Cabaret —Born in small intimate rooms in Paris in the 1880s, cabaret boomed in Chicago in the early 20th century as a way to share stories and song up close and personal. Today, it embraces many art forms — music, song, dance, recitation, puppetry, comedy or drama, and all musical genres whether musical theater, American songbook, rhythm & blues, spoken word, soul, gospel, jazz, world music or classical voice. ***Welcome to our Cabaret!***

Working In Concert

WORKING IN CONCERT is a not-for-profit performing arts alliance that supports artists developing new works, revisiting classic repertoire, and building new audiences up close and personal. Our initiatives are:

BELLISSIMA OPERA: An incubator for new and revisited classical works for voice

BLACK VOICES in CABARET: Spotlight on African American performers and the unsung history of Black cabaret

CHICAGO CABARET WEEK: Bringing great cabaret acts to intimate venues across Chicagoland

CHICAGO PARIS CABARET CONNEXION: An international collaboration to advance the art of cabaret

IN the CLASSROOM: Diverse Voices in Schools, Bellissima Opera Outreach and Cabaret-Paree programs for school children

SONGSHOP LIVE: The art of song interpretation to explore character and truth-telling in song

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT OUR ARTISTS:

DCASE Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

Illinois ARTS Council

CHICAGO ★ PARIS SISTER CITIES – SINCE 1996 –

And hundreds of individuals like YOU!

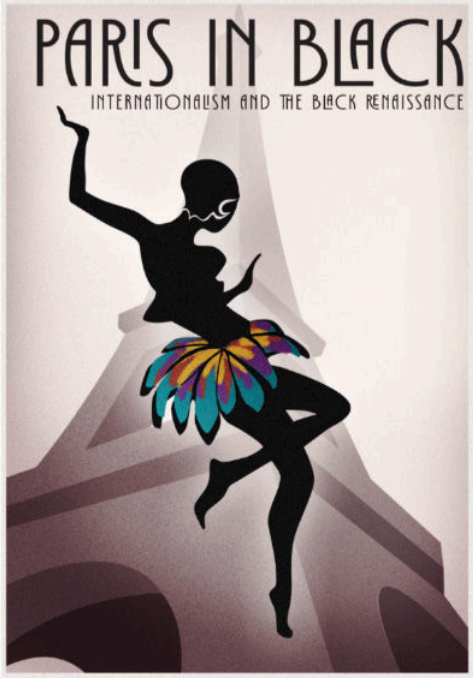
workinginconcert.org/donate

Black Voices In Cabaret presents
A musical tribute to Paris in Black
Sunday, February 1, 2026 — 6:00 pm

joined by Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion

and their musicians

The DuSable
BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM *and* EDUCATION CENTER



Launching **Black History Month** with members of the award-winning roster of **Black Voices in Cabaret**: Valerie Chestnut, Kenneth Fobs, Suzie Telep, Beverly Tyree, Sean Harris, Patricia Mosley, R. Darryl Thomas, Lynne Jordan, Robin Watson, Sonia Oyola, Ava Logan, Randolph Johnson, I'm M$ B'Havin, Patricia Tyson

Celebrating the return home from France alongside colleagues of the 7th **Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion**: Claudia Hommel, Jeanie Carroll, the Swingin' Sisters, Kathryn Hahn, Howie Pfeifer, Paul McAdams

A Musical Tribute to Paris in Black

Artists from Black Voices in Cabaret and the Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion return home from France

Music Director Howie Pfeifer

Jess Anzaldúa on bongos, Kathryn Hahn on flute, Frank Logan on saxophone, Paul McAdams on guitar, Sam Rodriguez on cajon

Hosted by R. Darryl Thomas and Claudia Hommel

Kenneth Fobs How High the Moon — Morgan Lewis & Nancy Hamilton

Patricia Mosley Sophisticated Lady — Duke Ellington

Swingin' Sisters (Carolyn Broquet, Tirzah Joy, Barbara Smith) Heebie Jeebies — Louis Armstrong & His Hot Five

