



The McCoy Theatre
at Rhodes College
presents
The Seventh Annual
McCoy Benefit Concert

A Cole Porter Show

The Music and Lyrics of Cole Porter

Devised and Staged by Bennett Wood

Musical Direction and Arrangements
by Tony Lee Garner and Diana Stein

Choreography by Barry Fuller

Setting and Lighting by Henry Swanson

Costumes by Bette Garner

The Singers:
Jude Knight, Ann Sharp, Kent Fleshman,
Barry Fuller, Tony Lee Garner

The Musicians:
Diana Stein, Piano
Frankie Grace, Bass
Kemper Durand, Drums

Stage Manager: Jason Potter

Musical Numbers

Opening Cole

Begin The Beguine — *Tony and the Company*

De-Lovely Cole

What Is This Thing Called Love, You've Got That Thing,
You Do Something To Me, Let's Misbehave, Laziest Gal in Town,
Too Darn Hot, Most Gentlemen Don't Like Love, Let's Do It,
At Long Last Love, True Love, So In Love, It's De-Lovely
The Company

Saucy Cole

The Physician — *Jude*
A Little Skipper From Heaven Above — *Tony*
Thank You So Much, Mrs. Lowsborough-Goodby — *Barry*

Warm Cole

I Concentrate on You — *Ann*
Easy To Love — *Tony and Ann*
I Get A Kick Out Of You — *Jude*
Why Don't We Try Staying Home — *Barry and Jude*
In The Still Of The Night — *Kent*

Reluctant Cole

But In The Morning, No — *Barry and Ann*

French Cole

I Love Paris, Paris Loves Lovers,
C'est Magnifique, Who Said Gay Paree, Can-Can
The Company

Country Cole

Don't Fence Me In — *Kent, Tony, Barry*

Old-Fashioned Cole

My Heart Belongs To Daddy — *Ann*
Find Me A Primitive Man — *Jude*

Cool Cole

Just One Of Those Things — *Kent*
Make It Another Old-Fashioned, Please — *Ann*
It's All Right With Me — *Barry*
Down In The Depths — *Jude*
Get Out Of Town — *Tony*
Every Time We Say Goodbye — *Ann*

Ultimate Cole

You're The Top, From This Moment On, Night And Day
The Company

This Benefit is dedicated with gratitude and joy for the life of Scott Maitland,
a life of copious talents which he generously shared with us here at the McCoy
Requiem aeternam

Cole Porter

Born in Peru, Indiana in 1891, Cole Porter wrote his first song at the age of ten, "The Bobolink Waltz." After graduating from Yale, where he wrote "Bingo Eli Yale," a song still dear to the hearts of Yalies, he made a half-hearted attempt at Harvard Law School, but soon resigned to devote himself to songwriting. From 1918 to 1928 he lived in Europe, mostly in Paris and Venice, and contributed songs to various revues in New York, Paris and London.

With the success of his first book musical, *Paris*, he returned to America and for the next three decades delighted Broadway with a succession of sophisticated scores: *Fifty Million Frenchmen*; *Anything Goes*; *Red, Hot and Blue*; *Gay Divorcée*; *Jubilee*; *Panama Hattie*; *Kiss Me Kate*; *Can-Can*; *Silk Stockings*. In Hollywood he created scores for *Rosalie*, *Born to Dance*, *The Pirate* and *Les Girls*.

He died in 1964, leaving us a graceful legacy of beautiful melodies and witty, elegant lyrics.

Who's Who

Kemper Durand was the percussionist for our production of *Cowardly Custer*, five previous Benefit Concerts, and he has shared his talent with audiences in just about every theatre in Memphis. This is made more significant by the fact that great demands are made on his time and energy by his profession. But if you ever need a lawyer with a great sense of rhythm, Kemper is your man.

Kent Fleshman is making his McCoy debut. Recently he appeared as John Wilkes Booth in *Assassins* at Circuit Playhouse and Georg Nowack in the Theatre Memphis production of *She Loves Me*. An air traffic controller, originally from Oklahoma, Kent wishes to thank Bennett Wood for the opportunity to once again work under his direction. Kent also thanks his family (Kristia, Kendall and Karrah) for their patience and understanding.

After the complete satisfaction of directing Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins* at Circuit Playhouse, **Barry Fuller** is delighted to be back on the boards at the McCoy, where he has appeared in several of the Benefits and has also directed *Candide* (twice), *Sweeney Todd*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *The Gondoliers*, *Little Mary Sunshine*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, and *Merrily We Roll Along*. He appeared as The Narrator-Mysterious Man in last season's *Into the Woods* at Theatre Memphis, and will continue his Sondheim streak here next season by directing *Company*. Watch for it!

Tony Lee Garner is indispensable at the McCoy. He is our Artistic Director, Chairman of the Department of Theatre, and conductor of the Rhodes College Singers. Tony's activities at the McCoy have ranged from performer in *Little Mary Sunshine*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *The School for Scandal* and all Benefit Concerts to musical director for *Carnival*, *Cowardly Custard*, *Beyond Therapy*, *On the Razzle*, *Anyone Can Whistle* and most recently, *Cabaret*. Tony began his involvement with Theatre Memphis as a performer and Musical Director over twenty years ago.

Frankie Grace (bass) has played "in the pit" of a host of musicals in the city. She has played in all six of the previous Benefit Concerts at the McCoy and most recently in our production of *Cabaret*. Her livelihood is orchestral playing, but her love is theatre. We are most grateful that Frankie has such close ties with the McCoy.

Jude Knight has been a favorite leading lady in Theatre Memphis musicals - performing in *Kismet*, *My Fair Lady*, *Oh Coward*, *Camelot*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Sound of Music*, *Brigadoon* and *She Loves Me*. At the McCoy, she has appeared in five previous Benefit Concerts and *The Mound Builders*. Jude is communications officer for Boatmen's Bank and thanks her ever patient husband, Fred. We miss you, Scotty!

Jason Potter executes his final task in grand fashion with his debut as a stage manager. A well rounded, future alum of this department, Jason has been seen in *God's Country* and *Cabaret* while also designing the lighting for *Spring Awakening* and *White Noise*. Jason sends a special thanks to Tony, Frank, Cookie, and Henry. So long, farewell, and amen.

The McCoy Benefit has become an annual delight for **Ann Sharp**. To work with such talented, committed individuals and to count them as friends is to be twice blessed. Her productions at the McCoy have been *Sweeney Todd*, *Gondoliers*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *On the Razzle* and *Candide* II. Ann's family, Edward, a realtor with McWaters and Associates and Charles, an 8th grader at Mt. Pisgah are generous in covering household responsibilities when the McCoy beckons.

Diana Stein is a pianist and teacher in the Memphis area. Paulette's Restaurant is where she entertains most often; also at the Peabody Hotel and Dixon Art Gallery on occasion. Her work with musical theatre has been varied, including *Man of La Mancha*, *Side by Side*, *Company*, some Gershwin and Fats Waller shows and most recently, *Cabaret* at the McCoy Theatre.

Bennett Wood is known to Memphis theatre audiences as both actor and director. At the McCoy he has directed *The Tempest*, *The Mound Builders*, and six Benefit Concerts. On our stage he has appeared in *The Gondoliers*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, and *The School for Scandal*. Bennett is generous with his talents and knowledge, and whether he is performing, directing or helping to put together a season of plays, his love of theatre is reflected in what can be simply labeled...quality.

The McCoy Theatre is deeply grateful to the artists who have contributed so generously of their time and talents to this concert to benefit the McCoy Endowment Fund.



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