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3 pm

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# About Music at Asbury

Asbury-Crestwood United Methodist Church has a long history of outstanding music programs and a record of community service. Asbury Church and its music directors have presented choral and organ concerts to the public over many years and have enjoyed longstanding partnerships with Sarah Lawrence College, Concordia College, and the Yonkers Council of Churches. The Asbury Summer Theatre group operated for 32 years, presenting over 30 sold-out shows to thousands of delighted audience members.

Music at Asbury was launched in November of 2014 by Lu Gmoser, founding producer of Asbury Summer Theatre, and Dr. Earl F. Groner, a nationally recognized music educator and then Chair of Asbury's Music & Worship Committee. As a program under the auspices of Asbury-Crestwood United Methodist Church, Music at Asbury was designed as a social service to the community, offering free admission to the general public for all of its concerts and reaching out to local agencies and facilities that serve the elderly, young people, and lower income families and adults.

After fourteen months without live music, we were delighted to be able to present *A Tribute to Jerome Kern* last June, our first-ever outdoor show. We welcomed a record crowd back to our beloved sanctuary in December to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Asbury Church with a gala production of the iconic Christmas story, *A Christmas Carol*. As we look to the future of Music at Asbury, we will continue to feature a wide variety of engaging, appealing, and top quality performances to entertain and educate our audiences while staying true to our mission of bringing the arts to ALL, free of charge. We thank you for joining us this afternoon and encourage you to return for our next concert—and bring a friend!

## Music at Asbury Committee

### **Mary Thombs**

Chair; Minister of Music, Asbury UMC

### **Lindsay Baker**

Member at Large

### **Mauro Contrastano**

Asbury Summer Theatre

### **Lu Gmoser**

Asbury Summer Theatre

### **Gemma Keremedjiev**

Member at Large

### **Laura Leopard**

Member at Large

### **Ruth Mackey**

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### **Joan Adinolfi Mallory**

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To register or for more information,  
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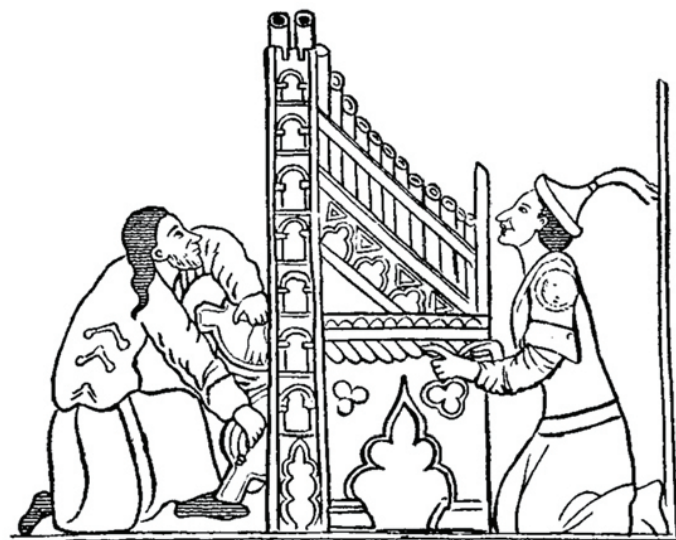
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**MUSIC AT ASBURY** *presents*

**SHAKESPEARE SINGS ON BROADWAY**

*Program Created, Scripted, and Produced*

*by Lu Gmoser*

*John Orefice, Director*

*Donna Cribari, Music Director*

*Starring*

*Miguel Acevedo Robin Aleman*

*Laura Donaldson-Inzeo Janice Orefice Dehn  
Catherine Gmoser John Orefice Steve Taylor*

*Mauro Contrastano, narrator*

*Songs from*

*The Boys from Syracuse* by Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart

*Kiss Me, Kate* by Cole Porter

*West Side Story* by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim

**Act I**

“Another Op'nin,' Another Show” from *Kiss Me, Kate* Company

*The Boys from Syracuse*

Falling in Love with Love Laura, Cathy and Janice

The Shortest Day of the Year John

Dear Old Syracuse Miguel and Steve

This Can't Be Love Robin and Miguel

Sing for Your Supper Laura, Robin and Cathy

## *Kiss Me, Kate*

Always True to You Darlin' (In My Fashion)	Janice
Tom, Dick or Harry	Cathy, Miguel, Steve and John
Where Is the Life that Late I Led?	Steve
Brush Up Your Shakespeare	Full Company and Mauro