Randolph Johnson I Put Spell on You — Screamin' Jay Hawkins

Ava Logan J'ai deux amours — Vincent Scotto, Géo Koger & Henri Varna

Beverly Tyree Birth of the Blues — Ray Henderson, Buddy DeSylva & Lew Brown

Suzie Telep Rocks in My Bed — Duke Ellington

Sean Harris Etoiles d'amour [Stardust] — Hoagy Carmichael & Yvette Baruch

Claudia Hommel Dolly 25 — Ricet Barrier, adapted by Patricia Spaeth & C. Hommel

Valerie Chestnut Someone to Watch Over Me — George & Ira Gershwin

Sonia Oyola Piel Canela — Bobby Capó

Jeanie Carroll Mood Indigo — Duke Ellington & Bob Russell

Swingin' Sisters I'm in Training for You — Abel Baer & L. Wolfe Gilbert

Patricia Tyson My Bronzeville — Patricia Tyson

R .Darryl Thomas Lean on Me — Bill Withers

Robin Watson Do Nothin' til You Hear from Me — Duke Ellington & Bob Russell

I'm M$ B'Havin Rock Steady — Aretha Franklin

The ensemble This Little Light of Mine — Traditional

Our thanks to **DuSable** staff, Lionel Slaughter for sound & tech and Esther Fillmore, to **Working In Concert** volunteers Christine Steyer, Laura Rodriguez, Cappy Kidd & David Reithoffer, media coordinator Juliana Engel Storms, Cabaret Connexion director Claudia Hommel, and Managing Director of Black Voices in Cabaret Lynn Colbert-Jones.

SEEKING our next Managing Director:
As Lynn Colbert-Jones prepares to step aside, Black Voices in Cabaret seeks its next managing director. You'll help grow the roster, elevate platforms for Black voices, and lead us toward new horizons. If you think you're that person, please reach out to Lynn and Claudia via email at bvic@workinginconcert.org. The Working In Concert home office is at 773-509-9360.

AND THERE's MORE from our associated artists!

Sat, Feb 14: **Robin Watson Combo** is at Le Piano, 6970 N Glenwood Ave, Chicago, 9:30 pm-Midnight.

Sun, Feb 15,: **Robin Watson Combo** for St Josephine Bakhita Jazz Mass & Brunch, 2132 E 72nd St, Chicago, 9 am & 10:30 am

Tues, Feb 17: Robin Watson Combo for St Benedict the African Mardi Gras, 6542 S Harvard 6 pm-9 pm And more at **www.jazzladyrobin.com**

Sunday, Feb 15: **Sonia Oyola's Soul Latina** celebrates Valentines Day at Ciao! Cafe and Wine Lounge on Madison Avenue from 5 to 7pm

Sunday, March 15: Soul Latina celebrates Women's History Month at Le Piano, 4 to 6pm!

SAVE THE DATES:

March 29 - Bellissima's **Under 30 showcase**, from opera to cabaret

April 26 - SongShop Live presents another **Quartet of Solo Sets**

April 28 - Lynn Colbert-Jones presents **Just for a Thrill** for International Jazz Day

November 2-8 - The 8th international exchange of **Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion** comes to Chicago.

Visit workinginconcert.org/calendar for more shows, details and links!

Associated Artists are March-ing on

Weds, March 4: Suzie Telep Quartet (jazz, soul, Afro-Caribbean music) - at Clara (2027 W. North Ave in Wicker Park). Concert: 8-9 pm. Jam session follows.

Monday, March 9: David Stephen's *Soulful Seventies Sounds* celebrates both the music and performers that helped define and direct many of the changes in both the Black community and America in general, during the 1970s. Politics, Culture, Love and more with Music Director Beckie Menzie, Joyce Thomas and T. Patrick Davis. 7:00 PM at Gateway Lounge at the Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Avenue, copernicuscenter.org

Sunday, March 15: SongShop Live presents a **Quartet of Solo Sets** hosted by Claudia Hommel, with Susan E. Dennis, Sheri Flanders, Staci Kelley and Michele Williams. Music director Howie Pfeifer. DePaul School of Music North Recital Hall at 3 PM. songshoplive.com

OUR PERFORMERS

TIRZAH JOY BLOMBERG is an accomplished and passionate singer with a lifelong interest in music. She studied classical music, art songs and opera. She plays guitar and ukulele, and has written many songs, releasing her first recording Anyway in 2021. She arranges and sings with the Swingin' Sisters.

