

# BIOGRAPHY

**2007 Hanson Award Winner**  
**Manhattan Association of Cabarets and Clubs**

**2005 Outstanding Female Vocalist**  
**Cabaret Hotline**



Actress/Singer, Leslie Orofino has been enchanting sold out audiences with her sultry voice from New York City's legendary Algonquin Hotel's Oak Room to Napa Valley's Silverado Country Club for the last 20 years. Leslie is accompanied by her musical director on piano or entire trio (piano, bass and drums) in theaters, nightclubs, benefits or private parties with her several critically acclaimed cabaret acts .

A few of Leslie's New York City nightclub engagements include the Waldorf Astoria, The Plaza Hotel , The Algonquin's Oak Room, Opia, Danny's Skylight Room, and the Hideaway Room at Helen's .

In 2010 Leslie is appearing at the Laurie Beechman Theatre in New York City with her new act *Red Hot And Blues*...the songs of vamps, tramps, heartbreakers, mantakers and the girl next door...songs of Alberta Hunter, Eartha Kitt, Carolyn Leigh, Peggy Lee, Edith Piaf, Sophie Tucker and many others.

After recently seeing Leslie in *Red Hot And Blues* at the Laurie Beechman Theatre, International Cabaret Star, Julie Wilson exclaimed, "I had such a great

time, I had to go back again...She's a winner! Leslie has a certain elegance mixed with sex appeal that sells each and every song. She's also a great comedian."

After recently seeing Leslie in *Red Hot And Blues* at the Laurie Beechman Theatre, International Cabaret Star, Julie Wilson exclaimed, "I had such a great time, I had to go back again...She's a winner! Leslie has a certain elegance mixed with sex appeal that sells each and every song. She's also a great comedian."

Of a benefit at Fairfield University's Quick Center in which Leslie was the opening act for singer/songwriter Paul Williams, the organizer of the event, Gary Stromberg remarked, " Leslie is a magnificent performer with a heart to match her

talent...unforgettable evening!"

Leslie's musical theatre credits range from lead roles in the St. Bart's Players in N.Y.C. as Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music*, Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Sharon in *Finian's Rainbow*, Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*, Meg Brockie in *Brigadoon* to the Westport Country Playhouse as Kay Goodman in *Nite Club Confidential*.

After a successful run of her show at the Algonquin's Oak Room Leslie released her first CD, *Moonlight Cocktails* in 2002. Critic Dave Nathan from All Music Guide remarked, "Leslie manages to impart such a high degree of eloquence to the songs she sings that one can picture her singing these tunes live and in person. She delivers each and every song with ease and aplomb. Solid cabaret and is highly recommended." Leslie is currently working on her newest CD, *Red Hot And Blues*, which is the title of her most recent show at the Laurie Beechman Theatre in N.Y.C.

Leslie recently said: "I have always loved the music of the '30s and '40s mainly because my dad filled our home with his gorgeous tenor voice singing those songs and passed his love of them on to his first born of four daughters....me. I love performing and was so blessed to have appeared across the country and for a few years had the honor of having my darling dad as my very special guest singer at the Algonquin's Oak Room. "

# SHOWS



## RED, HOT AND BLUES

If you love laughter and the blues.....this is the show for you! Leslie sings the songs of vamps, tramps, heartbreakers, mantakers and the girl next door.....Alberta Hunter, Eartha Kitt, Peggy Lee, Carolyn Leigh, Sophie Tucker, and many more.

**"I had such a great time, I had to go back again...she's a winner! Leslie has a certain elegance mixed with sex appeal that sells each and every song !"** Julie Wilson, January 2010

**"A riveting performance...a stunning night out...not to be missed...Leslie was the highlight of my entertainment month...what an entertainer!"** Joe Franklin, January 2010

**"A dramatic singer, Orofino pulled out the stops when delivering various numbers, coming across as a tease, a seductress, a vamp, a jilted lover. Her sultry voice, was well suited to the songs she had chosen. Orofino's renditions recaptured much of the original vocalists' signature stylings....Alberta Hunter, Eartha Kitt, Peggy Lee, Sophie Tucker. Leslie Orofino is an attractive vocalist in this sexy, suggestive genre .**

**Musical Director and pianist Daryl Kojak, and bassist John Loehrke were as masterly a pair of accompanists to Orofino as she could want. The instrumental breaks during several of the songs were artistic and delightful interludes. Louis Pietig directed. Joey Pier was technical director."** Peter Leavy, *Cabaret Scenes*, January 14, 2010

