

The uniquely versatile Claudia Hommel singing in French and in English serves as your personal guide to the heart of all Paris.



This portfolio may be accompanied by a copy of the Maison Clobert brochure and a CD or DVD of Claudia Hommel in performance.

Information for **schools and campuses** is available in our *School Notes* brochure.

**Visit [www.cabaret-paree.com](http://www.cabaret-paree.com).**

---

**Maison Clobert** P. O. Box 259327 Chicago, IL 60625 — (773) 509-9360 or (888) 590-9360  
[www.cabaret-paree.com](http://www.cabaret-paree.com) .....[clobert@compuserve.com](mailto:clobert@compuserve.com)

A favorite from the Club at Chicago Symphony Center to the Frick Center in Pittsburgh, actor/singer Claudia Hommel makes solo appearances, performs in quartet, and teaches master classes—from New York City to California, from Paris to New Orleans.

Adept at creating character and drama, her solo programs include **Romance Language: French songs for lovers; French Impressions** (featuring Fauré, Chabrier, Satie, Canteloube); **Paris in the Jazz Age** (1900–1940); and **Souvenirs of Paris, 1950**, with pianist, accordionist, jazz and chamber ensembles. Described as a “bit of Audrey Hepburn, with something of Ginger Rogers, Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier and ...Air Jordan,” Claudia “will make you want to dance along the Seine.”

Combining classical song and jazz, she has developed and toured with leading jazz musicians from Chicago and Paris, **the Jazz Fauré Project**—“French Impressionism meets American jazz”.

Born in Paris, raised in Detroit, and seasoned in New York City, Claudia Hommel now resides in Chicago. Since 1995, she has worked closely with members of the American Association of Teachers of French and of the Music Educators National Conference to bring Parisian cabaret programs to college, middle and high school students of French, social studies, theatre and music.

At home on concert and theater stages, she has worked with directors Jiri Zizka, Alvin Epstein, Rhoda Levine and Christopher Alden. Actor/director Alvin Epstein says of his protégé: “Claudia is a gifted and uniquely versatile artist, with a wide range of roles demanding deep emotional commitment or zany satirical high-jinks and everything in between, with or without music.”

A major influence and inspiration in Hommel’s theater career was her study and friendship with the late performer Martha Schlamme and Ms. Schlamme’s pianist and arranger Steven Blier (now co-director of New York Festival of Song).

Her theatrical roles include Young Nadya in Joshua Sobol’s ADAM, Guenevere in CAMELOT, Elvira in BLITHE SPIRIT, Artie in Lee Blessing’s ELEMOSYNARY, and Hermia in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM, along with several Mozart and Menotti opera roles.

Claudia Hommel is a member of the Actors Equity Association, Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. She is a founding member of Chicago Cabaret Professionals (CCP), advocating the development of new audiences and venues for the art of cabaret. She tours with three other members of CCP as the Espresso—4 Voices.

---

**Maison Clobert** P. O. Box 259327 Chicago, IL 60625 — (773) 509-9360 or (888) 590-9360  
www.cabaret-paree.com E-mail: clobert@compuserve.com

## Audience members fall in love

Larry Gatlin, country-western singer: “Claudia, you are wonderful!”

Edith Baudoin, young nanny from France:

“It’s like seeing Juliette Greco and the days of St. Germain-des-Près [the Latin Quarter]. This is my second time to see the show in two weeks.”

Steve Eckardt, electrician: “I don’t understand a word of French, but I sure understood every song. It was great!”

Vicente Herrera, Jr., auto mechanic: “Viva Claudia!”

Comments at the Illinois Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages.

“What a talented lady who integrates French culture and history in such a lively and exciting way ...Although I had heard of Claudia Hommel, there was nothing like seeing her in person. ...Refreshing and most enjoyable!”

Lincoln High School, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, student Ali Bendix:

“What a spectacular job Ms. Hommel did when she visited our school. Granted, our facilities are not as nice as some of the larger locations where she has performed, but she worked with what she had, leaving many of the students, including myself, amazed. Thank you so much for taking the time to visit us. You are an inspiration and wonderful asset to the performing and education industry! Merci beaucoup!”

