

Pasadena POPS

2015 Sierra Auto Summer Concert Series

Artist Bios

June 18, 2016 – First Ladies of Song

Madelyn Baillio

Hailing from League City, Texas, Madelyn Baillio served as the 2014 Songbook Youth Ambassador. A sophomore at Marymount Manhattan College in New York City, she recently starred as Dracula in *Dracula, the Musical* and Winnifred in *Once upon a Mattress* at the York Theatre.

This past year Madelyn performed to capacity audiences at venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Grand 1894 Opera House, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Birdland Jazz Club with Michael Feinstein.

Cady Huffman

Cady can currently be seen on the Netflix series *Master of None* and the web series *He's With Me*, for which she just won the Indie Series Award for Best Guest Appearance in a Comedy. heswithme.tv

Her most recent Broadway appearance was in The Tony Award winning play *The Nance* opposite Nathan Lane, for which she received an Outer Critics Circle Award nomination. She is perhaps best known for her Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award winning performance as "Ulla" in *The Producers* on Broadway opposite Mr. Lane and Matthew Broderick. This led to her unforgettable recurring role on HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm* where she almost became Larry David's 10th anniversary present. This success also brought her to the Food Network's kitchen stadium where she judged for 10 consecutive seasons on *Iron Chef America*.

Cady's other Broadway credits are her Tony-nominated performance as Ziegfeld's Favorite in *The Will Rogers Follies*, the original production of *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Steel Pier*, *Dame Edna: The Royal Tour*, and Bob Fosse's last original musical *Big Deal*. She has had several guest starring appearances on television, including a recurring role on *The Good Wife*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Law & Order: CI*, *Law & Order: Trial By Jury*, *Frasier* and *Mad About You*. She even showed up on Daytime's *One Life To Live* as the 2nd Dr. Paige Miller.

Cady's big screen appearances include *The Company Men* opposite Ben Affleck and Chris Cooper, John Turturro's star studded musical film *Romance & Cigarettes*, *Hero* (with Dustin Hoffman, Geena Davis and Andy Garcia), *The Nanny Diaries* opposite Scarlett Johansson and the upcoming Christmas movie

Love The Coopers. She also has starring roles in the indie films *Molly's Theory of Relativity*, *Dare*, *\$20 Drinks*, *Billy's Dad Is a Fudgepacker*, *Space Marines* and *Throw the Hoolihan*. She also produced and stars in film festival favorite *Sunday on the Rocks* which won 2nd Place Feature at the New Haven Film Festival.

Cady often lends her talents and resources to several charitable causes, including Creative Alternatives of New York (CANY.org), AIDS awareness, breast cancer research, women's heart health and animal rights. As an advocate for the arts, she has traveled to Washington to speak to Senators and Congresspersons and has spoken on panels at Sundance Film Festival and Brown and Harvard Universities focusing on the arts and first amendment rights. She is passionate about keeping the arts in public schools and helping young people realize their potential.

Lynn Roberts

Those of us who have been privileged to share many musical moments with Lynn Roberts, are grateful that she has prevailed as one of the few stars to bridge the decades. Her dedication and success have provided us with a legacy of an endless flow of wonderful music from the big band era to the present. It takes only one short session with her to convince anyone, that Lynn Roberts is their favorite singer, and one of the super songbirds of all time.

Lynn started her exciting career with Charlie Spivak at the age of 15, beating out sixty other candidates for the job. Songbird Roberts spent one year with Charlie, a year with Vincent Lopez, five years with Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, ten years with Benny Goodman and four years with Harry James.

She also shared the spotlight with Sammy Kaye for a year and a half, on the ABC show *Music from Manhattan*. Lynn also sang with the Pied Pipers for many years. Her career momentum led her to stellar performances throughout the United States, Europe, Japan and Israel. Many famous clubs became routine stops on her busy schedule. The Cafe Rouge at the Statler Hotel in Manhattan, the Coconut Grove and the Palladium in L.A. and the renowned Paramount Theatre in New York with the fabulous Dorsey Brothers and Frank Sinatra. Lynn has the distinction of being the ONLY girl singer to have sung with all these superstar band leaders.

In 1978 producer Michael Bennett featured her as "Marlene" the girl singer in the Broadway production of "Ballroom". It was there that critic Rex Reed said "Lynn Roberts sings like an angel, and the way she handles "Dreams", the evening's best song, is a thing of pure beauty." In recent years Lynn has been deluged with requests for special appearances at jazz festivals, on major cruise lines, television specials, famous night spots, and private parties both here and abroad.

