

CABARET & THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

Coordinators: Dolores Rosenthal, Doris Wallace

Abbreviated Study Group Name: Cabaret/American Songbook

New York City is alive with music. This study group explores cabaret and the American songbook and its special relationship with the audience. We study the evolution of cabaret from the political and social consciousness of Europe to the more romantic and emotional American styles. We discuss lyricists, composers and the business of cabaret. We listen to singers, from the well-known (Barbara Cook, Bobby Short) to the less familiar (Jane Monheit, Katherine Russell) to the new performers of today. Our focus is on developing the ability to listen critically, to make our own judgments. In each session we experience audio and video selections, discussion and student reports. We hope to have guest speakers. An optional outing to live cabaret is planned.

Readings and other Required Materials:

Course Pack, approximately \$20.

Doris simply loves singers. She sings all the time, fortunately to herself. This is her fifth coordinating experience. This is **Dolores'** debut as a coordinator. She is thrilled to share and celebrate cabaret and the American songbook with new interpretations. (Actually, after hearing Doris, she's not that bad!)

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In addition to news and periodical articles, the coursepack contains pieces from:

Lisa Appignasi: The Cabaret
James Gavin: Intimate Nights
Amanda Jocelyn Grumet: The Elusive Cabaret Song
Bob Harrington: The Cabaret Artists Handbook
John Kenrick: Cabaret 101
Access to You-tube.

1. The artist's relationship to the music, to the audience.
2. History of cabaret; France, Germany, social criticism.
3. History.
4. Development of the American Songbook: the song, the composer and lyricist,

the promoter.

5. Development of the songbook, continued.
6. Race and American cabaret/songbook: Billy Holiday, Nina Simone, Nat Cole.
7. Sinatra and the songbook.
8. Other major performers: Sarah Vaughn, Michael Feinstein
9. Cabaret and the songbook today; venues.
10. The aging pop stars adopt the songbook: Bob Dylan, Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga, KD Lang; Linda Ronstadt.
11. Present day. Testing ground for new artists.
12. The future of the art form. Is cabaret dying?

**All sessions include videos and CDs.

***Guest artists/speakers to be announced.