## Act II

### *West Side Story*

Something's Comin'	Miguel and Company
Maria	Miguel
I Feel Pretty	Robin with Janice, Laura and Cathy
Gee, Officer Krupke	Steve, John, Miguel and Mauro
One Hand, One Heart	John and Robin
A Boy Like That/I Have a Love	Cathy and Laura
Somewhere	Janice
Tonight Quintet	Company
Brush Up Your Shakespeare Reprise	Company

Lighting by Andrew Gmoser and Silent G Productions

Evan Robinson, videographer

Nathan Yardy, sound engineer

Music at Asbury artwork by Sarah Mironchuk

Thanks to Pastor Jason Radmacher and the Asbury UMC Church  
congregation for their support

## ***ABOUT THE ARTISTS***



**John Orefice** is a music educator in a big way, at present serving as director/ performer for *Shakespeare Sings on Broadway*. Orefice was the founder and director for 32 years of the acclaimed theater arts program at Pelham Memorial High School, for which he has profound regard. Outside the classroom, John has appeared frequently as both actor and director in community theater productions throughout Westchester County and has continued working in most aspects of theater since his retirement from Pelham. He credits colleague Mark Cummings with pursuing the Shakespeare theme. For the past four years, Orefice has served as the Stage

Production Director for both TedXAsbury Park, the largest and highest-rated TEDx conference on the east coast, as well as for an outgrowth of TedX, 1act.1idea, a laboratory for new one-act plays by aspiring authors of any age. In his role with TedX, John has to date perused approximately 1,000 new scripts. Rather a new role for John is that of grandparent, which he shares with his wife, Jeanne. John, for all his diversity, is our “Man of La Mancha,” a role he performed with Asbury Summer Theatre (AST).

**Donna Cribari, music 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 and two Meet The Composer Grants. She is a founding member of the Port Chester Arts Council. A proud recipient of the Westchester Broadway Theater’s 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.

**Lu Gmoser, creator and writer**, was the founding producer of Asbury Summer Theatre (AST), an acclaimed community theatre in Yonkers that presented 30 sold-out shows over 32 years, and is the co-founder of Music at Asbury. Lu Gmoser is also the founder of *Three for the Show*, an ensemble which has presented a wide variety of programs on opera and on Broadway musicals to libraries, woman’s clubs, religious groups, and other community organizations since 1985. Earlier in her career, 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. She is a recipient of the Cab Calloway Lifetime Achievement Award and the Untermyer Performing Arts Council Griffon Award, both for her contribution and commitment to the performing arts in Westchester.

A full-time classroom teacher, actor/singer **Miguel Angel Acevedo** is well-known to Westchester County and Connecticut community/regional theater fans. For several years, Miguel has had leading roles with Actor's Conservatory Theater, Clocktower Players, Yorktown Productions, Armonk Players, and Curtain Call Theater (Stamford, CT). With Asbury Summer Theatre, he has appeared in featured roles, in several productions, including: "West Side Story," "Can-Can", "Fiddler on the Roof", "Our Time". Additionally, he has both performed in and choreographed in other AST productions, including "Chess", "She Loves Me", as well as productions of "Songs from the Homefront", "Big Broadcasts of...", "Songs in ¾ Time", and "Love is in the Air"- all conceived/written by Mauro Contrastano. Up next, Miguel is thrilled to announce that he will be performing the title role of Jekyll/Hyde in Wilton Playhouse's (CT) production of the musical, by the same, "Jekyll and Hyde", coming to you this Fall- <https://www.wiltonplayshop.org/ticketing-season-tickets>. Miguel has appeared regularly with Music at Asbury since its inception in 2014, most recently as the Ghost of Christmas Present in "God Bless Us, Everyone."



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 working at Asbury again with such a wonderful cast singing some of her favorite songs!

