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Chicago Cabaret Week has additional shows and a change of venue for one performance

MEDIA UPDATE: this release includes information on a venue change plus information on three additional shows that have been added to the Cabaret Week schedule.

A change to the Official Cabaret Week Venues

Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret is no longer an official Cabaret Week venue. The owners of Davenport's recently cancelled all cabaret show events, including Cabaret Week performances.

According to Claudia Hommel, a Chicago Cabaret Week coordinator, "The change at Davenport's was abrupt. Neither the performers nor the Cabaret Week organizers received advance notice that shows were cancelled. The venue served 26 years as Chicago's premier cabaret room so it's unfortunate to see the new owners shut out this art form. But the cabaret community has always found that when one door closes, another door opens. Several new venues stepped forward and we look forward to working with them in the future."

New venue for a Featured Show

Originally scheduled to be at Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, **Lexa Maxa and Zoé Soteres double bill** has moved now to the Gateway Lounge at the Copernicus Center, 5216 W Lawrence Avenue in Chicago. on Wednesday, May 14 — 7:30PM.

The Gateway Lounge is a new performance space in the historic Copernicus Center. Conveniently located at Jefferson Park, the May 14 show is a soft opening for diverse programming to be launched this summer. Plenty of free parking and a luxurious new lounge in which to enjoy cabaret shows up close and personal.

The complete Chicago Cabaret Week schedule is below. Links to tickets are available at chicagocabaretweek.org.

Chicago Cabaret Week is produced in partnership with Choose Chicago, and support from the Illinois Arts Council, WDCB-90.9 FM radio (Chicago's home for jazz, blues, and more).



The 2025 lineup

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

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

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

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

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 scattling, 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

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

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

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 *Lexa with an A*

Wednesday, May 14 — 7:30PM

Gateway Lounge at Copernicus Center– Chicago

Opening set by Zoé Soteres, performing *Does This Song Make Me Look Dramatic?*

With Kyle William Stephens on piano, John Lauler on bass and Scott Paeth on drums.

Lexa Maxa is back with her acclaimed show, inspired by her performance background in musical theatre and in pop music as a singer-songwriter. With a set that includes classic musical theatre hits (*Come to the Cabaret, All That Jazz*), songs from popular music (*Edge of Glory, Rich Girl*), modern musical numbers (*What Baking Can Do, Burn*).

Sarah Siddons Society presents *Swell Soirée, the Fabulous Fifties*

Thursday, May 15 — 6 to 7:30 PM

PianoForte–Chicago

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

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

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

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 are swingin' through the 60s.

Sunday, May 18 — 12 – 1:30 PM

Le Piano – Chicago

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

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

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

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.

The "Additional Shows" are:

Sunday, May 11 — 12 to 1:15PM at LePiano -- Chicago

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

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.

Saturday, May 17 — 7:30 PM at The Haven Entertainment Center

Black Voices in Cabaret present Reimagining Cabaret: The Bronzeville Edition

– Acclaimed by the Chicago Sun-Times, Fox32, and NBC, the artists of Black Voices In Cabaret bring a special intimate edition of Reimagining Cabaret to the Haven Entertainment Center, produced by Lynn Colbert-Jones. “Incredible singing, and scatting, snapping, and dramatic flair” that leaves audiences “rapt from start to finish.”

Sunday, May 18 – 4PM in the Cambria Hotel

Teatro ZinZanni —Experience the magic of Teatro ZinZanni, featuring a rotating cast of world class performers, this one-of-a-kind entertainment experience promises an extravaganza of love, chaos, and dreams inside the velvet walls of Speigeltent ZaZou. Delight in mesmerizing circus acts, and unparalleled entertainment unlike anything you’ve ever seen. Prepare to be utterly captivated.

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](#)

Images, Guide to the Week, Press releases, hashtags, language, links to media coverage are posted at workinginconcert.org/chicago-cabaret-week.

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THE **CABARET**
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