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Chicago Cabaret Week features performances at 17 venues — starting May 9

Now in its fourth year, Chicago Cabaret Week runs from May 9 to May 18 — with more than 95 performers providing acts in 17 venues throughout Chicagoland. The ten-day event showcases the diversity of Chicago artists and venues that offer cabaret performances throughout the year. Discounted tickets at \$30 or less, excluding fees, are offered for all shows. Reservations are strongly recommended. A complete Chicago Cabaret Week schedule and links to tickets are available at chicagocabaretweek.org.

“Cabaret Week is all about giving fans — and new audiences — a lineup of stellar cabaret shows in fantastic venues,” explains Anne Burnell, a cabaret/jazz performer and one of the Cabaret Week organizers. “We’re featuring legendary performers and cabaret innovators, as well as ensemble shows featuring multiple artists.”

Cabaret Week highlights a wide range of musical styles found in the cabaret sphere: blues, Broadway, burlesque, jazz, R&B, American Songbook, French chanson, and world music. The 17 venues include night clubs, small theatres, restaurants, community centers and houses of worship.

“Our cabaret community is one of most vibrant in the world. Every night you can find cabaret shows throughout the city and suburbs, with artists developing exciting, thought-provoking, emotion-raising shows,” said Claudia Hommel, the Executive Director of Working In Concert and a founder of Cabaret Week. “But Cabaret Week is also about celebrating cabaret as one of Chicago’s earliest musical genres, dating back 110 years, when, by the early 1920s, there were hundreds of cabaret rooms.”

Chicago Cabaret Week is produced by four leading cabaret organizations: Chicago Cabaret Professionals, Working in Concert, Acts Of Kindness Cabaret, and The Cabaret Project with support from Choose Chicago, Illinois Arts Council, and WDCB 90.9 FM radio.

Planning for the first Chicago Cabaret Week began in 2019, inspired by other annual Chicago events, such as Restaurant Week and Theater Week. COVID delayed its first launch until 2022, when the Week was greeted with great enthusiasm.

“It’s exciting to see how Chicago Cabaret Week has grown from an idea into a yearly event,” says Hilary Feldman, Founder and Artistic Director of Acts Of Kindness Cabaret, “Now in our fourth year, Cabaret Week is one of the many annual events that bring arts organizations, artists and audiences together.”

[Full Details at Choose Chicago's Cabaret Week landing page](#)

CABARET WEEK FEATURED CONCERTS

Opening Night: Robin Watson presents An Edible Array of Music: Tunes to Whet your Appetite

Friday, May 9 — 7:30 to 9 PM

Epiphany Center for the Arts – Chicago

\$30 tickets.

Robin Watson (Jazzlady Robin) has blazed some of Chicago's premier hotspots — and this Cabaret Week performance includes an eclectic selection of tunes from Ellington to Wonder with a funky twist.

MUSE: Unveiled

Friday, May 9 — 9 to 11PM

Newport Theater – Chicago

\$25 General Admission, \$30 VIP front row seating

MUSE incorporates drag, burlesque, clowning and other art forms to create an intimate, thought-provoking cabaret experience featuring live singing and instrumental music.

Featuring Boobs Radley, Thorne and Whimsy Stiff, joined by some of Chicago's most celebrated performers from multiple genres.

Encore: The Art of Aging Well

Saturday, May 10 — 5 to 6:30PM

Fourth Presbyterian Church – Chicago

\$30 for show only; \$100 for show and post-show reception with hors d'oeuvres and wine.

A salute to the Center for Life and Learning, which has offered programs for people 60+ since 1965 at Fourth Presbyterian Church on Michigan Avenue. The cabaret performance will present well-loved songs and crowd favorites, including a parody or two about growing older.

Featuring Anne & Mark Burnell, David Aaron Harbin and Pam Peterson.

Black Voices in Cabaret presents Reimagining Cabaret: The Genres Explored

Saturday, May 10 — 7 to 9PM

Freedom Hall – Park Forest

\$30 - \$40 tickets.

Reimagining Cabaret is an acclaimed series created, produced, and directed by Lynn Colbert-Jones. This unforgettable event is a thrilling journey through musical genres — in what the *Chicago Sun-Times* calls “incredible singing, and scatting, snapping, and dramatic flair” that leaves audiences “rapt from start to finish.”

Ben Jones presents Temptation

Saturday, May 10 — Doors 6:30 PM. Show, 7:30 to 9:30 PM

Hey Nonny – Arlington Heights

\$20 - \$45 tickets. Full dinner menu available at the Premier Tables

BroadwayWorld calls Ben Jones, “One of the most unbelievable vocal instruments in the industry today.” Featuring the songs of Irving Berlin, Lesley Bricusse & Anthony Newley, Nat King Cole, Screamin’ Jay Hawkins, Peggy Lee, Julie London, Nina Simone, Stephen Sondheim and more.