Hauppauge High School, Long Island, student Stephen Damadeo

“The Cabaret was a fantastic experience. From ‘La Vie en Rose’ to ‘Je Ne Regrette Rien’ and ‘Milord’, Claudia Hommel and her pianist were fantastic beyond words. This is definitely something that should be done each year, because there is no better way to learn a language than to learn the songs and become part of it.”

James Sherwood, Robinson High School, Robinson, Illinois:

“A stellar performance! ... thank you for taking me to Paris along with you...I think that other high schools would enjoy your show just as much as I did. Do you ever think about touring the United States with your program?”

A new fan, Len Heine from an evening cabaret concert at Oak Forest High School

“By the end of the performance I wanted to marry you!”-

From Anne Votava, a fan in her 80s, on listening to “Romance Language”

“Please tell Claudia I knew many of the tunes and it put me in a real good mood. It made me decide to slip a glass of wine.”

From Donald Wylie of Lake Forest:

“It was a pleasure to witness your Friday night performance at Gorton. The other artists, while all superb in their own ways, were the “usual suspects”. We have an over supply of such. But not you! —“

**More reviews are posted at [www.cabaret-paree.com](http://www.cabaret-paree.com).**

## Presenters shout bravo!

### **Thallis Drake, Artistic Director of Musical Mondays of Milwaukee**

Between St. John's and Lake Park Friends, you've just added 500+ adoring fans to your list ~ and have totally spoiled the Musical Monday's audience for the rest of the summer. We're only half way through the concerts and everyone I've spoken with claims last evening the zenith of the series! Your gracious charm and first-rate showmanship won everybody's heart!!

### **Sue Martin, Frick Art Museum, Pittsburgh**

We have never heard such accolades from our *Music for Exhibitions* audience as we did last night and continuing today. Your performance was the best in our series. We were all transported to Paris, if just for a few hours.

### **Zoriana Siokalo, Michener Art Museum**

Entertaining and educational – a perfect combo! The audience was very appreciative. I hope to see you back at the Museum. (*And Claudia did return the next season!*)

### **Didier and Jane Lepauw for Parisian Salon Concerts, Lake Forest, Illinois**

Claudia is a love affair; she brings to mind a bit of Audrey Hepburn, with something of Ginger Rogers and Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier and ...Air Jordan. She is fresh, airborne.... To experience Claudia is to take off on a magical journey.

### **John Kvedaras, Club Manager for Symphony Center of Chicago**

I have found Claudia (and Johnny Frigo) to be consummate professionals dedicated to delivering the best of their craft. It was a pleasure from planning with us through execution of their performance. Our members and guests have continued to rave about that romantic evening when Claudia and Johnny brought them a welcome musical breeze right off the Seine. No one should miss this opportunity!

### **Corinne Seither Morrissey for Union League of Chicago Civic and Arts Foundation Dinner:**

Your performance absolutely made the evening. I am told this Ball set a new standard for fundraisers at the Club, and that fact is largely attributable to you. Merci, merci , merci beaucoup!"

### **Fred Jenkins, Executive Director Emeritus of the American Association of Teachers of French**

"On garde toujours un souvenir inoubliable de votre concert! Merci d'une presentation formidable."

[Thank you for an unforgettable and stunning concert.]

### **John Blegen, former director of Glenview Public Library**

I was delighted to see the brief item on Claudia Hommel in the June 2002 *American Libraries*. Claudia performs at libraries! In fact, that's where I first saw her perform, at the Northbrook (IL) Public Library in a tremendous program evoking Paris in the Jazz Age with the wonderful jazz violinist, Johnny Frigo. The library's auditorium was jammed... I just wanted to add that I bought Claudia's most recent album "Romance Language" and have thoroughly enjoyed it -- great performances and a classy production (loved the booklet with the lyrics, too).