The symphony orchestras of Buffalo, Palm Beach, Corpus Christi and Albuquerque have featured Lynn in major productions ranging from specials dedicated to Judy Garland, to the big band era as a whole. Starting in January of 1997, she will be appearing with Doc Severinsen, another Tommy Dorsey alumni, and symphony orchestras, doing a tribute to the big bands. When jazz fests in North Carolina, Maryland, Finland, and other areas are not using her talents, the Songbird may find herself booked at the Rainbow Room, Tavern On The Green's Chestnut Room, or with the Tommy Dorsey band at the Alabama Theatre in Myrtle Beach. Lynn has also been featured in two PBS specials that have aired frequently- due to their popularity. She recently completed her new CD, *The Men in My Life*, using the spectacular big band "Reunion," made up of musicians from the "Air Men Of Note," and the "US Navy Commanders." All in all, she's still as pretty as her pictures, enjoying the best "voice" of her career, and constantly winning over a growing fan club of listeners throughout the world. A critic said of Lynn's

recent performance with the Corpus Christi symphony; "There was only one person who seemed to be having more fun than the audience, and that was LYNN."

Born Leonore Theresa Raisig in Brooklyn, New York in 1935, Lynn was raised in Queens by parents at opposite poles of support for their precocious, pre-school singing daughter. Dad --- an accountant who always longed for his own show-biz career, prevailed, and Lynn began performing in vaudeville at age eight - during summer vacations. It was there that she appeared in the company of such greats as Abbott and Costello and Rody McDowell.

July 9, 2016 – Music of Billy Joel

Michael Cavanaugh

Michael Cavanaugh is the New Voice of the American Rock & Roll Songbook. A charismatic performer, musician and actor, made famous for his piano/lead vocals in the Broadway Musical *Movin' Out*.

Michael Cavanaugh was handpicked by Billy Joel to star in title role and evokes a style rivaling the Piano Man. Michael appeared in the show for 3 years and over 1200 performances, receiving accolade after accolade, which culminated in 2003 with both Grammy and Tony award nominations.

Michael began playing at age 7, when his parents bought their first piano. Encouraged by family and friends, and inspired by his hero Billy Joel, Michael formed his first band at age 10 and began playing local functions, fine-tuning the craft that would become his chosen career. His first full time gig as a musician was an extended engagement in Orlando Florida at a piano bar called Blazing Pianos. In January of 1999, Michael received an offer that would unknowingly change his life, with an opportunity to play Las Vegas at the famed "New York, New York Hotel and Casino." It was there that Billy Joel spotted Michael and joined him on stage one fateful night of February 2001. It only took 2 songs before Billy was convinced that he had found his new Piano Man, Michael Cavanaugh. Michael closed up shop at New York, New York and moved to New York City to work alongside Billy Joel and Twyla Tharp, to shape the Broadway Musical that would be called *Movin' Out*.

With the close of *Movin' Out* at the end of 2005, Michael began touring in his own right, creating a show that reinterprets the modern pop/rock songbook. Michael soon became one of the hottest artist's in the corporate/events market. He continues to perform worldwide for company and charity events as well as sporting events including PGA tour events, the US Open, the Indy 500. It wasn't long before Symphony Orchestras discovered Michael's talents and audience appeal. He accepted his first orchestral booking, *Michael Cavanaugh – The Songs of Billy Joel and more* which debuted in April of 2008 with the Indianapolis Symphony and continues to tour. In October 2008, he signed with Warner/ADA to distribute his first CD titled *In Color*. In June, 2010, Michael debuted his second symphony show in the *Generations of Rock* series entitled *Michael Cavanaugh: The Songs of Elton John and more* and then debuted his third symphony show *Singers and Songwriters: the music of Paul Simon, Neil Diamond and James Taylor* in 2012. He continues to tour all three symphony productions.

Larry Blank

Resident Pops Conductor, Larry Blank is one of the most prolific and sought after composers, conductors, and orchestrators in the entertainment business today. His work has been presented all over

the world, including some of Broadway's most successful musicals, Carnegie Hall, and top television and film projects.

