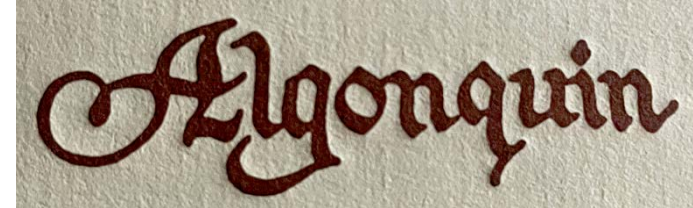


December 6 @ 7:30 pm

The Winter Rhythms Gala

Winter Rhythms @ Urban Stages (Sue Matsuki, producer) present

NIGHTS AT THE



A Celebration of
The Oak Room Supperclub

Musical Direction by ALEX RYBECK

Direction by SARA LOUISE LAZARUS

Production Supervisor: FRANCIS ERIC MONTESA

Written & Hosted by MICHAEL COLBY

Starring Cabaret Legends

KAREN AKERS • NATALIE DOUGLAS

JEFF HARNAR • BOOTS MALESON • MARK NADLER

KAREN OBERLIN • STEVE ROSS

DARYL SHERMAN • KT SULLIVAN

Special Messages from

HARRY CONNICK JR. • MICHAEL FEINSTEIN

TOVAH FELDSHUH • ANDREA MARCOVICCI

In memory of Andrew A. Anspach and Donald Smith, the two
who made this history possible.

Special Thanks to the Al Hirschfeld Foundation
for permission to include Al Hirschfeld Illustrations.

MICHAEL COLBY (Host) is thrilled to be back at Winter Rhythms, which last year premiered *OTHER LIVES*, Mr. Colby's revue of story songs. *OTHER LIVES* has just been released as an album on Jay Records. He is the librettist/lyricist of such musicals as *CHARLOTTE SWEET* (Drama Desk Award nomination), *TALES OF TINSELTOWN* (Jay Records), *MRS. McTHING* (Goodspeed), *NORTH ATLANTIC* (Show Business Award), *SLAY IT WITH MUSIC* (off-Broadway & London), *DELPHI OR BUST* (Amas), and *THEY CHOSE ME!* (TADA!). Other shows Michael has written for Winter Rhythms are *THE ALGONQUIN KID*, *LUDLOW LADD IN CONCERT*, and the upcoming *CREATED AT THE ALGONQUIN*. Among those for whom Mr. Colby has written: Angela Lansbury, Linda Lavin, Tony Yazbeck, Andrea McArdle, Savion Glover, Susan Stroman, Cicely Tyson, Michael Feinstein, Maureen Taylor (MAC nominee for *COSMIC CONNECTIONS: THE LYRICS OF MICHAEL COLBY*, available on Brainstorm Records). A member of BMI, The Dramatist Guild, and The New York Song Alliance. Colby wrote the popular book, [The Algonquin Kid](#).

SARA LOUISE LAZARUS (Director) has received MAC and Bistro Awards as Outstanding Director. *CARRIED AWAY: JEFF HARNAR SINGS COMDEN AND GREEN*, which Sara directed, was named "Best Show" of 2020 from *Broadway World*. Sara has taught Lady Gaga, and in theatre she directed such luminaries as Carolee Carmello, Melissa Errico, and Jimmy Smits. Sara directed and taught at Paper Mill Playhouse. Theatrical productions include *THE RINK*, *SHE LOVES ME*, *PRIVATE LIVES*, *CABARET* and *GIGI*. Sara is on the faculty of Circle in the Square Theatre School, where she directs, teaches and is Coordinator of its BFA in theatre and musical theatre. Sara's students have played leading roles on Broadway in *BACK TO THE FUTURE*, *FUNNY GIRL*, *WICKED*, *TINA*, *BOOK OF MORMON* and many more. Sara is delighted to be working again with Michael Colby, for whom she directed numerous productions, including *Ludlow Ladd*, one of which featured Kristin Chenoweth. She is also thrilled to work with musical director Alex Rybeck, with whom she's collaborated on countless cabaret shows, including ones for Jeff Harnar and Karen Akers, and with whom Sara has taught cabaret and musical theatre workshops.