**"Her connection to the audience is tops as she tosses her boa to a ringside gent... and mines all the humor and deliciously wicked fun in so many of these tunes. She can growl into a belt or bring a soulful tone to torch songs. Well-paced and polished."**

Elizabeth Ahlfors, *Cabaret Scenes*

# SHOWS



## MANHATTAN MADNESS

Living in New York City or ever wish you could? Let Leslie Orofino's delightful stories and music take you on a rollicking tour and you'll feel as though you've visited Gotham for the very first time. You'll be stopping by Tiffany's, Central Park, the Plaza Hotel, Broadway, famous nightclubs, gorgeous penthouses and many other hot spots of the greatest city in the world . Some of the songs Leslie and her trio will be performing will be *Sunday In New York*, *Daddy*, *Guys And Dolls*, *N.Y.C.*, *I See The World Through Your Eyes*, *Soon It's Gonna Rain*, *Let Yourself Go*, *Let's Just Stay In* and many others.

**"With voice robust and energy percolating, Leslie Orofino infects the Metropolitan Room with *Manhattan Madness*, and she does it with her usual panache, optimism, and personality. Orofino works that stage, clicking on to her audience with natural ease. She is having fun and it shows."** Elizabeth Ahlfors, *Cabaret Scenes*



## SPRING FEVER

Are you sick and tired of snow constantly piling up outside your door? Well step outside and come celebrate Spring with Leslie Orofino's wonderful new show, **Spring Fever**. You'll end those winter doldrums and replace them with the joys that only Spring can offer. With songs like *Zing Went The Strings Of My Heart*, *Spring Cleaning*, *Two Fisted Double Jointed Rough And Ready Man*, *It Might As Well Be Spring*, *Soon It's Gonna Rain* and many others you'll be throwing off your fur coats and kicking up your heels. **"Great fun... seductive... compelling... a great way to spend the evening or Sunday brunch."** Peter Leavy, *Cabaret Scenes*

# SHOWS



## LET'S MISBEHAVE

Do you ever feel like you are getting old ? Well here's the perfect solution ! No matter what our age , Leslie Orofino asks baby boomers everywhere to not put on our brakes but get out our skates and Let's Misbehave!! It's time to have a little fun !! We've earned it. Some of the songs in **Let's Misbehave** are *Daddy, Let Yourself Go, Cocktails For Two, Do It Again, Handy Man, Devil May Care, My Foolish Heart, Let's Misbehave* and many others. **"This is classic, classy cabaret... go wherever Leslie Orofino is performing next!"** Peter Haas, *Cabaret Scenes*



## WANDERLUST: A JOURNEY OF THE HEART

Planning a trip? Let Leslie Orofino take you on a musical tour of the world. Without ever leaving your seat Leslie will weave a story around each song to make you feel as though you have traveled extensively. Songs include *Let's Get Away From It All, Slowboat To China, When In Rome, Not Exactly Paris, C'est Si Bon , Two For The Road , Boy From Ipanema, Summertime In Venice* and many others. **"This had to be one of the most fun-filled shows I have seen in a long time." "Each song was preceded with a delightful story...made me breathless from laughing...all this and great vocals too!"** Stu Hamstra, *Cabaret Hotline*

Join Us for Leslie Orofino's new show

## Wanderlust "A Journey of the Heart"

Friday, Oct. 28th at 9:30 pm  
Saturday, Oct. 29th at 7:00 pm  
Sunday, Nov. 20th at 4:30 pm

**"Model Cabaret with Romance and Good Feel!"**  
Peter Haas, Cabaret Scenes 2005

Midway Room at Helen's  
189 Eighth Ave (between 18 & 19th St) NY, NY 10011  
Reservations 212-206-0609

Box: Single \$15, Midweek \$15, Discount \$10/Person/10

Adult Ingsht - Plus 1 Adult Midweek - Plus 1 Non Resident - Shows 1 Adult Plus 1 Student

For more details: [www.leslieorofino.com](http://www.leslieorofino.com)

## HOORAY FOR LOVE: DOROTHY FIELDS LIFE & LYRICS

Leslie Orofino tells the story of a woman who was forbidden to go into showbusiness by her producer father, Lew Fields. Despite all odds, Dorothy Fields never gave up her dream to become a lyricist and went on to become the most successful lyricist in the history of the American Popular Songbook, winning an Academy Award for Songwriting and had a career that spanned almost 50 years. Some of the songs include *I Can't Give You Anything But Love, I Feel A Song Coming On, I Must Have That Man, The Way You Look Tonight, Don't Blame Me, Welcome To Holiday Inn* and many others.