He was the Music Director/Conductor and/or vocal arranger for many shows on Broadway and in Los Angeles including *They're Playing Our Song*, *Evita*, *Sugar Babies*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Phantom Of The Opera*, *Onward Victoria*, *Copperfield*, *Colette*, *A Chorus Line* and *A Little Night Music*. He has been nominated three times for both the Tony Award and the Drama Desk Award for his orchestrations in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* and with Marc Shaiman for *Catch Me If You Can*. Larry received a Drama Desk Nomination for orchestrations for *A Christmas Story*

Larry contributed to the orchestrations for both the stage and film production of *The Producers*, the film *Chicago* and is a regular conductor and arranger for BBC RADIO 2 Friday Night Is Music Night in the UK. Larry is also the Music Supervisor and Orchestrator (along with Mark Cumberland) for the *Olivier Awards* in London.

Blank has worked with top talent from varied fields of the entertainment world, notably as personal conductor to Michael Crawford. He has also worked with Michael Feinstein, Marvin Hamlisch, Bernadette Peters, Kelsey Grammar, Christine Baranski, Roberta Flack, Pete Fountain, Peabo Bryson, Sally Kellerman, Nancy Dussault, Marc Shaiman, Jerry Herman, Ann- Margaret, Davis Gaines, Bette Midler, George Benson, Placido Domingo, Randy Newman, Trisha Yearwood, Tom Scott, Quincy Jones, Michael Bolton, John Raitt and Diana Rigg.

Blank's background includes orchestrating and arranging songs for *South Park* and was Music Supervisor and Orchestrator for Jerry Herman's movie, *Mrs. Santa Claus* starring Angela Lansbury and Charles Durning. Some of the films he lent his talent to include *The Kid*, *Kiss The Girls*, *The American President*, *Forget Paris*, *City Slickers II*, *The Net*, *That's Entertainment III*, *North, I'd Do Anything*, and *Stuart Saves His Family*. Blank's music can be heard on the animated feature films, *Cats Don't Dance* and *All Dogs Go To Heaven* as well as the *101 Dalmations Christmas Special*.

Mr. Blank's television work includes orchestrating and composing music for several of the *Grammy Awards* and *Academy Award* shows as well as numerous television movies and shows.

Mr. Blank has guest conducted most of the orchestras throughout the world, including *The San Francisco Symphony*, *The New York Philharmonic*, *Western Australia Symphony Orchestra*, *The Los Angeles Philharmonic*, *Palm Beach Pops*, *Auckland Symphony*, *The National Symphony Orchestra*, *The Boston Pops*, *The Chicago Symphony Orchestra*, *Calgary Symphony*, *New Orleans Symphony* and *Toronto*

July 31, 2016 – The Sinatra Project Vol. 2

Michael Feinstein

Michael Feinstein has built a dazzling career over the last three decades bringing the music of the Great American songbook to the world. From recordings that have earned him five Grammy Award nominations to his Emmy nominated PBS-TV specials, his acclaimed NPR series and concerts spanning the globe – in addition to his appearances at iconic venues such as The White House, Buckingham

Palace, Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House – his work as an educator and archivist define Feinstein as one of the most important musical forces of our time.

In 2007, he founded the Great American Songbook Foundation, dedicated to celebrating the art form and preserving it through educational programs, Master Classes, and the annual High School Songbook Academy. This summer intensive open to students from across the country has produced graduates who have gone on to record acclaimed albums and appear on television programs such as NBC's "America's Got Talent." Michael serves on the Library of Congress' National Recording Preservation Board, an organization dedicated to ensuring the survival, conservation and increased public availability of America's sound recording heritage.

The most recent album from his multi-platinum recording career is *A Michael Feinstein Christmas* from Concord Records. The CD features Grammy Award -winning jazz pianist Alan Broadbent (Paul McCartney, Diana Krall, Natalie Cole). Feinstein earned his fifth Grammy Award nomination in 2009 for *The Sinatra Project*, his CD celebrating the music of "Ol' Blue Eyes." *The Sinatra Project, Volume II: The Good Life* was released in 2011. He released the CDs *The Power Of Two* – collaborating with "Glee" and "30 Rock" star Cheyenne Jackson – and *Cheek To Cheek*, recorded with Broadway legend Barbara Cook. For Feinstein's CD *We Dreamed These Days*, he co-wrote the title song with Dr. Maya Angelou.

