

Hang onto your hats! It's the  
**SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE**  
*"A Cavalcade of Talent"* 2003

**ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE**

408 W. WASHINGTON ST.

**FRI. JUNE 20 & SAT. JUNE 21**

**ALL SEATS JUST \$10!!**


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TWO NIGHTS ONLY!


A BENEFIT FOR ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE

HOO-HAH!!



**CURT WAUGH**  
 "THE STAR OF YOUR OWN LIFE"

ALL ORIGINAL SONGS!!



**BOB SKON**  
 "STEPHANIE" • "A DOSE OF YOU"

"I CANNOT DREAM" • "HADES"

**BEN COHEN**




LIVE ON STAGE!



**JEN WHITE**  
 "TWISTED" • "TOMORROW"


**Brian HOFFMAN**  
 "I COULD FALL IN LOVE"



**GLENN BUGALA**  
 "YOU GOTTA SMILE"




with special guests:  
 KATHY WAUGH  
 ANTHONY & JANUARY PROVENZOLA  
 PAMELA VACHON  
 ELIZABETH MIHALO  
 and MATT STEWARD as THE BEAVER!



**Ryan TALASKA**

John Tebeau 2003  
 tebeau@sbcglobal.net



**TOM STEPPE**  
 "I MET ADAM" • "THIS TIME"

ALL in PERSON!

# A<sup>2</sup>ct

## ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE

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FOUNDED  IN 1929

Welcome to Songwriters Showcase, a Fundraiser for Ann Arbor Civic Theatre!

These songwriters are shining stars in the A2CT world, and we're thrilled to have them performing their material together. We are very grateful that they've offered to lend their talents for a fundraiser. Civic Theatre has been in existence for 75 years now, and we wouldn't be here each and every year if it weren't for the enthusiasm and talent of members such as those you see here performing tonight and all of the behind the scenes folks involved as well. It takes dozens of people to stage any show; fortunately we are blessed with an abundance of talent, seasoned and new.

As we all know, non-profit arts organizations such as ours simply cannot be sustained by ticket sales alone, so it's necessary to offer fundraisers. The mere thought of the word fundraiser puts some into an anxiety attack! Not so for us here. This has been a joy to plan, fun to attend and a success by all accounts.

Thank you for joining us and for supporting one of the country's longest running community theatres!

Cassie Mann & Suzi Peterson

**Ann Arbor Civic Theatre**

Opening night June 20, 2003

# Songwriters Showcase

Songwriters

**Bob Skon**

**Curt Waugh**

**Jennifer White**

**Glenn Bugala**

**Ben Cohen**

**Tom Steppe**

**Zachary Ryan**

**Brian Hoffman**

Musicians

**Erin Waugh**

**Matt Steward**

**John Huyck**

**Emily Perryman**

Lighting Design

**Scott Erickson**

Light Board Operator

**Melissa Lindholm**

Sound Board Operator

**Dave Lindholm**

Poster Design

**John Tebeau**

Program Design

**Anthony J. Provenzola**

# The Program

Performer(s) - "Song Title" (Songwriter)

## ACT I

**Bob Skon** - "A Dose of You" (Bob Skon)

*Is there really such a thing as love at first sight?*

**Glenn Bugala** - "Smile Without a Rhyme" (Glenn Bugala)

*I've been writing Christian music since I was 18, and bringing my theatricality to it every step of the way. I asked myself, "Do Christian songs have to only be deep or sickly sweet?" This song was the result of crossing my Christian agenda with Oingo Boingo, along with a dash of heavy duty dark comedy.*

**Anthony J. Provenzola** - "You'll Believe in Me" Always and Never (Curt Waugh)

*In this soliloquy, one of the lead men (it's an ensemble piece) laments that his love interest doesn't understand the deep feelings of which he is capable. In the end, he needs to realize as we all do that it doesn't help him to stand there and tell us. He must tell her. He must express himself.*