## About some of the musicians in our ensemble

**BOB MOREEN, piano.** Bob has been featured in virtually every type of entertainment venue as a soloist, accompanist and ensemble member. He has worked with such name entertainers as Dorothy Collins, Gisele McKenzie, and Peter Palmer. He has also accompanied performers such as Greta Keller, the Incomparable Hildegard, Denise LeBrun and Shirley Jones, as well as a having long-time partnership with vocalist Kari Howard. The *Chicago Sun-Times* called him, "A special, eclectic piano player." In the *Chicago Tribune*, Howard Reich described him as, "An impressive singer in his own right...the complete entertainer". Bob's theatrical credits include work with Chicago's Goodman Theatre (*Pal Joey; Guys and Dolls*) and the Body Politic (*The Decline and Fall of the Entire World as Seen through the Eyes of Cole Porter*). Bob is a founding member of Chicago Cabaret Professionals and performs regularly in the Chicago area.

**DJULA MILOSAVLJEVIC, accordionist.** Hailing from Belgrade, Djula has won Yugoslavia's National and International Awards for Music. His virtuoso performances have been seen throughout Europe, the United States and Australia. For twenty years, he was featured on Belgrade television. He can be heard in Chicago with the gypsy jazz ensemble Swing Gitan and the traditional gypsy Balkan Romalen Ensemble also featuring Djula's son Danilo on violin. The New City weekly hailed Danilo and Djula as one of Chicago's best cultural highlights in their 2003 roundup.

**JIM COX, bass,** grew up in Champaign, Illinois where he received his BA in music from the University of Illinois. Between 1979-82 he toured with Earl "Fatha" Hines and settled in Chicago where he is playing live music of all types, teaching and recording. He works regularly with Marian McPartland, Rosemary Clooney, Michael Feinstein and Judy Roberts in the Midwest. He has also played with Phil Woods, Red Rodney, Ben Vereen, Cheri Lewis, and Harry Belafonte. He has performed at the North Sea Jazz Festival three times. He has taught at Illinois Benedictine College, North Central College, College of DuPage, and is currently adjunct faculty at DePaul University.

**Singer/pianist, ELIZABETH DOYLE** was the magnet for many years to Chicago's famed Pump Room, the Metropole at the Fairmont, Catch 35, the Swiss Grand, Convito Italiano, and the Drake Hotel's Coq d'Or (alternating with Bob Moreen). Whether solo piano, piano and vocals, or in ensemble settings, she has been in demand at Navy Pier, McCormick Place, the Racquet Club, the Ritz Hotel, the Four Seasons, the Union League Club, the Standard Club, the Metropolitan Club and many other Chicago area venues. She has performed her French program for the Bureau of French Tourism, Air France, the Evanston Chamber of Commerce and the Montreal Bureau of Tourism. Elizabeth was a participant at the 1999 Eugene O'Neill Cabaret Symposium and the Sundance/Johnny Mercer Weekend August 2004. As a composer, she is an ASCAP Plus Award winner in 2003, 2004 and 2005, with songs featured in the Chicago Humanities Festival 2003 and the New York MAC/ASCAP new music showcase 2001 and 2005. Her full-length musicals "Fat Tuesday," "Alice In Analysis", "The Virginian" and "Sleepy Hollow" have been produced in Illinois, California, Michigan, Iowa and Minnesota. Founding member of Chicago Cabaret Professionals.

**ISHAM "RUSTY" JONES, drums,** got his start in Chicago with Judy Roberts, then played six years with George Shearing and off and on with Marian McPartland. His biggest life inspirations have been pianist Bill Evans, the writer Ayn Rand and comedian Jonathan Winters. He likes foreign languages and karate (2nd degree black belt). He comes from a musical family that includes great-uncle Isham Jones, the famous bandleader and songwriter from the 20s and 30s.

**BOBBY SCHIFF** is one of Chicago's premiere jazz pianists. Signature jazz pianists like Bill Evans, Oscar Peterson and Gene Harris have greatly influenced Bobby's playing, especially in his soaring improvisations with his own Jazz Trio or accompanying jazz and cabaret vocalists. On the Chicago and Los Angeles music scenes for over 35 years, Bobby Schiff has led orchestras and bands, performed on piano and keyboards, directed, composed and arranged for and with the best. Mel Torme, Peggy Lee, Bobby Rydell and Ruth Pointer, are just a few of the premiere entertainers and musicians he's worked with in the U.S. and internationally.

