

## OPEN-MIKE CABARET

# Channel your inner Clooney. Rosemary, that is.

By MOIRA E. McLAUGHLIN

Wannabe singers all have to get their start somewhere. For aspiring cabaret stars in Washington, the path to the spotlight starts in a theater's lobby.

DC Cabaret Network, a group of about 75 cabaret lovers, hosts a monthly open-mike night for novices and experts alike just inside the doors to Atlas Performing Arts Center on H Street NE.

"The point is to create a community of

cabaret singers," says Terri Allen, who runs the event. "It's a time for people to come together . . . and time for people to explore new music."

When you go, bring sheet music for the piano accompanist and be prepared to sing with a microphone. You don't need to have the music memorized, but you should know your notes and the mood you want to convey.

Introduce your song if you like. Sit on the bar stool-height chair if you prefer. Do



PHOTOS BY EVY MAGES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**Terri Allen coordinates and participates in DC Cabaret Network's open-mike night, an event she says is designed "to create a community of cabaret singers."**



**Open-mike participants bring sheet music for the accompanist but don't have to memorize the music. They can sit or stand before the small crowd in the Atlas lobby.**

what makes you comfortable and helps you get in the cabaret mood.

"The whole idea is, this is supposed to be a supportive group [where you can] try out things not in front of a paying audience," says Ron Squeri, a computer programmer who performed John Denver's "Leaving on a Jet Plane" at a recent open-mike night. "It's a tough art form," he adds. "It's music sung in an intimate setting or in an intimate way. It's much more about the communication of the lyrics than the singing of the song."

The intimate open-mike nights usually draw singers from across the area.

Christy Trapp, a mother of three young kids, drove from Annapolis for the open mike, where she sang "The Nearness of You," by Hoagy Carmichael and Ned Washington. To her, cabaret is "any song that tells a story. It can be classical, a standard tune, pop or country," she says.

There are plenty of smiles and applause from the friendly audience, and the atmosphere in the lobby is cool without being

intimidating. The fact that bar stays open to sell beer and wine may help calm nerves, too.

Michael Miyazaki, who works in customer relations and lives in Washington, has been performing for 14 years. He sang Rod McKuen's "I'm Not Afraid" and his own very clever parody version of Stephen Sondheim's "Another Hundred People" from the musical "Company."

"I've always loved cabaret," Miyazaki said in the break between sets. "Growing up, everyone else's favorite music was Kiss and the Rolling Stones and the Beatles, and mine was the Andrews Sisters."

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**Where is it?** Atlas Performing Arts Center lobby, 1333 H St. NE. [www.dccabaretnetwork.org](http://www.dccabaretnetwork.org).

**When is it?** Monday and Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. Sign up at 7:30 p.m.

**How much is it?** \$20, \$15 for DC Cabaret Network members.

## ET CETERA FROM 33

Manassas. 888-945-2468. [naturevisions.org](http://naturevisions.org). \$10-\$85.

**2011 FREDERICKSBURG QUILT FESTIVAL** Friday-Saturday at 10. Learn about the stories behind a variety of quilts. Also includes vendors and a bake sale. Tabernacle United Methodist Church, 7310-A Old Plank Rd., Fredericksburg. 540-786-6162. [www.tabumc.org](http://www.tabumc.org). \$3.

**30TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON, FASHION SHOW AND SILENT AUCTION** Friday at 10:30. Apparel by Lord and Taylor modeled by INOVA Alexandria Hospital physicians, nurses and staff. Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Rd., Alexandria. 703-836-8853. \$43.

**DCGAMES FESTIVAL** Friday at 10:30. A festival of games, featuring local game designers. Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. [dcdgames.org](http://dcdgames.org). Free.

**CITY OF FALLS CHURCH VETERANS CEREMONY** Friday at 11. A Veterans Day ceremony is held at the City of Falls Church Veterans Memorial. Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church. 703-248-5027. Free.