**Jennifer White** - "Tomorrow" (Jennifer White)

*This song was originally titled "Promise." When I wrote it as a love song to someone I didn't even know at the time. Writing the song was sweet. Meeting the person who fulfills it...sweeter.*

**Kathy Waugh** - "Elisa's Song" (Benjamin Cohen)

*Hope you enjoy this one.*

**Tom Steppe** - "I Met Adam" (Tom Steppe)

*It's always helpful to have friends with children to learn the parenting ropes before your turn comes around. I got my first such opportunity with my friends' daughter, Lauren. My second opportunity came along when her brother, Adam, was born.*

**Bob Skon** - "Till I Stop Thinking About Her" (Bob Skon)

*Sometimes you just need to talk to someone.*

**Glenn Bugala** - "The Vote" (Glenn Bugala)

*My first year in Chicago, I went to vote, and while I was in there, a big fat Alderman was kicked out by a little old lady election worker. He had been handing out a leaflet to Hispanic immigrants, claiming that it showed them how the machines worked, when actually it showed how to vote for certain Republican candidates. It was quite comical and showed that Chicago voting shenanigans were still not dead in 1992.*

**Kathy Waugh** - "All My Own" Always and Never (Curt Waugh)

*In Always and Never, the two lead women are stage actresses. The older of the pair has become keenly aware of the passing years and her impending loneliness if nothing changes. In this song, she is determined to "undress the queen" and embrace a new attitude about her life.*

**Zachary Ryan & Tawna Dabney** - "All Alone / Not Alone" Faces (Zachary Ryan)

*This song is from an original musical I have been writing for some time called Faces. This song happens later in the show, when the character's mother has passed away suddenly. Neither has spoken to each other in a long time and her death hit hard for him. He feels he never had the opportunity to make amends with her before she died. This is the song that finally brings them together and closure to their relationship.*

**Jennifer White** - "Second, Minute, Hour, Day" (Jennifer White)

*This song was written as an exorcism. As soon as the song was out of my system so was the guy.*

**January D. Provenzola** - "Some New Song" Always and Never (Curt Waugh)

*Here, the younger female lead has become defiant about her own success. She simultaneously wants to rub it in the face of every person from her crappy small home town and yet realizes that she can't succeed on her own. She is stuck in a sort of classic paradox faced by people who have a chip on their shoulder: The very independence they needed to fuel their breakaway from their past prevents them from achieving greatness in the present.*

**Bob Skon** - "Two Hearts" (Bob Skon)

*This song explores the mathematical side of relationships.*

## ACT II

### **Curt Waugh** - "I Did It By The Minute" (Curt Waugh)

*It's sometimes amazing what pops into my head when I'm mowing the lawn.*

### **Tom Steppe** - "This Time" (Tom Steppe)

*When local playwright, Cassie Mann, staged the production of her play Waxing the Moon in 1994, I was flattered to be chosen from among over a hundred applicants to write the theme song. Ok, maybe it wasn't a hundred and maybe the fact that I'm her husband gave me a slight edge.*

### **Bob Skon** - "Conversation" (Bob Skon)

*Have you had any good ones lately? This is about intimacy.*

### **Jennifer White** - "Twisted" (Jennifer White)

*Love is a funny thing. It either gets you twisted or it completely straightens you out. This song was written for someone who is fond of saying, "You've got me twisted." He has no idea...*

### **Zachary Ryan** - "Promises" (Jennifer White)

*When I wrote this song I was acting as a dear friend's voice. This was the only way I knew to vent my frustration about the pain she was experiencing at the time. I'm glad that I have happy songs to sing about her now.*

### **Elizabeth Mihalo** - "I Could Fall In Love" (Brian Hoffman)

*I Could Fall in Love Again was premiered March '02 by the UM Jazz Lab Ensemble featuring Liz. Although originally a big band arrangement, a solo piano arrangement seemed more fitting for this occasion. More important than any personal significance it may have, this was an attempt to write a song in the American Songbook tradition as sung by Ella or Frank. I am privileged to have Liz singing with me tonight for two reasons. 1. She's much prettier than I am! 2. As I've always said, it's simply a much better song when she's the one singing it. Thanks Liz!*