**DON STILLE, accordion,** "is an artist to be reckoned with," says Howard Reich of the *Chicago Tribune*. Hailing from St. Louis, Don has performed throughout the country with a long list of acclaimed jazz artists including Clark Terry, Red Holloway, Roy Hargrove, and Doc Severinsen. He was proclaimed Mainstream Jazz Pianist of the Year by the Twin Cities Jazz Society, was house pianist on NPR's "First House on the Right", and finalist in the Great American Jazz Piano Competition at Jacksonville, Florida. Don's other instrument of choice is the accordion. When performing at venues and festivals, it's usually there right next to the piano. His first CD *Aurora's Dance* is out of print, but a new one is on the way.

# Highlights of programs from recent seasons

## By type of venue:

### NIGHT CLUBS, SALONS and RESTAURANTS

BARRINGTON, IL: the Barrington Country Bistro holds a feast for all the great fêtes throughout the year: New Year's Eve, St. Valentine's Day, "April in Paris", the Bistro's anniversary in May, Bastille Day, Beaujolais Nouveau in November. Strolling serenades by Claudia and accordionist Don White.

CHICAGO: The Club at Symphony Center:

"Be enchanted by the Cabaret Night favorite, Claudia Hommel and her poetic renditions of French 'chansons' and romantic cabaret classics." Dinner and show.

CHICAGO: The HOTHOUSE presents the premiere of "The Jazz Fauré Project"

CHICAGO: MAXIM'S fine restaurant (The Nancy Goldberg International Center) for the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs: "Meet Me at Maxim's: a Bastille Day celebration" featuring Johnny Frigo on violin. A Triumph!

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO: Nighthtown Club with accordionist Chuck Kopp and return engagements with pianist Bob Moreen.

NEW YORK CITY: Triad Theatre, The JAZZ FAURÉ PROJECT

NEW YORK CITY: the East Village jazz club Detour, The JAZZ FAURÉ PROJECT

PARIS: "Souvenirs de Paris" at the Swan Bar, with Agnès Gorda at the piano.

SAINT LOUIS: Cookie's Jazz & More with Bob Moreen and members of the Don Smith Quintet

SIDNEY (Ohio): The Gateway Arts Council presents Claudia Hommel's "April in Paris: Music for Lovers!".

### OUTDOOR FESTIVALS

Lancaster (Ohio) Festival: at the band shelter with accordionist Chuck Kopp.

Oak Park, Illinois: Claudia becomes a "street singer" to celebrate Downtown, with accordionist Djula Milo.

Milwaukee: Bastille Day Festival, outdoor stage with accordionist Stas Venglevski

Milwaukee: Musical Mondays for Lake Park Friends with accordion and bass, and back by popular demand.

### WE LOVE MUSEUMS:

Art Institute of Chicago:

Detroit Institute of Arts

Frick Art Museum, Pittsburgh, PA

Louisiana State Museum, New Orleans

James A. Michener Museum of Art, Doylestown, PA

Montgomery Art Museum, AL

Musée de Montmartre, Paris

Toledo Museum of Art

Vero Beach Museum of Art, Florida

### AND WE LOVE LIBRARIES:

DES PLAINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

HAROLD WASHINGTON LIBRARY, Chicago

HOMEWOOD LIBRARY (Illinois):

JOHNSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY (Illinois)

MANSFIELD RICHLAND County (Ohio) Library

NAPERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY (Illinois)

NORTHBROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY (Illinois)

OAK LAWN PUBLIC LIBRARY (Illinois)

### COMMUNITY CONCERTS:

AMERY, WISCONSIN: day and evening performances for Amery High School and community

ANN ARBOR, MI: the Kerrytown Concert House presents The Jazz Fauré Project

CHICAGO ACCORDION CLUB goes Parisian

CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER: The Randolph Street Café Lunch-break series

CHICAGO LOOPTOPIA -- Chicago's "nuit blanche" -- making music till midnight at the Art Institute

GREEN LAKE, WISCONSIN: Green Lake Festival of Music presents

IRONWOOD, MI: The historic Ironwood Theatre presents Espresso-4 Voices

LAKE FOREST, IL: The Gorton Center

LOMBARD, IL: Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society

MORTON GROVE, IL: For the Senior Center

NILES, IL: The Senior Center

NAPERVILLE, IL: Claudia sings in Chinese and French for "East Meets West" at North Central College

PALOS PARK, Illinois at the Center Foundation celebrates Valentine's Day with Claudia's trio year after year.

