

BIOGRAPHIES

An Oberlin Conservatory graduate and native of Des Moines, Iowa, JOAN ELLISON has headlined with the Cleveland Pops at Severance Hall, played leading ladies of the Rodgers & Hammerstein canon to critical acclaim, and arranged or transcribed over 150 songs from the Golden Age of American Popular song. She grew up singing along with Judy Garland on “Over the Rainbow,” and by age 16 was performing in professional opera. Recent theatrical roles include Julie in *Carousel*, Nellie in *South Pacific*, Lizzie in *110 in the Shade*, and Claudia in *Nine*. An adjunct professor of voice at Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music, she is a member of Actors’ Equity Association.

MARK FLANDERS has plied his art as a thirties-style song-and-dance man at the Palace Theatre at Playhouse Square, the Ohio Theatre, the Statler Hotel, the Silver Grille, Cain Park, and as a Shakespearean actor with Great Lakes Theatre Festival and with Shakespeare & Company in Washington, D.C. He was working toward a Master’s degree in dance at George Washington University when he saw a Fred Astaire film festival at the Kennedy Center. He spent the next decades destroying wooden floors with his tap shoes, as well as playing over forty roles in Cleveland- and D.C.-area theatres, from Biron in *Love’s Labors Lost* to Tulsa in *Gypsy*.

MICHAEL LEAMON is one of the Cleveland area’s busiest musicians. He was performing professionally even before graduating from Butler University in Indianapolis and has done scores of theatre productions, ranging from Yul Brynner’s final go-round in *The King and I* to Playhouse Square’s productions of *Forbidden Broadway* and the long-running *Forever Plaid*. For seven years he was the house pianist, five nights a week, at Cleveland’s five-diamond fine dining establishment, Classics. He also writes and arranges music, including a Dr. Seuss series featuring Jerry Springer as narrator. He currently plays regularly at Pier W in Lakewood, Stages Restaurant at the Cleveland Play House, and Star at Playhouse Square.