CAROLYN BROQUET spent many years working in television. She started singing at Old Town School of Folk Music, studied doo-wop and has sung with The Mamas and Papas Ensemble, Higher Choir, and others. Joining Chicago Cabaret Professionals opened a whole new world of singing. She is one third of Swingin' Sisters.

JEANIE CARROLL, joining us from Las Vegas, is a vocalist, guitarist, cabaret enthusiast, DJ, and elementary school music teacher. She has performed world-wide, St Petersburg to Melbourne to Puerto Vallarta, Sedona, Arizona to Chicago. She lived and sang in Paris for several years and actively promotes the Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion .

VALERIE CHESTNUT is an artist/singer/craftsman and wedding singer. She served as soloist and graphic designer for Chicago Cultural Center's Renaissance Chorus, and worked for Chicago Public Schools. Her passion for music brought her to Working In Concert and to Paris for the Connexion.

KENNETH FOBS—winner of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals "2024 Emerging Artist Showcase", Kenneth's credits cover acting, singing, musical theatre, commercials, film and print in Chicago and New York including: the ETA Theatre, Theatre on the Lake, the Kathryn Dunham Theatre, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, the Billie Holiday Theatre, and the legendary Don't Tell Mama's.

KATHRYN HAHN is a flutist and vocalist with a music degree from Western Michigan University. She has performed with World Enough & Time, Michael Thorne Group, the South Suburban College Jazz Band, Brass Tracks Jazz Orchestra, duets with Rick Conners, and as music minister. She is administrative assistant for Family Craft Builders and Working In Concert.

SEAN HARRIS—From lyric baritone to tenor and countertenor, Sean has been deeply influenced by Mario Lanza for opera and Neapolitans, Johnny Mathis for pop, and Ella Fitzgerald. His repertoire includes rhythm and blues, jazz, French cabaret, Neapolitans, opera and oratorio, art songs and Broadway styles. In demand from churches to senior centers, he is featured singing in French and English on the *Jazz Fauré Project* albums (jazzfaure.com). He teaches voice at 773-744-6537.

CLAUDIA HOMMEL singer-actor is co-founder of Chicago Cabaret Professionals, SongShop, Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion, and serves as executive director of Working In Concert. Born in Paris, raised in Detroit, and seasoned in New York, Claudia moved to Chicago to "do the work." Her recordings and concerts reflect her Paris-centric repertoire. cabaret-paree.com

RANDOLPH JOHNSON has received acclaim for his portrayal of Charlie in *The Bridges of Madison County* (4 Jeff Awards): Horse in Kokandy's Full Monty, and Blood in ETA's production of *Every Night When The Sun Goes Down*; and a BTAA nomination for Cousin Acey in *The Clara Ward Story* at Open Door Theatre. He was a featured vocalist for the Max Roach Trio, the U of I Black Chorus, and Chicago Chamber Opera.

DR. AVA LOGAN, award-winning singer-actor from Washington, D.C. is a veterinarian by day. Classically trained recording artist, Ava has performed jazz, pop, and rhythm and blues nationally and internationally, receiving a standing ovation at the 2025 Chicago Jazz Festival. She portrayed her idols Ella Fitzgerald and Nancy Wilson on the theater stage. avalogan.com

NORMA McADAMS launched her singing career in early 2023. Encouraged by the legendary Buddy Guy, Norma recreated herself as I'm M$. B'Havin. The mature diva is

"sexy, dangerous, in control, knows what she wants and knows how to get it." immsbhavin.com

PAUL McADAMS is guitarist and primary music accompanist to "I'm M$ B'Havin with my $exagenarian$ Band". Although new to the cabaret community, he has played in several bands and countless jam sessions over the years.

PATRICIA MOSLEY has performed throughout Chicago and abroad. She has sung with professional choirs, Choral Thunder and The Lakeside Singers, joining The Standing Room Only Orchestra and touring internationally with jazz pianist Bradley Williams & the 21st Century Review.

SONIA OYOLA, an Afro-Colombian vocalist and family physician, bridges cultures through music in multiple languages. Her repertoire spans jazz, boleros, and contemporary genres. Performing with Libélulas, Soul Latina, and cabaret groups, she hosts acclaimed house concerts, combining music, mindfulness, and medicine to inspire, heal, and build community.