**"Leslie is dynamite...a very warm engaging show"** Barbara & Scott Siegel, *Theatremania.com*

# REVIEWS

## MANHATTAN MADNESS

With voice robust and energy percolating, Leslie Orofino infects the Metropolitan Room with *Manhattan Madness*, and she does it with her usual panache, optimism, and personality. Orofino works that stage, clicking on to her audience with natural ease. She is having fun and it shows.

Orofino swings into action with Irving Berlin's *Manhattan Madness* followed by Frank Loesser's *Guys and Dolls*. It is the third song, however, *Sunday in New York* (by Peter Nero and Carroll Coates), that defines the show. Orofino settles down with the tempo, and sets us up for upcoming amusing patter about her experiences living in New York back in the day. She even stretches the boundaries of Manhattan eastward to Long Island, her hometown turf with *The Hamptons Blues* by Ronny Whyte and Jack Byrnes.

Orofino chooses her songs with care, and while she includes some familiar renditions from former shows, like *Soon It's Gonna Rain* (Schmidt and Jones) and Irving Berlin's *Let Yourself Go*, they all fit the groove of her theme. Orofino is notable for bringing her infective playfulness and polish to songs like Bobby Troup's *Daddy* and Alberta Hunter's *Handy Man*, and she delves astutely into the heart of a soulful John Wallowitch tune, *I See The World Through Your Eyes*. *Isn't This a Lovely Day* (Berlin) and Tony DeSare's *Let's Just Stay In* is a particularly smooth pairing.

Vocally, her sultry and warm low-pitch mezzo serves her well. So much care goes into her shows, like her top-notch accompanists Keith Ingham on piano, Boots Maleson on bass, and Rex Benincasa on drums -- and her own stage presence is so palpable -- that Leslie Orofino never fails to delight her audiences on Sunday, or any day in New York.

Leslie Orofino returns to the Metropolitan Room with *Manhattan Madness* on Sunday, Oct. 7 at 4 pm.

Elizabeth Ahlfors  
*Cabaret Scenes*  
September 23, 2007

# REVIEWS

## SPRING FEVER

Leslie Orofino's new show at The Hideaway Room is great fun. Her theme is clear: it's *Spring Fever*, and Orofino is restless. Enough of these winter doldrums, she espouses. Spring marks the resurgence of plants, flowers and - for Orofino - desires. Following her opening with *Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart* and *It Might as Well Be Spring*, Orofino lets out the stops with a spirited *Spring Cleaning*, complete with feather duster and accompanying wiggles as she dusts off everything and everyone on stage.

She's congenial and attractive, with a low-pitched voice that can be compelling with *Soon It's Gonna Rain*, seductive with Tony De Sare's *Let's Just Stay In*, or just plain amusing. What's amusing about a low-pitched voice? Her rendition of the appetite for a *Two Fisted Double-Jointed Rough and Ready Man*, presented in a manner to make any Mae West or Sophie Tucker nod in agreement. And Orofino's own composition, *Cover Me in Chocolate*, isn't far behind.

Louis Pietig directed the show, and the excellent arrangements were the work of Musical Director Keith Ingram, aided by Boots Maleson on bass and Rex Benincasa on drums.

*Spring Fever* is an enjoyable way to spend an evening or a Sunday brunch, and it's on again at Helen's Hideaway Room on April 21st, 22nd, and 25th.

Peter Leavy,  
Cabaret Scenes  
April 14, 2007

# REVIEWS

## LET'S MISBEHAVE

*Let's Do It*, by Gershwin and DeSylva, was one of the songs Leslie Orofino offered in her recent show, titled *Let's Misbehave*, at Helen's Hideaway Room. The number, delivered with her rich vibrato and playfully sultry style, echoed the sentiments of her packed-housed audience, which didn't want the performance to end. With her warm voice, clarity and intelligence in interpreting and communicating a lyric, and sense of fun, Leslie filled the room with refreshing professionalism and style. Among highlights: her lush treatment of *My Foolish Heart*, a wise-cracking *Daddy*, her Banderas-style version of *Let Yourself Go*, and musical homages to two great ladies of song, Julie Wilson and Alberta Hunter. With Keith Ingham on piano, Boots Malleson on bass, and Steve Little (subbing one evening for Rex Benincasa) on drums, the evening is classic, classy cabaret. You, too, should "let yourself go" to wherever Leslie is performing next.

Leslie Orofino returns with *Let's Misbehave* at Helen's Hideaway Room, on Thursday, Sept. 7 at 7 pm & Sept 10 at 2 pm.