**GRAND CIVIL WAR BALL** Friday at 10. Dancing, music, finger food and a cash bar. Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Rd., Alexandria. 703-820-1904. [www.latcra.org](http://www.latcra.org). \$26.25.

**SEVENTH ANNUAL FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY CONFERENCE** Saturday at 8:30. Keynote speaker National Park Service archaeologist Stephen Potter will discuss the Civil War Battle of Brawner Farm. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy., Fairfax. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/histcomm/event.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/histcomm/event.htm). \$20.

**ARLINGTON WOMAN'S CLUB BOUTIQUE** Saturday at 9. A sale of furniture, jewelry, cosmetics, Christmas items, baked goods and crafts. Woman's Club of Arlington, 700 S. Buchanan St., Arlington. 703-552-5593. Free.

**BAZAAR AND CRAFT FAIR** Saturday at 9. Local craft vendors sell their wares. Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Rd., Centreville. 703-830-2684. Free.

**HOLIDAY BAZAAR** Saturday at 9:30. Books, crafts, baked goods and more for sale. Lunch and snacks will be available. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. 703-938-7716. [viennawomansclub.org](http://viennawomansclub.org). \$2.

**TAKE CONTROL OF DIABETES** Saturday at 9:30. A panel of diabetes experts discuss how to manage diabetes and lower the risk of disease. Virginia Hospital Center, John T. Hazel Conference Center, 1701 N. George Mason Dr., Arlington. 703-558-6848. Free.

**19TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS CRAFT SHOW** Saturday at 10. A selection of crafters selling glass, ceramics, wood carvings, jewelry, scarves and more. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. 703-323-1475. [www.wtcrew.org](http://www.wtcrew.org). Free.

**20TH ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW** Saturday-Sunday at 10. Includes vendors, demonstrations, kids' activities, exhibits and more. George Mason University, Student Union Bldg II, 4400 University Dr., Fairfax. 703-281-3767. [www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org). \$5, \$3 seniors, ages 13-17, Free age 12 and younger, Scouts in uniform and GMU students with valid ID.

**ANNUAL FINE CRAFTS SHOW AND SALE** Saturday at 10 and Sunday at noon. Regional artists and vendors sell pottery, sculpture, prints, jewelry and other items. Lee Arts Center, 5722 Lee Hwy., Arlington. 703-228-0560. [www.leeartscenter.org](http://www.leeartscenter.org). Free.

**BASEMENT TO ATTIC TOURS** Saturday at 10 and 1. A chance to see the Liberia Mansion. Liberia Mansion, 9101 Prince William St., Manassas. 703-368-1873. [www.manassasmuseum.org](http://www.manassasmuseum.org). \$15, advance registration required.

**POTTERY SHOW AND SALE** Saturday at 10. Items made by students and teachers in the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department's pottery program. Bowman House Arts and Crafts Center, 211 Center St. S., Vienna. 703-255-6360. [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov). Free.

**THIRD ANNUAL GREATER MANASSAS VETERANS DAY PARADE AND 'WELCOME HOME' VIETNAM VETERAN COMMUNITY EVENT** Saturday at 11. A parade followed

by a community event with live entertainment, food and drinks and presentations. Loy E. Harris Pavilion, 9201 Center St., Manassas. 703-369-1759. [www.vepar.org](http://www.vepar.org). Free.

**ICELANDIC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** Saturday at 11. Shop imported Icelandic crafts, woolsens, holiday decorations and food. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. [www.icelanddc.com](http://www.icelanddc.com). Free.

**MODO/ECO EYEWEAR STYLE SHOW** Saturday at 11. A show of the MODO eyewear line. The Eyewear Gallery, 11900 Market St., Reston. 703-709-5400. [eyewear-gallery.com](http://eyewear-gallery.com). Free.