Nancy Hays and Mary Heffernan present Judy & Liza at London Palladium, A Mother's Day Tribute

Sunday, May 11 — 4:30 to 6 PM

Fulton Street Collective – Chicago

\$30 tickets, reduced for seniors and students

Enjoy real life mother/daughter duo Nancy Hays and Mary Heffernan's performance as they lovingly recall the famed 1964 concert of the legendary mother/daughter duo of Judy Garland and 18-year-old Liza Minnelli at the London Palladium, with musical direction by Robert Ollis and a jazz ensemble.

Chicago Cabaret Professionals Musical Monday: Cities of the World

Monday, May 12 — 7:30 to 9:30 PM

Rhapsody Theater – Chicago

Celebrating songs about the great cities of the world. Selections will include the romantic, humorous, well known, and those not as familiar. You will be able to tour these fabulous cities with some of Chicago's most talented cabaret artists without leaving the comfort of your table. Featuring: Jay Cook, Joan Curto, T. Patrick Davis, Laura Freeman, Sophie Grimm, Ester Hana, Brianna Johnson, Marianne Murphy-Orland, Daryl Nitz, Tom Orland, Lou Ella Rose and Kevin Wood. Jim Cox, Bass.

Claudia Hommel & Friends presents From Chicago to Paris with Love

Tuesday, May 13 — seating at 6:30; show from 7:30 to 9 PM

Rockwell on the River – Chicago

\$25 tickets in advance and \$35 at the door.

Dinner and drink options available from Soul & Smoke.

Claudia Hommel & friends are conjuring up the Seine while looking out at the Chicago River.

The singing company includes Anne Burnell, Ava Logan, Ren Perez, Gaye Klopach, Cécile Savage, Elisabeth Howard, Lauren Lassen, Carl Ratner, Christine Steyer, and Randolph Johnson. With Bobby Schiff & Peter Storms at the keys and Sam Hyson on violin and accordion.

Lexa Maxa presents Give Me Jazz

Wednesday, May 14 — 7:30PM

Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret– Chicago

Lexa Maxa and her band present classical jazz songs, musical theatre hits, and new songs written and performed by Lexa. With Kyle William Stephens on piano, John Lauler on bass and Scott Paeth on drums. Opening set by Zoé Soteres, performing *Does This Song Make Me Look Dramatic?*

Sarah Siddons Society presents Swell Soirée, the Fabulous Fifties

Thursday, May 15 — 6 to 7:30 PM

PianoForte Chicago

Cabaret Week Tickets: \$30; Student/Performing Industry Members: \$20; Sarah Siddons Members: \$45; General Admission: \$60

An evening with a little bit of rhythm and blues, rock and roll, honky-tonk country, swing and Broadway. The 1950's, besides being the decade when the Sarah Siddons Society was founded, had so many great musical genres.

Featuring Cathy Glickman, Carla Gordon, Ava Logan, and Robert Sims.

Lynne Jordan and The Shivers present Naughty Divas: blues & double entendre to disco

Thursday, May 15 — Bar opens: 5 pm; Dinner: 6:00 pm; Performance: 7:15 pm

The Cliff Dwellers – Chicago

Dinner & Performance: \$65; Performance only: \$30

Chicago's favorite Diva, Lynne Jordan, presents a night of cabaret that covers the full spectrum of dynamic hits — including the songs of Alberta Hunter, Ruth Brown, Nina Simone, Aretha Franklin, Gloria Gayner, Donna Summer, and Jill Scott.

Featuring Lynne Jordan and the Shivers: Ray Glower, Maurice Fitzgerald and Brady Williams

Joan Collaso & Family

Friday, May 16 — 7:30 to 10PM

Haven Entertainment Center – Chicago

\$30 tickets. First come first serve.

Emmy-Award winning vocalist Joan Collaso will be performing her repertoire of beloved songs. Joan blends the textures of Jazz, R&B, Blues and Gospel with her own distinct sound.

Featuring Joan Collaso, Larry Hanks, Ron Hall (Bass), Kenari Allison, Rayzine Collaso, and Jessica Walton.

I'm M\$ B'Havin with my \$exagenarian\$

Saturday, May 17 — 9 PM to midnight

The Tonk – Chicago

No cover charge. BBQ and full bar for purchase.