**Mauro Contrastano** 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."

**Janice Orefice Dehn** has enjoyed a long and happy association with Asbury Church and Asbury Summer Theater. She appeared on the AST stage as Cousin Hebe in *HMS Pinafore*, in the companies of *Camelot*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *110 in the Shade*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, and in several anniversary galas and Tuckahoe Sidewalk Sales shows. As a member of the Board of Directors, she worked behind the scenes on the set and lighting crews and served as stage manager for many productions. Through the years, Janice made lifelong friends (many of them named Gmoser) and credits Lu for being a source of inspiration and joy for the performing arts. Janice is currently the Executive Producer of Content Development at [everydayhealth.com](http://everydayhealth.com), and in her spare time sings with the Essential Voices USA choir alongside the NY Pops at Carnegie Hall. She is grateful for the opportunity to return to Asbury, where happy memories include her favorite role - Grace the Millworker in *Working* (directed by her brother John) where she met and married the Steelworker. Janice and her husband Tom now divide their time between NYC and the Jersey Shore, and still enjoy sharing theatrical experiences together and with their sons.



**Laura Donaldson-Inzeo** feels especially blessed to have spent the past 30 years being a part of the Westchester Community Theatre family. She is thrilled to be back on the Asbury stage after playing Julie Jordan in *Carousel* and Shprintze in *Fiddler on the Roof* many moons ago! A few other favorite roles include Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, for which she was nominated for a NY/CT region OnStage award; Fantine in *Les Miserables*, Florence in *Chess*, Mrs. Walker in *Tommy*, The Witch in *Into the Woods*, Maria in *West Side Story*, and the title role in *Violet*. What a gift it is to be back on stage! Sending love out to all of

you here supporting live theatre!



**Catherine Gmoser** is excited to be performing again! Favorite past roles include Martha in *The Secret Garden*, Mistress in *Evita*, Gloria Thorpe in *Damn Yankees*, and Sonia in *They're Playing Our Song*. Catherine recently retired from teaching math and computer science at Tuckahoe Middle/High School. She will continue to direct and produce Tuckahoe High School's annual musical. This past March, *Into the Woods* marked her 27th production at the school, many of which have been nominated for Metropolitan High School Theater Awards.



Steve Taylor was lucky enough to be in the last two booked shows at Asbury Summer Theatre, as Herman in **The Most Happy Fella** and Will in **The Will Rogers Follies**. He now calls Elmwood Playhouse in Nyack his "creative sandbox" - he has appeared there in a dozen shows and was president of the board for several years. On Sunday mornings you can usually find him in the bass section of the Hitchcock Presbyterian Church chancel choir.

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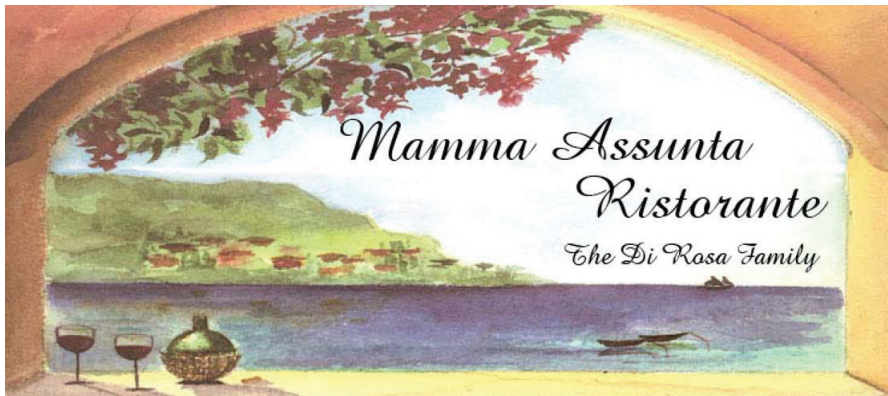
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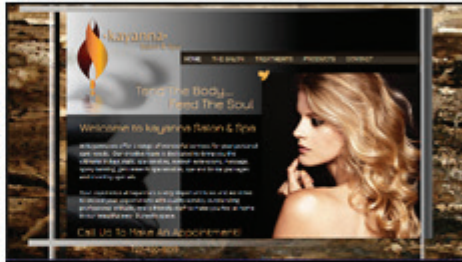
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