### **Curt Waugh** - "Maddening Little Place" (Curt Waugh)

*This song is for every young woman who had to leave home to find a place for herself in the world. Some of us just weren't destined to stay put. It's the old fashioned question, "How ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm...?" The answer is: You aren't.*

### **Glenn Bugala** - "You've Gotta Smile" (Glenn Bugala)

*During a tempestuous fling at Summer Stock, I got serious and told the woman that I loved her. She said that I shouldn't get serious on her but just enjoy the fling as a fling. Here, I considered the joys and pitfalls of smoothly accepting a love affair that wouldn't ever go beyond the physical.*

### **Bob Skon & the Skonerrifics** - "The Night Ain't Through" (Bob Skon)

*The idea for a song can come to you at any time. This one came to me one night while washing the dishes. This song features backup vocals by Kathleen Beardmore, Jen White, and Pamela Vachon, collectively known as the Skonerrifics.*

### **Pamela Vachon** - "I Cannot Dream" (Benjamin Cohen)

*This piece is sung by the stage manager from the one-act Hercules Leaves His Mark. The show is about a bunch of directors and designers who are without a show and who must whip up something in the time span of a one act. They decide on the stories of Hercules and what he does with himself after finishing his final labor in the Underworld. The stage manager is the typical anal-practical type who yearns to be visited by the creative muse.*

### **Kevin Binkley & Kathy Waugh** - "Hades / I Have Not Come Down" (Ben Cohen)

*These two songs are from "Orpheus and Eurydice". Hades is lord over the tortured souls in the underworld who think they will find gratification only to be crushed at the last possible moment (i.e. Sisyphus pushing the rock up the hill). His marriage to Persephone, who spends half the year above earth and half the year below, contributes greatly to Hades nature. Orpheus, having descended to the underworld to rescue his bride Eurydice, pleads with Hades to borrow her for the remainder of her life so she can return when she's really ready. He uses Persephone as a bargaining chip.*

### **Bob Skon** - "Stephanie" (Bob Skon)

*My cousin had a baby. At the time I was too poor to buy a gift, so I wrote her this song. If I had to choose, this song would be my favorite!*

### **J. White, B. Skon, G. Bugala & C. Waugh** - "Star of Your Own Life" (C. Waugh)

*(This was the title of what was going to be a one-man recital for me.) This song has a very simple message: Get over yourself. We all worry too much about how everybody is watching and judging everything we do. The fact is that people don't have enough time to worry about you; they have their own problems. Sorry to burst your bubble. So, like I said, get over yourself and enjoy life. It's much more fun that way.*

## Curt Waugh

Once again, it has been my great pleasure to work with a wonderful group of performers at Civic Theatre to produce a unique experience for our audience. When Bob and I first started chatting about song writing, we knew we wanted to play our own material for a wider audience than we found at coffee houses and such. We also wanted to elevate our performance to a more professional level. We synthesized our experiences in music and theater and came up with the Showcase that you'll see tonight.



The songwriters you'll hear tonight have all come from the talent-rich pool of Civic Theatre members and alumni. Cast a line seeking any sort of talent where our comrades congregate and you can't help but be amazed by what you'll catch. I think almost every time we've hit some mythical concentration of us in a room that somebody launches into song or dance. It's like going to high school in *Fame*. It's sad that normal people don't get to live like us. But we'll share some of the music tonight.

It's always such a treat to do these fundraisers for Civic. I strongly embrace one of A2CT's main missions: Participation. That our humble troupe seems to recognize that now more than ever just leaves me all warm and fuzzy on the inside (yet, still sort of pasty and lumpy on the outside).