His Emmy Award-nominated TV special *Michael Feinstein – The Sinatra Legacy*, which was taped live at the Palladium in Carmel, IN, aired across the country in 2011. The PBS series "Michael Feinstein's American Songbook," the recipient of the ASCAP Deems-Taylor Television Broadcast Award, was broadcast for three seasons and is available on DVD. His most recent primetime PBS-TV Special, "New Year's Eve at The Rainbow Room" – written and directed by "Desperate Housewives" creator Marc Cherry – aired in 2014. For his nationally syndicated public radio program "Song Travels," Michael interviews and performs alongside of music luminaries such as Bette Midler, Neil Sedaka, Liza Minnelli, Rickie Lee Jones, David Hyde Pierce and more.

Feinstein was named Principal Pops Conductor for the Pasadena Symphony in 2012 and made his conducting debut in June 2013 to celebrated critical acclaim. Under Feinstein's leadership, the Pasadena Pops has quickly become a premier orchestral presenter of the Great American Songbook with definitive performances of rare orchestrations and classic arrangements. He launched an additional Pops series at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in Palm Beach, Florida in 2014.

Michael's book *The Gershwins and Me* – the *Los Angeles Times* best-seller from Simon & Schuster – features a new CD of Gershwin standards performed with Cyrus Chestnut at the piano.

Feinstein serves as Artistic Director of the Palladium Center for the Performing Arts, a \$170 million, three-theatre venue in Carmel, Indiana, which opened in January 2011. The theater is home to diverse live programming and a museum for his rare memorabilia and manuscripts. Since 1999, he has served as Artistic Director for Carnegie Hall's "Standard Time with Michael Feinstein" in conjunction with ASCAP. In 2010 he became the director of the Jazz and Popular Song Series at New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Feinstein's at the Nikko, Michael's nightclub at San Francisco's Nikko Hotel, has presented the top talents of pop and jazz since 2013. He debuted at Feinstein's/54 Below, his new club in New York, late in 2015. His first venue in New York, Feinstein's at the Regency, featured major entertainers such as Rosemary Clooney, Glen Campbell, Barbara Cook, Diahann Carroll, Jane Krakowski, Lea Michele, Cyndi Lauper, Jason Mraz and Alan Cumming from 1999 to 2012.

He has designed a new piano for Steinway called “The First Ladies,” inspired by the White House piano and signed by several former First Ladies. It was first played to commemorate the Ronald Regan centennial on February 6, 2011.

In 2013 Michael released *Change Of Heart: The Songs of Andre Previn* in collaboration with four time Oscar and eleven time Grammy Award-winning composer-conductor-pianist Andre Previn. The album celebrates Previn’s pop songs and motion picture classics. Earlier album highlights include *Hopeless Romantics*, a songbook of classics by Michael’s late friend Harry Warren, recording with legendary jazz pianist George Shearing. His album with songwriting icon Jimmy Webb, *Only One Life – The Songs of Jimmy Webb*, was named one of “10 Best CDs of the Year” by *USA Today*.

Feinstein received his fourth Grammy nomination for *Michael Feinstein with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra*, his first recording with a symphony orchestra. The year before, Rhino/Elektra Music released *The Michael Feinstein Anthology*, a two-disc compilation spanning 1987 to 1996 and featuring old favorites and previously-unreleased tracks.

Michael was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, where he started playing piano by ear as a 5-year-old. After graduating from high school, he moved to Los Angeles when he was 20. The widow of legendary concert pianist-actor Oscar Levant introduced him to Ira Gershwin in July 1977. Feinstein became Gershwin’s assistant for six years, which earned him access to numerous unpublished Gershwin songs, many of which he has since performed and recorded.

Gershwin’s influence provided a solid base upon which Feinstein evolved into a captivating performer, composer and arranger of his own original music. He also has become an unparalleled interpreter of music legends such as Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Johnny Mercer, Duke Ellington and Harry Warren. Feinstein has received three honorary doctorates.

Through his live performances, recordings, film and television appearances, and his songwriting (in collaboration with Alan and Marilyn Bergman, Lindy Robbins, Bob Merrill and Marshall Barer), Feinstein is an all-star force in American music.

For more information, please visit www.MichaelFeinstein.com.