Peter Haas

*Cabaret Scenes*

May 21, 2006

# REVIEWS

## RED HOT AND BLUES

*Red Hot and Blues - The songs of Peggy Lee, Alberta Hunter, Mae West and Other Ladies of Attitude ...* Quite a mouthful. And looking like quite a handful of attitude herself, Leslie Orofino strutted on the Iridium stage in a sequined gown with a lot of flapper flair to belt out tunes like *You Gotta See Mama Every Night* (Conrad/Rose), *He's a Tramp*, (Peggy Lee/Bill Shluger) and Bobby Troup's *Baby, Baby, All the Time*.

Orofino swung into the spirited backup of her accompanists, Brian Torff on bass, drummer Rex Benincasa and the standout Keith Ingham on piano, bringing in all the devilish energy necessary to emphasize the pizzazz in these tunes. She has a warm alto vocal voice with a fast vibrato; she can growl into a belt or bring a soulful tone to torch songs like Heyman and Green's *Body and Soul*, sounding somewhat reminiscent of Gogi Grant dubbing for Ann Blythe dubbing for Helen Morgan in *The Helen Morgan Story*. With a nod to Julie Wilson, she donned a red boa for what is now a Wilson standard, Cy Coleman's *Don't Ask a Lady* and , saluting Alberta Hunter, Orofino recounted the hysterical double entendres in *Handy Man* (Razaf and Blake). Leslie Orofino's connection to the audience is always tops... she tosses her boa to a ringside gent, she points to a few audience members, and smiles at others. Ms. Orofino can be counted on to deliver a polished, well-paced show, and *Red Hot and Blues* is no exception.

Elizabeth Ahlfors  
*Cabaret Scenes*

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Last Thursday night, was my first visit to Opia, but I have been a consistent fan of Ms. Orofino. The new show was a perfect showcase of Ms. Orofino's personal wit and charm and delightful vocals. Backed by a terrific band featuring Keith Ingham on piano, Brian Torff on bass and Rex Benincasa on drums, Ms. Orofino never wavered from her goal of giving all an enjoyable, fun-filled evening of song. Her director is Louis D. Pietig.

Ms. Orofino brings so much fun and joy to her shows, she actually reminded me of shows I saw years ago by one of the "Ladies of Attitude" she saluted, Alberta Hunter, who I saw at the old Cookery in the Village about 6 times, many years ago. Julie Wilson, Dorothy Fields, Peggy Lee and Mae West were also represented on this list of personalities.

Stu Hamstra  
*Cabaret Hotline*

# REVIEWS

## HOORAY FOR LOVE: *The life and lyrics of Academy award winner, Dorothy Fields*

### *Fields of Glory*

Speaking of strong women, Leslie Orofino recently concluded a cabaret act at Danny's Skylight Room devoted to the work of lyricist Dorothy Fields. Orofino's patter was peppered with interesting facts and anecdotes, and she did a particularly good job of setting up her songs. Her carefully crafted script went a long way toward pulling the audience into her warm, engaging show. Give her something big and broad to play and she's dynamite, lit and ready to explode. She sold songs that were purchased at retail by an audience fully won over by her personality.

Barbara & Scott Siegel  
*Theatremania.com*

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Leslie Orofino's "Hurray For Love" is a knockout show... go see it!

Julie Wilson

International Cabaret Star

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Leslie Orofino's full program of Dorothy Fields' lyrics did justice to the genius that was Dorothy. My friend, Edward Longo, a hypnotherapist, said he felt the presence of Ms. Fields in the Oak room. That's REAL COMMUNICATION, wouldn't you say? Ms. Orofino is faultless doing "Don't Blame Me" and impeccable selling "Pick Yourself Up." In look and attitude, Leslie has luster.

Gary Stevens,  
*Cabaret Scenes*

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"Lady with a Song...While the uproarious Jamie Cullum continues to entertain in the evenings at the Algonquin, the more traditional cabaret singer Leslie Orofino takes over on Sunday Brunches in a salute to Dorothy Fields, the first lady of Tin Pan Alley. Ms. Orofino covers Fields' whole career, from the days when her father tried to block producers from hiring her ("the theatre is no place for a lady") to later triumphs like "Sweet Charity." Ms. Orofino, who has a gift for uncovering rare verses, is most appealing when singing Field's mature, Broadway works like the previously unheard "Pink Taffeta Sample Size 10."

*New York Sun*

# REVIEWS

## MOONLIGHT COCKTAILS

Leslie Orofino: Moonlight Cocktails  
At: The Oak Room

The moon and the light it reflects found its way into each of the songs in Leslie Orofino's latest performance ("Moonlight Cocktails") at the Algonquin Hotel's Oak Room. Ms. Orofino has a fine mezzo voice with some stunning alto hues which match perfectly the lyrics of the songs she has chosen for this particular program.