PARIS, La Halle St. Pierre hosts the Jazz Fauré Project

PLYMOUTH, WI: Plymouth Arts Center presents Claudia's cabaret at the tavern Turner Hall

SAINT JOSEPH, MI: Box Factory for the Arts presents its annual gala with "Souvenirs of Paris".

SARASOTA, FL: The Artists Series presents *Under Paris Skies* with Claudia Hommel and Bob Moreen

SCHUYLER COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL (Rushville, Illinois): "April in Paris"

TROY (Michigan): "Souvenirs of Paris" for the Troy and Mt. Clemens Community Concert Association,

## Highlights of programs -- continued

### ORCHESTRAS

NEWTOWN, PA: Newtown Chamber Orchestra presents an evening of French Impressionism in music and song.  
ELMHURST, IL: Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra presents "In the City of Lights" featuring Claudia as narrator and singer, a gala concert with photo projections.

### STAGE PRODUCTIONS:

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL: The Metropolis Performing Arts Centre presents Claudia Hommel and the Cabaret-Paree sextet in the acclaimed *Romance Language: French Songs for Lovers*. Then again, *Women of Paris*.  
CHICAGO: Royal George Theatre  
ELGIN, IL: O.P.E.R.A.'s French-inspired romp through the world of opera (with Solange Sior)

### COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES: (see also Master Classes)

CHARLOTTE, NC: Central Piedmont Literary Festival  
Keynote presenter with two shows, *Paris in the Jazz Age* and *Souvenirs of Paris, 1950*  
DARTMOUTH, MA: University of Massachusetts for the Boivin Center for French Language and Culture presents *April in Paris* with Claudia Hommel and pianist Bob Moreen.  
DURHAM, NC: Duke University Fine Arts series presents *Souvenirs of Paris* with Claudia Hommel, pianist Bob Moreen and David DiGiuseppe on the accordion.  
GREEN BAY, WI: University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, French Department presents a community concert  
HAMMOND, LA: Southeastern Louisiana University Foreign Languages Department presents a multi-lingual cabaret concert  
PEORIA, IL: Bradley University presents "Paris in the Jazz Age" with local musicians sitting in  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO: International House and Smart Museum of Art in Chicago, Paris Center in France  
**[Middle school and high school engagements galore, from California and Connecticut, to North Carolina and New York, and more in between. For specific referencces, please contact us.]**

### CLINIC SESSIONS AND MASTER CLASSES (examples):

Batavia, Illinois: Batavia High School master class  
Chicago, Illinois: Columbia College voice students master class  
Duke University: A session with Theatre Arts students  
Elgin, Illinois: Larkin High School master class  
Manitowoc, Wisconsin: Lincoln High School master classes  
Neshaminy, PA: Neshaminy Middle School master class for Jazz Age day  
Peoria, Illinois: "Songshop" clinic sessions for several annual Illinois Music Educators conferences.  
Peoria, Illinois: Bradley University master classes for voice students  
Rushville, Illinois: master classes at the high school  
Webster Groves, MO: Webster University Music Department master class and seminar on the music "business"  
Sycamore, Illinois: Sycamore High School master classes  
Ypsilanti, Michigan: Lincoln Middle School workshop with choir

### ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE AND OTHER FRANCOPHILE/FRANCOPHONE ASSOCIATIONS

CHICAGO: The Alliance Française for jeudi en jazz" with the *Jazz Fauré Project*.  
CHICAGO: The French American Chamber of Commerce celebrates Beaujolais Nouveau.  
CHICAGO: Groupe Professionel Francophone at the Renaissance Hotel  
CHICAGO: The Paris Committee of the Chicago International Sister Cities Program "Runway - Fashion gala"  
CLEVELAND: The French Heritage Society brings Bob Moreen and Claudia Hommel back for their annual celebration at the Nighttown Club.  
CLEVELAND: The French American Chamber of Commerce celebrates Beaujolais Nouveau, as well.  
DETROIT: The Alliance Française hosts dinner and cabaret show at the Detroit Scarab Club, for a repeat performance of "Souvenirs of Paris" with Bob Moreen and Claudia Hommel.  
RALEIGH, NC: the Alliance Française presents Claudia Hommel and accordionist David DiGiuseppe at Meredith College.  
WILMETTE, IL: North Shore Alliance Française luncheon concert with Bob Moreen at the piano

### OUR FAVORITE BOUTIQUE:

PALOS HEIGHTS: Mona & Co. engages Claudia and accordionist Don White at this cosy French boutique, for special occasions.