Three of my songs that you'll hear tonight come from an unfinished musical I've been working on for far too long called *Always and Never*. It is now in its third or fourth incarnation in terms of the story. But I keep writing music for it anyway. I'm hoping that getting some of the show out in public will spur me to finish it. If you see me not writing this show, spur me.

Thank you for giving us your time by listening to our music. Song writers, like all artists, write to express themselves. Our art is different, however, in that we must perform it also. The people you see tonight have a wonderful sense of the effort necessary to deliver their musical expressions to you. We are all rock solid believers in the art of live performance and hope that audiences never lose their desire to enjoy music the way it was always meant to be enjoyed: LIVE.

Songwriters Showcase 2003 was made possible by the unwavering support of the Civic Theatre Board of Directors and Co-Managing Directors. All of us member/participant types have never been in better hands. I'd like to thank Bob for graciously sharing our vision; you are a consummate professional and this project has been a blast. Love and much thanks to Kathy and Audrey for their patience, help and love. Thanks to Erin for raising everything a few levels; we'll try to keep up. Thanks to Cassie and Suzi for everything they do (will not list - only have 500 words); you owe them big - yes, I'm talking to you. Thanks to all the songwriters; I am humbled by your talent. Thanks also to: January, Anthony, Scott, Pamela, Liz, Matt, Emily P, Emily R, Dave, Melissa and anybody else that I will inevitably fail to mention.

## Bob Skon

I started playing music for the same reason all teenage boys pick up an instrument – to meet girls! So, it was surprising to me that the first song I ever wrote was not an attempt at the ultimate love song, but rather a cynical piece about trying to get away from a clinging girlfriend. Writing that song was satisfaction enough, but the first time I saw from the stage friends and fans singing it along with me, I felt a thrill that took me to another level.



Song writing has always been my main vehicle for expression, and up till recently, I believed it was my only one. Two years ago, I auditioned for the Ann Arbor Civic Theater production of *Evita* and got a small role. If you saw *Evita*, you may remember as January Provenzola and I tangoed across the stage! As the curtain came down on opening night, I could hardly contain the excitement I felt, and certainly didn't want to! Since then I've continued to be a part of the A2CT community, finding new thrills behind the scene as sound designer for several shows, and up front as John Utterson in *Jekyll and Hyde* (my first speaking role).

A2CT is a unique community of people where I have made lots of friends. Several you will see on stage tonight. Others are there behind the scenes. Their talent and dedication is reflected in everything they do, whether it be acting, dancing, singing, song writing, playing instruments, designing posters, rigging lights, building sets, or going to work, going to school, raising a family, or gathering friends in celebration. They are the pulse that gives art life.

And so, I dedicate this show to all of those who know the thrill of the stage, and encourage those who don't, to find their stage in whatever gives them the thrill of their life!

Enjoy the show!

## Zachary Ryan

This is Zachary's 10th performance with A2CT. He can usually be found on the stage but lately has been talked into/forced kicking and screaming/bribed with money to taking a musical director role. He has music directed several productions including A2CT's *A Chorus Line* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. He will be music directing this season's *Chicago* and *Fiddler On The Roof*. Zach was a featured member on *The All New Mickey Mouse Club* from 1990-1994 and hasn't turned back. He has appeared in various stage productions, television shows and films. Favorite roles include John in *Miss Saigon*, Seymour in *Little Shop Of Horrors*, Jaxon in *Reefer Madness*, and the title role in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Zach attributes his love of music and singing to his mother, who ever since he can remember has been belting out Barbra Streisand and Cher (Which explains a lot).

## Jennifer White

Jennifer is a Detroit native. She comes from a musical family and was blessed enough to grow up with a piano in her home. Music has always been a part of her life. Thanks go out to her family and friends who have always lent supportive ears. Thanks also go to Ryan/Zack who can hear the music in her head. She's pleased as punch that she gets to debut her music in a performance space that holds fond memories for her.