BOOTS MALESON (Bassist) based in New York City, he has worked with artists as Milt Jackson, Elvin Jones, Jaki Byard, Archie Shepp, Kenny Barron, Dexter Gordon, Stanley Cowell, Jack Wilson, and Benny Carter. He has played in the Big Bands of Harry James, Jimmy Dorsey, Bob Alexander, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra and the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra. He has performed for many years with Ronny Whyte, Daryl Sherman and Marlene Verplanck.

FRANCIS ERIC MONTESA (Stage Manager) has previously work with Sara Lazarus and Michael Colby on *LUDLOW LADD*. Recent projects include *EISENHOWER*, *THIS PIECE OF GROUND* (with John Rubenstein); *A WALK IN THE WOODS* (for Shakespeare & Co.); *IN THE HEIGHTS* (for Mill Mountain Theatre); *TWELFTH NIGHT* (for both Shakesperience Production, Inc, and *The Acting Company*). Eric has done National Tours of *CIRQUE DREAMS HOLIDAZE*, *PORGY AND BESS*, *HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING*, *SINGIN' IN THE RAIN*, *TITANIC*, *AJIJAAK ON TURTLE ISLAND* and *CRAZY FOR YOU*.

ALEX RYBECK (Musical Director): composer, arranger and pianist, best known for his work in concerts and cabarets, on recordings, and in the theater. Broadway credits include *MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG* (directed by Hal Prince), *GRAND HOTEL* (directed by Tommy Tune), and others. Among the many artists he has worked with are such legends as George Abbott, Roberta Peters, Marni Nixon, Eartha Kitt, The McGuire Sisters, Julie Wilson, and Kitty Carlisle Hart. He has also enjoyed meaningful collaborations with Faith Prince, Liz and Ann Hampton Callaway, Jane Olivor, Melissa Errico, Karen Akers, Karen Mason, Sharon McNight, Jeff Harnar, Donna McKechnie, Jason Graae, Lee Roy Reams, Tovah Feldshuh, Rita Gardner, Roslyn Kind, Amanda McBroom, among many others. His original song "What a Funny Boy He Is" was recorded by the late Nancy LaMott. He has received numerous awards and honors (MAC, Bistro, Nightlife, Billboard, and [Broadwayworld.com](#)) as music director and songwriter.

PROGRAM

Introduction	MICHAEL COLBY
Noel Coward Medley.....	STEVE ROSS
“Where Have You Been” (Porter) / “Water Under the Bridge” (Sondheim).....	KAREN AKERS
Politics Medley (from 1959 BROADWAY SONGBOOK)	JEFF HARNAR
“A Hundred Million Miracles” (Rodgers/Hammerstein)	DARYL SHERMAN with BOOTS MALESON
“I Can Sing” (Colby/Katz).....	NATALIE DOUGLAS
Tributes	Michael Feinstein, Harry Connick Jr., Tovah Feldshuh, Andrea Marcovicci
“Well, Did You Evah?” / “It’s De Lovely (from A SWELL PARTY: RSVYP COLE PORTER).....	KT SULLIVAN & MARK NADLER
“Never Met a Man I Didn’t Like” (Coleman/Comden/Green; from MAKE SOMEONE HAPPY)	KT
“Penniless Bums” (Styne/Merrill) / “Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend” (Styne/Robin)	MARK
“Wise Guys” (Sondheim) / “Old Friends” (Sondheim)	KT SULLIVAN & MARK NADLER
Algonquin Stars / Instrumental, “Another Op’nin’, Another Show” (Porter)	ALEX RYBECK
In Memoriam / “In My Dreams” (Colby/Markoe)	KAREN OBERLIN
Finale / “Our Love Is Here to Stay” (Ira & George Gershwin)	CAST