Moonlight is capable of producing wonder. Unlike its "daytime" counterpart the sun, the moon (favorite light source of the East and the mythic goddess) leaves its subjects less delineated than "old sol," their edges less defined, their exact color less important, their content more fluid. In this shadowy state, love often blossoms where it might not otherwise take root.

This same lack of differentiation also has a less than helpful side since what is less clear can sometimes cause (if not outright harm) some serious interpersonal missteps. Indifference can be mistaken for love and what appears to be lack of interest can be the mere nervousness of untried passion.

So any show with moonlight as its thematic center needs to include both possibilities; namely the successes humans find in loving and the emptiness that same passion can create. And Ms. Orofino's solid show does just that.

With the skills of a seasoned actor and the more than pleasant voice to match, Leslie Orofino breezes through more than twenty songs whose subject is our heroic attempt to finding meaning in relationship and integrity in loneliness.

Whether it is celebrating the success of love ("I'm Beginning to See the Light," "Let's Face the Music and Dance," "My Romance") the craziness and abandon of loving ("Is It Hot in Here," "My Foolish Heart," "Chase Me Charlie") or the pain of unrequited love (Arlen and Harburg's "Down with Love") Ms. Orofino's presence on the cabaret stage is secure and matchless. She knows how to dance with a lyric and respectfully challenge the value of a note.

Leslie Orofino's eyes belie a sprit that understands the joys and risks of falling in love and her voice translates those risks and joys to her audience with honesty and a sometimes uncanny authenticity, as it does in the juxtaposed "Blue Fool" by Bernie Hanighen and Alec Wilder and "Blue Moon" by Rodgers and Hart and in Ned Washington and Victor Young's "My Foolish Heart."

Veteran Orofino devotees seemed to wait for the appearance of a boa and the touching duet with Leslie's dad Bob McGuire. Although this reviewer enjoyed these personal touches, what is most impressive about Leslie Orofino is not just what has come before but her ability to be in the present where her audience is touched again and again by a soulful voice which carries on its breath the vicissitudes of love.

David Roberts

*Theatre Reviews Limited*

Reviewed on Sunday, October 15th at 2:00 p.m.

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You're gonna like like like Leslie Orofino's *Moonlight Cocktails*. The gal is in love with 'Yip' Harburg lyrics and she proves her undying affection the way she sings *Down With Love* and *Old Devil Moon*. It's lunar therapy!

Gary Stevens

*Cabaret Scenes*

## **WANDERLUST: A Journey of the Heart**

*Wanderlust, A Journey Of The Heart* had to be one of the most fun filled shows I have seen in a long time. Ms. Orofino delivered more than a dozen songs, putting her clever comic spin on nearly every one! Each song was preceded with a delightful story and each song took the audience to another country or travel experience. I was reminded of the comic talent of another singer, Nanette Fabrey, with Ms. Orofino mining every song for every bit of fun possible. *Wanderlust* left me breathless from laughing! All this and great vocals too. Brava!

Stu Hamstra

*Cabaret Hotline*

# MUSIC SCHOOL

Whether you are preparing for an audition, are currently in a musical or just want to learn to sing for the fun of it, Leslie Orofino can help you achieve your dreams! In her sunfilled studio she teaches people from 9 - 99 years old. Not only will you learn the proper techniques of singing, she will teach you how to personally connect with each and every song and therefore touch your audience's hearts.

To contact Leslie Orofino for an appointment email [Leslieorofino@aol.com](mailto:Leslieorofino@aol.com) and leave your phone number and address.

## TESTIMONIALS

"My daughter was very shy, but after studying voice with Leslie Orofino, she brought out something I had never seen before in our daughter... She not only taught her to sing, she really boosted her self confidence. She did a beautiful job with our daughter."

*Phil Brown, parent*

"Leslie did wonders for my voice! Before her, I could barely sing "Ba Ba Black Sheep" without cracking my voice. Thanks to Leslie, I was Frank Butler in *Annie Get Your Gun* and sang, "There's No Business Like Show Business," in perfect pitch. I would go to no one but her." *Doug Bensimon, 14, student*

"Leslie didn't just teach me singing, she taught me all about performing and having a good stage presence....she made it fun!" *Claire Bangser, 15, student*

"Before I went to Mrs. Orofino for voice lessons, I would never feel comfortable singing in front of people. Mrs. Orofino gave me the confidence to come out of my shell not only as a vocalist but also as a person." *Keely O'Brien, 17, student*