**ART ON THE BLOCK** Saturday at 2. More than 60 artists will have their work exhibited in the galleries on the 300 block of Mill Street. Various locations, Mill Street, Occoquan. 703-494-0584. [www.theartistsundertaking.com](http://www.theartistsundertaking.com). Free.

**NEARLY NAKED 10-MILE RUN** Saturday at 2. A partially clothed run to benefit the Burn Foundation. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. [praces.com/naked](http://praces.com/naked). \$30 in advance, \$35 the day of.

**YOGAWOMAN: CLASS, FILM SCREENING AND SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT HAITI** Saturday at 5. A special yoga class followed by a community potluck and a screening of the new documentary "Yogawoman." Radiance Yoga, 110 King St., Alexandria. 703-535-8282. [www.tohaitiwithlovedc.org/yogawoman](http://www.tohaitiwithlovedc.org/yogawoman). \$20 suggested donation.

**2ND SATURDAY ART WALK** Saturday at 6. Tour seven studio buildings and see the work of more than 150 visual artists. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd., Lorton. 703-495-0001. [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org). Free.

**GALA AND OPEN HOUSE** Saturday at 6 and Sunday at 2. See works by several different artists at a Saturday gala and Sunday open house. Columbia Pike Artist Studios, 932 S. Walter Reed Dr., Arlington. 703-486-9368. [www.columbiapikeartiststudios.org](http://www.columbiapikeartiststudios.org). Free.

**ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET** Sunday at 9:30. A holiday sale. First Presbyterian Church of Arlington, 601 N. Vermont St., Arlington. 703-527-4766. Free.

**GREAT CUT, GREAT CAUSE: CUT-A-THON FOR HAITI** Sunday at noon. All haircuts are \$45 and proceeds go to support Haiti. Solarus Salon & Spa, 1920 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington. 703-243-7283. [www.tohaitiwithlovedc.org/cutathon](http://www.tohaitiwithlovedc.org/cutathon). \$45.

**A LITTLE SHORT OF BOATS, THE BATTLES OF BALL'S BLUFF AND EDWARD'S FERRY** Sunday at 2. Author James Morgan talks about his new book about the battles of Balls Bluff and Edward's Ferry. Manassas Museum, 9101 Prince William St., Manassas. 703-330-2787. [www.manassascity.org](http://www.manassascity.org). Free.

**OPEN HOUSE** Sunday at 2. A community event to raise awareness of the support that Just Neighbors provides to low-income immigrants and refugees. Just Neighbors, 5827 Columbia Pike, Suite 320, Falls Church. 703-979-1240. [www.justneighbors.org](http://www.justneighbors.org). Free.

**ROSE BUSH AUCTION** Sunday at 2. Roses, hybrid teas, miniatures and more. Refreshments included. Merrifield Garden Center Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Hwy., Fairfax. 703-371-9351.

**JEWELRY SALE** Monday at 9 and Tuesday at 7. A sale of jewelry and handbags to benefit the hospital. Inova Alexandria Hospital, 4320 Seminary Rd., Alexandria. 703-750-8800. Free.

**MOUNT VERNON GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING** Tuesday at 1. Features a presentation by Thomas W. Jones, editor of National Genealogical Society Quarterly. Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Rd., Fort Hunt area. 703-660-6969. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec/Senior\\_Ctr/Hollin\\_Hall.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec/Senior_Ctr/Hollin_Hall.htm).

**YES! AND INOVA'S "LIFE WITH CANCER" HOST LIVER SEMINAR** Tuesday at 6:30. An event to offer support to those affected by liver cancer. Life With Cancer Family Center, 8411 Pennell St., Fairfax. 877-937-7478. [www.beatlivertumors.org](http://www.beatlivertumors.org). Free.

**25TH ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR** Thursday at 4, through Nov. 19. A juried crafts fair, with arts, antiques, a bake sale and more. St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 8617 Little River Tpk., Annandale. 703-978-3500. [www.stmatthewsumc.org](http://www.stmatthewsumc.org). Free.