WHO’S WHO

KAREN AKERS received a Tony nomination for her Broadway debut as Luisa Contini in the original Tommy Tune-directed production of NINE and returned to Broadway in another Tune musical GRAND HOTEL. Her film roles include Mike Nichols’ HEARTBURN, opposite Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep, Woody Allen’s THE PURPLE ROSE OF CAIRO, and VIBES, while her TV credits include *Cheers*, *Hart to Hart*, and *On Stage at Wolf Trap*. Acclaimed for the concert and cabaret stage, Aker’s solo recordings include *Like It Was*, *Presenting Karen Akers*, *In a Very Unusual Way*, *Simply Styne*, and *If We Only Have Love*. Akers is the recipient of the 2005 New York Nightlife Award for Outstanding Female Cabaret Vocalist in a Major Engagement and the 2009 Nightlife Legend Award.

NATALIE DOUGLAS is a two-time Bistro, Nightlife, and thirteen-time MAC Award Winner, whose international performances have taken her from concert halls to theaters to intimate clubs and everything in between. She has produced & performed in 80 concerts at her musical home, Birdland Jazz Club in New York City (where her picture hangs on the legendary Birdland Wall of Fame) - most notably her TRIBUTES series, celebrating artists she loves including, Nina Simone, Stevie Wonder, Dolly Parton, Nat King Cole, Roberta Flack, Joni Mitchell, Sammy Davis, Jr., Cher & Lena Horne. In addition, Douglas has made her mark as a much sought-after educator and actor – she is an expert instructor for the Jim & Elizabeth Sullivan Foundation, the Eugene O’Neill Cabaret & Performance Conference and the Mabel Mercer Foundation, where she has also been named Education Director. Natalie holds a Bachelor’s Degree from USC in Psychology, Theatre and Women’s Studies and a Master’s Degree from UCLA in Psychology and Theatre. She will soon add to her three CD catalog, including the MAC Award Winning “Human Heart,” with a brand-new album on Club44 Records. Her CDs are currently available on Apple Music, Amazon.com, Spotify, and her website: nataliedouglas.com

JEFF HARNAR made his Algonquin Oak Room debut in 1991 with *THE 1959 BROADWAY SONGBOOK* with Music Director Alex Rybeck, Directed by Sara Louise Lazarus. Original Cast Records released a Live recording of the show and it was later filmed for PBS. This creative trio presented five different shows at The Oak Room. This year PS Classics released the critically acclaimed *A COLLECTIVE CY* following Jeff’s 2022 award winning album *I KNOW THINGS NOW My Life in Sondheim’s Words* (PS Classics). Carnegie Hall appearances include both the Cole Porter and Noel Coward Centennial Galas. Awards include The Mabel Mercer Award, The Noel Coward Foundation Cabaret Award and the Chicago Cabaret Professionals National Honoree Award. Jeff has also received multiple Broadway World, MAC and Bistro Awards as both Performer and Director. www.jeffharnar.com

MARK NADLER is the recipient of eight awards from the Manhattan Association of Cabarets, three Backstage Bistros, two New York Nightlife Awards and two Broadway World Awards. Additionally, he was awarded two Bay Area Outer Critics’ Circle Awards Mark has also been nominated for France’s prestigious Trophee de la Theatre Musicale. He has been a soloist with major orchestras, playing everywhere from Carnegie Hall to Philadelphia’s 14,000 seat amphitheater at The Mann Center. His off-Broadway show, *I’M A STRANGER HERE MYSELF*, was honored with a New York Nightlife Award, a Drama Desk nomination and a nomination for Australia’s highest performing arts honor, the Helpmann Award. www.MarkNadler.com

KAREN OBERLIN was able to realize her dream of performing an engagement in the most magical cabaret room on Earth, The Algonquin’s Oak Room, in its final season. About that show, Rex Reed wrote in the NY Observer, “Karen Oberlin is lighting up the Algonquin’s Oak Room with a show that is subtle, elegant, musically spot on, and sends you out humming. She’s a keeper!” A live recording of the show received the LaMott-Friedman MAC Award. Beyond the “Gonk,” Ms. Oberlin received the Mabel Mercer Foundation’s Donald F. Smith Award for Excellence in Cabaret, along with NY Nightlife, Bistro, BroadwayWorld, and MAC Awards, and an Honorary Doctorate in Music Performance. Other NYC major engagements include Feinstein’s 54 Below, the Café Carlyle, and Birdland, along with Carnegie Hall and Jazz at Lincoln Center. She tours the U.S. and has annual engagements in London. Ms. Oberlin cherishes her nights at the Algonquin.

