supper Time*, and *Looking Back on my Past*. He also took us back to the one movie Channing was in ("Thoroughly Modern Millie") and the show ("Lend an Ear") at which Anita Loos

discovered Carol

Channing who was playing "The Gladiola Girl," and knew she had found her Lorelei Lee.



Linda Amiel Burns and "Carol"

No matter how much I praise Richard Skipper and his troupe, it is not enough. He really has got ELEGANCE!



"Carol" with Bobbie Horowitz & Barbra Garshwin



"Carol" with Julie Wilson



"Carol" with Edie Stokes



Estelle Randolph and "Carol"

Check Richard Skipper's schedule. Wow!! Were we ever lucky to have him at the April Meeting!!!

May 1 - 7 pm - BB King's 237 W. 42nd St., NYC: Mac Awards. Richard and Lee Roy Reams will be presenting Dody Goodman with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

May 3 - 10 am - Richard will be presenting a workshop for the Arts Council of Rockland in Sping Valley. Visit www.artscouncilofrockland.org for complete information

May 5 - 8 pm - Wadsworth Atheneum, 600 Main St Hartford, Ct Carol Channing in Concert. For more information and reservations, 888-239-9992.

May 12 - 19 - Richard will be entertaining passengers on the 5-star sailing ship, msy Wind Star from Rome to Athens.

June 3 - 7:30pm - The Miniaci Performing Arts Center in Davie, Fla. A special fundraiser for animal lovers throughout Florida.

July 10 7 pm - YMYWHA of North Jersey. His third engagement there as Channing. Contact Naomi Miller at naomisings@aol.com for information.

He also has private bookings in MD, OK, CA, and NY during this time. Great to see a great guy getting great bookings!

www.RichardSkipper.com

What's Coming Up Next...



MAY 12, 2007

Our Board Member **Sandi Durell** will bring us her fabulous "**New Songwriter Series**" once again with the great talents of today strutting their stuff. Sandi has introduced us to numerous pianists, singers, composers, many of whom have become a part of the Society. She is presently producing "Divas In Divaland" in Florida as part of her "Timeless Diva" Series.



JUNE 9, 2007

The Lyrics of E.Y. "Yip" Harburg. Jerry Laird will be producing the last program of our 2006-07 season, and members of the Harburg family will take part, presenting an hour long version of "Finian's Rainbow," with a young cast. It will be spectacular. A bang-up way to end a spectacular season!

**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.**



P.O. Box 564
New York, NY 10008



Meetings -
2nd Saturday of
every month!

May 12
June 9