August 20, 20156 – Cole Porter Night

Catherine Russell

Vocalist Catherine Russell is a native New Yorker, born into musical royalty. Her father, the late Luis Russell, was a pioneering pianist/composer/bandleader and Louis Armstrong's long-time musical director. Her mother, Carline Ray, has performed with Mary Lou Williams and International Sweethearts of Rhythm. Catherine’s professional life began early. After graduating with honors from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, she embarked upon musical adventures with Carrie Smith, Steely Dan, David Bowie, Cyndi Lauper, Paul Simon, Jackson Browne, Michael Feinstein, Levon Helm, and Rosanne Cash.

Her 2006 debut album "Cat", (World Village/Harmonia Mundi), garnered rave reviews, paving the way for her 2008 sophomore release, “Sentimental Streak”. Catherine has been a guest on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, PBS-TV’s *Tavis Smiley Show*, and NPR's *Fresh Air*, *Piano Jazz*, *Mountain Stage*, *World Café*, and *JazzSet*. She has won a prestigious German Record Critics' Award and a Living Blues magazine's critics' poll. L'Académie du Jazz in France chose "Sentimental Streak" as finaliste for Prix du

Jazz Vocal. Catherine Russell's third album, "Inside This Heart of Mine", reached #1 on JazzWeek and Roots Music Report's radio charts, while also charting on Billboard and reaching #1 on I-Tunes jazz charts. A fourth album, "Strictly Romancin'" was released in February 2012. Catherine Russell won a Grammy Award as a featured artist on the soundtrack album for the HBO-TV series, *Boardwalk Empire*.

With universal acclaim, Catherine Russell has performed on three continents. She's been a hit at major Jazz Festivals including Monterey, Newport, North Sea, JazzAscona, Montreal, Bern, Rochester International, Tanglewood, and at sold out venues like The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Scullers in Boston, The Dakota in Minneapolis, Dizzy's Club in NYC, and Yoshi's in San Francisco. All Music Guide says, "Russell emerged as a retro old school vocalist for the ages."

Her repertoire features a selection of gems from the 1920s through the Present; vital interpretations, bursting with soul and humor. With an off-the-beaten-path song selection, sparkling acoustic swing, and a stunning vocal approach, Catherine Russell has joined the ranks of the greatest interpreters and performers of American Popular Song.

Nick Ziobro

A dynamic new voice in the world of classic American standards, Nick Ziobro was the winner of the 2012 Great American Songbook High School Vocal Academy and Competition. The 19-year-old native of upstate New York spent a year serving as the Youth Ambassador of the Great American Songbook and was featured in Season 10 of America's Got Talent as part of the singing duo "Nick & Eddie". He is currently pursuing a BFA at Rider University.

When he made his New York debut at Feinstein's at Loews Regency onstage with Michael Feinstein and Marilyn Maye, *The New York Times* praised him for "an easy swinging confidence and charm that suggested he could evolve into another Michael Bublé." Nick earned a host of rave reviews around the country. He was hailed as "a budding young talent" by *LA Weekly*, and called "a radiant presence" from *Edge Los Angeles*, "absolutely breathtaking" by the *Carmel Current* and "stunning" by the *Napa Valley Register*.

In addition to opening for Feinstein, Barbara Cook and Marilyn Maye, other performances include the Pasadena Pops with Marvin Hamlisch, Benaroya Hall in Seattle, Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, The Nugget in Reno, the Cincinnati Pops at Riverbend Music Center, and the Napa Valley Opera House. Nick also performed at the inaugural induction gala for the Great American Songbook Hall of Fame in June 2012 alongside Barry Manilow, Andrea McArdle, Clay Aiken and Lari White. He was invited to perform the National Anthem at the Indianapolis Colts game in September 2012.

Nick's association with world renowned Great American Songbook interpreter Michael Feinstein, has afforded him the opportunity to perform all over the country. Recent performances include opening for B.B. King at Syracuse Jazz Fest and joining Michael Feinstein at the Wynn Las Vegas, Jazz at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall.

Ziobro released his debut album – *A Lot of Livin' To Do* - produced by Michael Feinstein and featuring jazz greats Bucky Pizzarelli, Tedd Firth, Jay Leonhart and more - was released in 2014.

September 10, 2016 - A Salute to Warner Bros.

Allyson Briggs

“Allyson Briggs is a female Frank Sinatra with the looks of Marilyn Monroe.”

– *Times Square Chronicles*.

The songbird and bandleader of Fleur Seule, a 1940s Jazz and Swing band dedicated to the music of the big band days. Allyson grew up singing and loving this music, performing it from a very young age, and as she acquired more lingual prowess at NYU, expanded her scope of repertoire to include music in seven languages, with plans for more.