STEVE ROSS has been a fixture of the cabaret community in Manhattan for over forty years. He was born “forty-five minutes from Broadway” in New Rochelle, NY, and was raised in Washington, DC with an opera-loving father and a mother who played on the piano the songs of Gershwin, Porter and Irving Berlin. His first major job in New York was as a successful singer/pianist at the now famous piano bar Ted Hook’s Backstage. In 1981 he re-opened the legendary Oak Room at Manhattan’s famed Hotel Algonquin where he held forth, off and on, for nine years. He has appeared on Broadway in Noel Coward’s PRESENT LAUGHTER and off-Broadway in his tribute to Fred Astaire entitled *I WON’T DANCE*. Internationally, he has performed in London, Paris, Tokyo, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Melbourne and Sydney as well as cabarets and theatres across America and on the high seas. He’s hosted programs on the BBC and American public radio and was on the lecture/performance roster at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for eight years. His last show at the sadly departed Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin in New York City, *PUTTIN’ ON THE RITZ – THE SONGS OF FRED ASTAIRE*, prompted Stephen Holden of the New York Times to describe Steve as “the personification of the bygone dream world that his music summons.” He continues to tour, enjoys well-attended shows at Birdland Jazz Club in Manhattan and continues to coach and teach the International Songbook.

DARYL SHERMAN: 2023 Bistro Award winner Daryl Sherman is one of the rare singing pianists equally talented in jazz and cabaret. Since her early stints at Sinatra hangouts like Jilly’s, Jimmy Weston’s, and Eddie Condon’s, there’s hardly a jazz joint, supper club or hotel Daryl has missed including Lincoln Center Jazz with Wynton Marsalis, not to mention the Mabel Mercer Cabaret Convention. She’s renowned for her 14-year run at the Waldorf=Astoria but her numerous stints at the Algonquin Oak Room were especially pivotal. Starting with her Arbors Jubilee CD launch with famed jazz pianist Dave McKenna and later a Richard Rodgers tribute CD (with guests Bob Dorough and Houston Person). Daryl Sherman’s many recordings continue in regular rotation on *MusicChoice Cable TV*, WNYC radio and countless music streams world over. Daryl is also proud to have been the band singer in Artie Shaw’s 1980s .

KT SULLIVAN starred with Steve Ross in The Irish Rep’s sold-out run of *I OF LOVE, NOËL* in the summer of 2019 and the production was then filmed at The Players in 2020. Currently, KT is singing and playing piano every Tuesday in the lobby of The Algonquin Hotel and has been extended through 2023. In 2012 KT was named artistic director of The Mabel Mercer Foundation, which produces the annual Cabaret Conventions at Lincoln Center. She starred in the Broadway revival of *GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES*, and headlined for almost two decades in The Oak Room of The Algonquin Hotel. One of the shows she created there, *RHYME, WOMEN, AND SONG* was presented on PBS’ WNET 13 and her award winning Sondheim show with Jeff Harnar was filmed for PBS from the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Besides regular appearances in such New York venues as The Laurie Beechman Theatre, Birdland, 54 Below, and Café Sabarsky, she stars annually at The Pheasantry in London, and has been showcased At Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Spoleto Festival, Chichester Festival, Club Rayé in Paris, and Adelaide Festival in Australia. She guest starred on Garrison Keillor’s Prairie Home Companion and was star vocalist on two tours of China with Manhattan Symphony. She was twice named one of the Top 100 Irish Americans by Irish America Magazine and was married for 22 years to Stephen Downey, president of The New York Browning Society.