

MUSIC AT ASBURY *presents*

A TRIBUTE TO JEROME KERN

Songs and Stories Celebrating the American Songbook

Program Created, Researched and Scripted by Lu Gmoser

Mauro Contrastano, Director

Donna Cribari, Music Director and Pianist

Gary Skidmore, Narrator

***Robin Aleman, Michael Quigley and Anthony Valbiro,
vocalists***

THE SONGS

“Make Believe”

Robin Aleman and Anthony Valbiro

“Can’t Help Lovin’ Dat Man of Mine”

Robin Aleman

“Why Do I Love You?”

Robin Aleman and Michael Quigley

“Look for the Silver Lining”

Anthony Valbiro

“Smoke Gets in Your Eyes”

Robin Aleman

“The Way You Look Tonight”

Anthony Valbiro

“The Last Time I Saw Paris”

Michael Quigley

“I’ve Told Every Little Star”

Michael Quigley

“She Didn’t Say ‘Yes’”

Robin Aleman, Michael Quigley and Anthony Valbiro

“A Fine Romance”

Robin Aleman and Michael Quigley

“All the Things You Are”

Robin Aleman

“I Won’t Dance”

Michael Quigley

“Dearly Beloved”

“I’m Old-Fashioned”

Robin Aleman

“Make Way for Tomorrow”

Anthony Valbiro

“Long Ago and Far Away”

Michael Quigley

“Ol’ Man River”

Anthony Valbiro

With

Robin Aleman and Michael Quigley

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

LU GMOSER is creator of “Three For the Show,” an ensemble which, since 1985, has presented programs on opera and on Broadway musicals. Her audiences have included libraries, woman’s clubs, and religious groups. Earlier she worked in the education department of the Metropolitan Opera Guild and became secretary to Mrs. August Belmont, founder of the Met’s Opera Guild. Mrs. Gmoser authored a book about composers which sold out, and was a reporter and feature writer for Gannett newspapers in Westchester. For more than 25 years, Lu Gmoser was the producer of Asbury Summer Theatre (AST), an acclaimed community theatre in Yonkers. She is a recipient of the Cab Calloway Lifetime Achievement Award and the Untermyer Performing Arts Council Griffon Award, both for given for her commitment to the performing arts.

MAURO CONTRASTANO, Director, is an accomplished musical theater actor and director, having performed in twenty-four productions and directing four musical revues for Asbury Summer Theatre from 1987 until 2007. Mauro has performed in productions with the St. Joseph’s Players in Bronxville, Town Hall Community Theatre in Eastchester, Four Star Players in Yonkers, New Rochelle Community Theatre, and has performed and directed for Actors Conservatory Theatre in Yonkers. He also appeared in a production of “The Merry Widow ” with the New Rochelle Opera Company. Mauro is currently the director of theater programming at the Pelham Manor Club, where he has directed and performed in a number of shows, including his most recent original show, “Plastically Challenged.”

DONNA M. CRIBARI, Musical Director/Pianist, has worked as musical director, conductor and accompanist for countless productions with Off-Broadway, Regional Theater, community, and college groups both here and abroad. For her own compositions she is the recipient of numerous ASCAP Awards, 2 Meet The Composer Grants, and has been fortunate to have heard her music performed by gifted and generous musicians. A proud recipient of the WBT Cab Calloway Lifetime Achievement Award, Donna has a particular love for the Westchester theater community, having conducted, accompanied or directed over 75 different musicals, operas and operettas. Immensely grateful to Lu and Mauro for welcoming her into the Asbury family, she feels privileged to be part of this wonderful history.

ROBIN ALEMAN is a vocal jazz artist and actress from Yonkers. A graduate of Fordham University, where she took elective classes in music, she released two CDs to critical acclaim and has co-produced and starred in multiple cabaret shows in the tri-state area. Robin has expanded her performance resume with several theatrical productions. Favorite roles include Rosie (Mamma Mia!), Grace Farrell (Annie), Camila Rosario (In The Heights), Jackie Noelle (Disaster: The Musical) and Tessi Tura (Gypsy). Robin recently made her film debut in the independent film Shadowlands, with Evening Son Productions. She is very excited to be with such a wonderful cast singing Jerome Kern classics! This performance is dedicated to my “Dearly Beloved” Miguel, I’m so happy that “fate gave me a sign.”

MICHAEL QUIGLEY was born in The Bronx, one of nine children. As a child, he would try to take attention away from his siblings by dancing and singing “I’m Henry the Eighth, I Am” on the dining room table. Performing was always in his blood, but in 1983, he became a NYC Police Officer while at the same time joining a theater group in the Bronx, The Nerian Players. In 1986, Michael tried out for “1776” at Asbury Summer Theater, and AST quickly became his new theater home. Upon leaving the Police department in 2003, he became a Mason, joining a lodge in Tuckahoe, NY and eventually becoming Master of the Lodge. He also became a Shriner, working to help raise money for the Shriners Children’s Hospital and becoming the Potentate of Mecca Shrine, the first Shrine in America. Michael frequently comes back to sing at Asbury Church services and is honored to be doing this show, Jerome Kern being one of his favorite composers.

GARY SKIDMORE has been involved with Asbury since 1994 when he played Molokov in their production of Chess. In addition to appearing on stage, he has also been House Manager, Stage Manager, kitchen help, and Asbury Summer Theatre Board Member. He performed professionally with New York Cabaret Unlimited for 13 years. When not involved in theatrical pursuits, Gary tutors mathematics and is a certified Pilates Mat instructor.

Do you need a director? Or perhaps a choreographer? How about a set designer? Performing in these (and more!) theatrical capacities would very well suit your needs because **ANTHONY VALBIRO** has experience in all aspects of show business since debuting at the age of eleven. Now in his 50s, Anthony says, “I’m exhausted!” It’s been a family affair all along and he proudly credits his father, a director, and his mother, a singer, and his two younger sisters for his success. One Westchester County town or another has been home for the Valbiros, and along the way Anthony attended Salesian High School in New Rochelle. “A Tribute to Jerome Kern” is Anthony’s first time working with Asbury Summer Theatre/Music at Asbury. He says he would like to find time to travel. We hope he does find the time and that it leads Anthony back to us.



2020 Arts Alive Grantee

This program is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, administered by Arts Westchester.