On a mission to revive the greatest music ever written, now for her generation, she strives to share her love and passion for the joy and the glamour of it all. She believes in the power of simplicity, the playfulness of music, and the Great American Songbook. She is an old soul who refined her craft in New York City and has been making great strides in bringing the best of music back for some, and anew to the younger set. She is honored to share a stage and a mission with the incomparable Michael Feinstein.

For more information, visit: www.fleurseule.com.

Todd Murray

During an era when there is a shortage of male baritone jazz and cabaret singers, Todd Murray has emerged as a notable interpreter of standards, newer material, and his own originals. Blessed with a deep baritone voice, Todd is an intimate performer who excels on romantic ballads, swings at every tempo, and does justice to the lyrics that he sings.

Born in a small farming community in Pennsylvania, he learned many older standards from his aunt who played stride piano. He moved to New York City not long after college and soon was performing as the lead singer for Royal Viking Cruise Line, many roles at the famous Paper Mill Playhouse, and the lead in New York Gilbert and Sullivan Player's off-Broadway production of *The Gondoliers*. He was in the first Broadway touring company of *The Secret Garden*.

“I moved to Los Angeles to pursue a business venture and as it happened I was cast in a production of *Much Ado about Nothing* at South Coast Repertory that was set in the 1920s. They wanted me to sing in a Bing Crosby style and I began to realize my joy in singing American Standards.” Todd was soon presenting his first cabaret show, *Let's Face the Music* directed by Art Manke at Hollywood's famed Cinegrill, then in New York and nationally.

His debut solo CD, titled *When I Sing Low*, features Murray's baritone accompanied by a full orchestra – a rarity these days, and was named “Best Vocal Recording” by TheaterMania.com. The sublime vocalist, Sue Raney, joined Todd on “Just in Time.” The catchy “Could ‘Ja,” is one of his favorite numbers on the recording. He is only the third vocalist to perform this obscure song, joining the esteemed company of Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole. Another highlight is Todd's original composition, “When I Sing Low.” “Since I have a bass-baritone voice and the tenor became king in most new Broadway shows, there were not a lot of new roles for me. This predicament led me to write ‘When I Sing Low,’ which in a witty way sums up the virtues of baritone singers.”

The release of the CD, *When I Sing Low*, led to a higher profile on the national cabaret circuit. He performed many times at the acclaimed New York Cabaret Convention at Town Hall, NYC, Rose Hall

at Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Annenberg in Palm Springs, LA's Catalina Jazz Club as well as artist series and notable cabaret venues throughout the nation. Todd's second CD, *Stardust & Swing*, also uses a big band and like *When I Sing Low*, was recorded at the legendary Capitol Records Studios.

"The criteria for the CD *Stardust and Swing* was to include songs that elicit a sense of well-being and happiness and sweet memories: 'Stardust,' 'Dream A Little Dream of Me,' 'Moonlight Becomes You,' 'I Wanna Be Around,' 'Teach Me Tonight' (with legendary singer Marilyn Maye), and the not-so-well-known 'If I Ruled the World' (with Broadway's Douglas Sills). In addition, Todd contributed two of his own new songs, "Patricia," penned for famed food writer Patricia Wells, and "The Girl from Waco" that could easily be mistaken for 1930s standards.

Rex Reed, in the *New York Observer* called Todd "A cabaret prince headed for the big cabaret throne if I've ever spotted one...I felt privileged to listen." And Stephen Holden, the esteemed *New York Times* music critic, recently wrote "This suave, handsome baritone is such a confident singer that his performance is the real deal. His unadorned interpretations of standards like 'The Nearness of You,' 'You'll Never Know,' and 'How Deep Is the Ocean?' were impeccable." As the finishing touch to these many recent successes, Todd was voted Broadwayworld.com's 2015 "Best Male Vocalist" and "Best Cabaret Show." A third CD is now available called *Croon...when a whisper became a song* which has garnered much praise including a nomination by the Manhattan Association of Cabarets & Clubs (MAC) for best original song "And I'm Leaving Today," written with notable NYC pianist Alex Rybeck. He is currently touring his critically-acclaimed show by the same name around the world. He can often be heard guest starring with Johnny Holiday and the Johnny Holiday Big Band at the famed Cicada Club in downtown Los Angeles. www.toddmurray.com #toddEmurray