# A repertoire of intimate songs—Lusty, whimsical, candid, comical, poignant & always personal

## Performance Spaces and Formats

Claudia Hommel's solo concerts and cabaret shows are custom-made to be played in one act or two; as intimate theatre piece with sets and lighting; large-ensemble musical evening on concert stage, or multiple sets in a nightclub setting. Create a magical evening of theatre and song with as little as piano or accordion or as much as jazz ensemble or chamber orchestra.

## Repertoire of Programs

Claudia Hommel's repertoire encompasses French *chansons*, American standards, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century art songs and theatre music. The following shows are in her current repertoire.

### Women of Paris: the great ladies of song

An homage to the 20th century women who brought Paris to the rest of the world with their songs, among them: Yvette Guilbert, Paulette Goddard, Mistinguett, Josephine Baker, Bricktop, Lucienne Boyer, Juliette Gréco, Edith Piaf. Created with pianist/music director Bob Moreen. Performed in one-act or two. -- Madame Arthur, Fascination, Mon homme, J'ai deux amours, Chanson des vieux amants, Parlez-moi d'amour, Padam padam and more!

### The Jazz Fauré Project with Bobby Schiff and Sean Harris

Watch what happens when French Impression meets American jazz. This cabaret confection gives the 19th century hit-songs of Gabriel Fauré the velvet treatment—from swing to bossa, wistful ballad to snappy *joie de vivre*. Arranged for jazz quartet and two singers, this concert will delight jazz, classical and pop music audiences.

### Romance Language – French songs for lovers

Claudia Hommel brings together an exquisite ensemble of her favorite players to flirt, caress, love, lose, remember, and celebrate with the original French versions of *Cherry Pink*, *Under Paris Skies*, *Moulin Rouge*, *I wish you love* and more. So light a candle, pop a champagne cork, and nestle close to your amour. From the elegant Ballroom of Chicago Symphony Center to large venues, with full ensemble of piano, bass, accordion, violin, drums, guitar, reeds or with a smaller select ensemble.

### Souvenirs of Paris, 1950 - a cabaret

The most widely-performed of Claudia's cabaret theatre, *Souvenirs of Paris, 1950* introduces Marcelle, a Parisian cabaret owner who recounts through song and spoken word the events of her life in France—from her love affair with an American merchant marine in the 1930s to the post-war "invasion of her Paris" by American tourists. The musical revue features songs made famous by Edith Piaf, Juliette Gréco and Yves Montand and songs celebrating the Páree of American composers Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, Vernon Duke. Best of all, her character Marcelle and Marcelle's drama inspire the audience, young and old, French, American, Togolese or Japanese to say "you took me to Paris!"

### Picasso and Matisse Go to the Music Hall—an illustrated concert

What were they hearing that made them paint like that! Songs and slide projections of French masterpieces from 1880 to 1950 take us from Ravel's ghost-written hit song "Fascination" to Josephine Baker's "Petite Tonkinoise" at the Folies Bergeres and Edith Piaf's "Clown" at the Olympia Music Hall.

### Paris in the Jazz Age - a musical revue

Bob Moreen and Claudia Hommel pay homage to the cakewalk, ragtime, the Charleston, Josephine Baker, Ada "Bricktop" Smith, Mistinguett, Maurice Chevalier, Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, Darius Milhaud, Francis Poulenc, Claude Debussy, Kurt Weill, and the "crazy years" between the two World Wars. Local musicians are invited to sit in! Invite all the flappers and dandies for a lively retro evening.

### Espresso - 4 Chicago voices

The secret behind this brew is four of Chicago's favorite cabaret singers and a repertoire of the best of the American and European songbooks. Featuring Elizabeth Doyle, John Eskola, Bob Moreen and Claudia Hommel.