## Glenn Bugala

Glenn has been active with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre for several years now, half as a director and half as an actor. Earlier this year, he directed *Victor/Victoria* at Washtenaw Community College. For A2CT, he has directed *Tommy*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Front Page* and *A Little Night Music*. In recent years, he also directed several shows at Gabriel Richard High School and *Little by Little* for Adjective Arts. He has also played numerous roles at A2CT, including Petruccio in *Taming of the Shrew*, Charles in *Blithe Spirit*, Bassanio in *The Merchant of Venice*, Zach in *A Chorus Line*, and Juan Peron in *Evita* (most recently). He loves musical theatre and has a Masters in Theatre Performance from Purdue University and a BA in Theatre from U of M. Additionally he recently served as music director of Life Teen Music (a rock band) at St. Francis Church. In his free time, he composes, mostly choral works, but some songs too. A couple of months back, he and his wife Emily welcomed the love of their lives into the world--Sophie Jane was born April 5th.

## Benjamin Cohen

Benjamin Cohen is extremely active as a conductor, teacher, composer, and director. He is the founding music director of the Zamir Chorale of Metropolitan Detroit, music director of Ann Arbor's acclaimed Vocal Arts Ensemble, director of choirs and teacher of drama at Greenhills School in Ann Arbor (a college preparatory school), composer of many musical theater pieces, including *Casey at the Bat*, which has been performed nationwide by schools and professional groups, and *The Silent Princess* which was produced at the Performance Network in Ann Arbor, music director for many equity theaters in southeast Michigan and Chorus Master for the Ann Arbor Symphony. He holds degrees from Brandeis University and the University of Michigan.

## Tom Steppe

Tom is a computer nerd who occasionally undertakes experiments to find out if it's actually possible for a nerd to be athletic or witty or even artistic. Thank you for being part of this experiment. Even greater thanks go to his wife and daughters, Emma and Anika, not only for supporting his experiments, but also for tolerating him when he is not experimenting.

## Brian Hoffman

Brian Hoffman is a recent graduate of U of M in music theory. He will be attending the University of Cincinnati in the fall to begin his Masters work where he will teach ear-training and sight-singing. As a composer/arranger he has been commissioned by such groups as the Michigan Pops Orchestra, U of M Latin Jazz Ensemble, the Friars, and the U of M Jazz Lab Ensemble. As a pianist he has played for such groups as Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, U of M Jazz Lab Ensemble, and the Michigan Pops Orchestra. This past Spring he musically directed and conducted *The Secret Garden* for the theatre group MUSKET at U of M. He is excited to be working with Ann Arbor Civic again and is grateful to Curt and Bob for asking him to be a part of this.



## **The Performers**

**Kathleen Beardmore**

**Kevin Binkley**

**Glenn Bugala**

**Tawna Dabney**

**Elizabeth Mihalo**

**January Provenzola**

**Anthony J. Provenzola**

**Zachary Ryan**

**Bob Skon**

**Tom Steppe**

**Pamela Vachon**

**Kathy Waugh**

**Curt Waugh**

**Jennifer White**

## **The Musicians**

**John Huyck - Bass**

**Emily Perryman - Flute**

**Matt Steward - Drums**

**Erin Waugh - Piano**

## Acknowledgements

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Sophie Bugala	Amy Raymond
Tiff Crutchfield	Emily Raymond
Rene Greff	Vincent Ryan
Matt Greff	Missy Talaska
Cassie Mann	John Tebeau
Suzi Peterson	Audrey Waugh
Nicolas Provenzola	Brennen Waugh

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# Act

**2003-2004, 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON**

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## **Chicago**

Directed by Wendy Sielaff

The trial of the century set to rollicking, ragtime music.

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A thrilling, swashbuckling evening of fun.

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## *Dinner with Friends*

Directed by Jan Meyer

A Pulitzer Prize-winning exploration of modern marriage.

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A memorable evening of entertainment and  
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## **MY ONE AND ONLY**

Directed by Ron Baumanis

A tap dancing, Gershwin-filled musical confection.

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