The music and entertainment of I'm M\$ B'Havin and her Sexagenarians' band is a unique blend of Blues, Jazz, and R&B. Featuring I'm M\$ B'Havin, Paul McAdams, Sam Rodriguez, Dave Service, and Rick Hall (Ric Jaz) with special guest Carlos Showers.

The Swingin' Sisters presents Singing through the 60s.

Sunday, May 18 — 12 – 1:30 PM

Le Piano – Chicago

\$20 tickets

The Swingin' Sisters use their amazing harmonies to interpret the swinging songs of the 1960s. This show will renew your love and appreciation for these classic tunes. Enjoy a great brunch menu.

Featuring Carolyn Broquet, Tirzah Joy, and Barbara Smith. Band: Sami Scot, Jay Whitehouse, and Kent Bredup.

Acts Of Kindness Cabaret presents its Final Bow

Sunday, May 18 — 3 to 5:30 PM

Chicago Theater Works – Chicago

\$15 tickets include 1 drink ticket

For two decades, AOKC has harnessed the magic of cabaret to support local nonprofits, raising over half a million dollars for meaningful causes while introducing thousands to the beauty of cabaret. Now, as we close this extraordinary chapter, join us for a joyful farewell.

Featuring Hilary Ann Feldman, Cindy Firing, Adam Hibma, Nikki Krzebiot, Marianne Murphy Orland, Tracy Adams, Caron Buinis, Jeanne Whiteside. Andrew Blendermann, piano.

Andy Bossov & Friends Celebrate Allan Sherman at 100!

Sunday, May 18 — 2 to 3 PM

Congregation Bene Shalom – Chicago

\$20 tickets, light refreshments for purchase

Who doesn't remember "Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh"? But parodist Allan Sherman wrote so many more songs than that and inspired all punny people after him. Learn all about history in "You Went the Wrong Way Old King Louis," fine dining in "Hungarian Goulash," medicine in "I See Bones," or the names of all your relatives in "Shake Hands with Your Uncle Max, My Boy."

Sam Fazio sings The Classics

Sunday, May 18 — 7 to 9 PM

Vincent Restaurant – Chicago

Free

Sam has entertained audiences at some of the most prestigious venues in the country, performing a unique mix of jazz standards and pop classics—all with a fresh, hip sound. A great way to close out Chicago Cabaret Week.



CAPTION: (top row, left to right): Claudia Hommel, Mary Heffernan and Nancy Hays, Joan Collaso, Ben Jones, Robin Watson, and Anne & Mark Burnell
(Bottom row:) Lynne Jordan, Boobs Radley, Pam Peterson, Swingin' Sisters (Tirzah Joy, Barbara Smith, Carolyn Broquet), I'm M\$ B'havin, and Hilary Feldman.

About Chicago Cabaret Week coordinators

WORKING IN CONCERT

A nonprofit facilitator of collaborative projects for intimate vocal performances. In addition to Chicago Cabaret Week, its initiatives include Black Voices in Cabaret, Chicago Paris Cabaret

Connexion, SongShop Live (song interpretation workshops and concerts), new works from Bellissima Opera, Opera in the Classroom, and Diverse Voices in Schools.

Workinginconcert.org

CHICAGO CABARET PROFESSIONALS

Founded in 1998, Chicago Cabaret Professionals promotes the Art of Cabaret by educating performers, presenters, the media, and the public at large; by encouraging the development of venues and new audiences; and by encouraging the establishment of professional standards for performance conditions. Chicagocabaret.org

ACTS OF KINDNESS CABARET

Acts Of Kindness Cabaret's mission is to help other Chicago-area non-profits raise funds and cultivate donors by providing professional, entertaining cabaret events largely free of charge while, at the same time, increasing the audience for the art of modern American cabaret. Art that raises money. AOKCabaret.org

CHICAGO CABARET PROJECT

Established in 2007, the Chicago Cabaret Project provides unique and custom entertainment for both local and traveling engagements in: Corporate venues, hotels, weddings, private parties, benefits and galas, national anthem, underground parties, masquerades, holiday caroling and live cabaret performances. [More about Kyle Hustedt and The Cabaret Project](#)

Chicago Cabaret Week is supported this year in part by the Illinois Arts Council, WDCB-90.9 FM radio (Chicago's home for jazz, blues, and more) and the tourism bureau Choose Chicago.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE CELEBRATION OF CABARET IN CHICAGO!

Chicago Cabaret Week Coordinators:

Anne Burnell, Managing Director

Claudia Hommel, Working in Concert

Hilary Feldman, Acts Of Kindness Cabaret

Marty Balogh, Chicago Cabaret Professionals

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