### The Travel Abroad Trio

Claudia, Sean Harris and Elizabeth Doyle have a flair for languages and styles—French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and even Chinese; Neapolitans, spirituals, pop songs, swing and jazz, opera arias, art songs and original songs.

Claudia Hommel is an Illinois Arts Tour and Arts-in-Education artist. Non-profit institutions in Illinois can seek fee support from the Illinois Arts Council.



## What the press has to say about Claudia Hommel in cabaret

### **Chicago Reader “Critic’s Choice”:**

Chicago’s Claudia Hommel plays the role of chanteuse-boulevardière to the hilt... a latter-day female counterpart to Maurice Chevalier. Like the quintessential French entertainer, she sings of love and even lust without sounding desperate or wanton, and she incorporates the approach to sex that the French consider their birthright—a subject fit for all and immune from leers. In the music she presents, this attitude plays a role as important as the voice itself. Hommel, with her lovely intonation and clear timbre, wins on both counts. She brings a terrific trio—pianist Bob Moreen, bassist Jim Cox, and accordionist Chuck Kopp—and she offers an unspoken guarantee that you’ll think you paid for the evening in euros. --Neil Tesser

### **New York Times:**

Claudia Hommel, a singer and actress who performs in both theater and cabaret, brings a sense of theater with her when she goes into cabaret...Miss Hommel’s voice can be strong and soaring, and she uses it to excellent dramatic effect in her lusty Spanish and French songs.” *John S. Wilson*

### **North Shore Magazine:**

From “Affairs to Remember—Top Ten Ideas for the Best Party Ever” —Hommel was so spectacular, so commanding a presence... She has a smooth, rich voice...at once sexy and sophisticated, stunning in an Audrey Hepburn sort of way. *Judy Marcus*

### **Oak Park Journal:**

The sweet voice of Claudia Hommel will make you want to buy chocolates and dance along the Seine, to travel to Paris sooner than you had planned, or to relax in comfort and feel as though you have just returned from France. – *Ed Vincent*

### **New York Native:**

A soprano with bright, silvery voice and sharp, clear diction, Hommel sang with great verve, savoring each poetic nuance. *Joe Hannan*

### **Gazette Francophone:** [translation]

We see through her gestures the profile of an impassioned heart in search of an immortalized past. During Claudia’s *Souvenirs de Paris*, I could enter a Paris which few of us really know, there in the piano bar ..., where Claudia serves as guide to the heart of all Paris. *Owen Georges Leroy*

### **Detroit Center News:**

Petite Claudia Hommel was the evocation of every French chanteuse from those painted by Toulouse-Lautrec through Yvette Guilbert and on to Edith Piaf. *Paul Edson*

### **ICTFL Accents** (Teachers of Foreign Languages):

Claudia Hommel deftly weaves you into her café and her heart and her Paris. Singing alternately in English and in French, she involves her audience in her stories of love lost (L’Accordéoniste”), love found (“La Vie en rose”), love bought (“Milord”), and love past (“Je me souviens”). Ms. Hommel shows exquisite singing skill... And her pianist, Bob Moreen, is outstanding. *Sarah Swienton*

### **Broadway Revisited on National Public Radio:**

Those who remember Germaine Montero and Juliette Greco will be rewarded by this recital, as will those who have no memories of those mid-century chanteuses. Paris born Claudia was raised in America and is now a Chicagoan, fortunate because these performances also feature violin virtuoso John Frigo. Along with accordion and rhythm section they perform a bilingual bi-national program ranging from the serious to the jazzy, with Parisian touches. The lighter numbers are especially felicitous. *Art Hilgart*

### **Pierre Saka:** radio personality, editor and expert on French chanson for Larousse, Paris [translation]:

My country owes Claudia a debt of gratitude for bringing the best of French songs to the American public. She brings a unique “swing” to these songs and humor and emotion to the immortal text. *Je Suis Swing* is over 60 years old but in Claudia’s voice, it is the song again of a young girl, elegant, fresh, supple and candid. Forgive me if I linger on *Je Suis Swing*, with which I have fallen in love. I’ve been listening to it again and again and sincerely hope everyone else does the same. Bravo Claudia.