HOWARD PFEIFER. From *Hamilton* to the Chipmunks, Budweiser to Karen Carpenter, Howard has worked extensively as pianist, composer, arranger, vocalist and musical director in the fields of musical theater, television series, commercials, feature films, and cabaret in Chicago and Los Angeles. He serves as SongShop Live's principal pianist. howard@pfeifermusic.com. Pfeifermusic.com

BARBARA SMITH started her career as a folk singer, playing guitar and singing at hootenannies. Her repertoire includes jazz, blues, folk music and cabaret. Winner of the 2018 Skokie Idol Contest, she is one-third of the popular Swingin' Sisters. An organizer of the Cabaret Connexion, she serves as Vice President of Working In Concert.

SWINGIN' SISTERS: Carolyn Broquet, Tirzah Joy and Barbara Smith may not be sisters but they really do swing.

SUZIE TELEP is a French-Cameroonian vocalist and songwriter whose music weaves jazz, soul, and gospel with African and Caribbean rhythms. She first enchanted Parisian jazz audiences at iconic clubs like 38 Riv' and Péniche Marcounet. By day, she is professor of Anthropology at University of Illinois, sharing her cross-cultural music and storytelling with new audiences.

R. DARRYL THOMAS is a "renaissance man," an ecumenical pastor and music director, and tech founder. He has worked with notable musicians including George Duke, Ramsey Lewis, Oscar Brown Jr., Ralph Carmichael, Richard Smallwood, the Chicago Sinfonietta. He founded **mwseq**, a platform for fans to help fund their favorite musicians. mwseq.com

BEVERLY TYREE retired as a federal contract manager to turn to her lifelong affinity for visual and performing arts, especially dance, flute, voice and photography. From community-based venues and church choir, she now devotes more time to music and studies at the Old Town School of Music.

PATRICIA TYSON is a composer, choral director, vocalist and classical concert pianist. A registered hospice nurse, she avows "Music is healing for the body, soul and spirit." Music minister and ordained minister, she is also an active member of the Jewish progressive Mishkan Synagogue in Chicago. youtube.com/@patriciatysonmusic/videos

ROBIN WATSON. Jazzlady Robin has performed at many of Chicago's hot-spots. As a vocal performance major at Spelman College, she merited solos at President Carter's inauguration, the UN, and Brazil. She was featured in several musicals, the Kilkenny Gospel Fest and heads the Robin Watson Combo. jazzladyrobin.com

We wish a full and quick recuperation to our fellow performer Lynne Jordan, that she join us soon.

LYNN COLBERT-JONES, managing director of Black Voices in Cabaret, is an award-winning lyricist, songwriter, producer, and impresario. She created and hosts the acclaimed platforms "Composers' Café" and "Good Hearts Club Music Jam", fostering a global community of musicians and singers. Lynn also serves on several boards and committees, including the Jazz Institute of Chicago, JEXA Awards Los Angeles, and Working In Concert.

SUSAN E. DENNIS, today's concert coordinator, is an active soloist, at home with Broadway and classical music. She has taught at Elmhurst University and Harper College. She enjoys adjudicating aspiring singers and preparing students for college auditions and vocal competitions. Susan has sung with many professional orchestras and in Broadway shows.She joined the Board of Working In Concert in 2025.

The DuSable
BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM and EDUCATION CENTER
A Smithsonian Affiliate

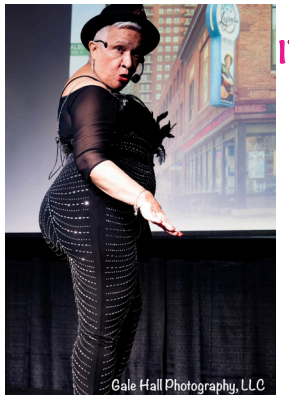
Become a member. Our audience is offered an exclusive 50% discount when you join TODAY. Talk to our membership team before the end of the evening. DuSablemuseum.org/member

OUR ASSOCIATED ARTISTS are cookin' with gas!

February 6 - Swingin' Sisters at Sonia's House Concert

February 13 - Kathryn Hahn's Valentine's Day & Mardi Gras show at the Espresso Palette

February 20 - I'm M$ B'Havin and the $exagenarians are opening at Buddy Guy's



I'm M$ B'Havin with my $exagenarian$
Feb. 20,
8 pm-9 pm
Buddy Guy's Legends
700 S Wabash