

Broadway Babes



Linda Slavin, born in Miami, Fl., has made upstate New York her home since attending Ithaca College where she earned her Bachelors degree in music. Her first teaching position was with Rome City School District and she continued to teach there until retiring in 2007. While at RCSD, she directed many junior high and high school choruses. Linda was the musical director for Staley Junior High's musical theater productions, working alongside Tom Foster.

One of Linda's greatest joy is teaching music at Temple Emanu-El in Utica. She leads a group called The Templations which musically enhances special services throughout the year.

Linda has performed onstage at Rome Community Theater, but more often she performs behind the scenes as musical director for children's productions and adult presentations. In a recent production of Guys and Dolls, she conducted her first orchestra. She's still trying new things! Finally, Linda has performed at area pre-schools and elementary schools with a fellow music in a duo called Kids Unplugged.

In the past, Linda served as Wednesday Morning Club Singers' director and now she is a singer in this group. She sings with the Oneida Area Civic Chorale and is a proud member of Broadway Babes! Linda resides in Rome with Mark, her husband of 43 years. They have 3 sons: Adam, Zach and Reid.

Valerie Wood-MacRae is a graduate of Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, where she majored in music education. Her main instrument was voice, with a minor in piano. Valerie did her graduate studies at Saratoga-Potsdam Choral Institute, Syracuse University, and Eastman School of Music.

Upon graduation from Crane, Valerie accepted a position in the Rome City School District, where she taught general music for 13 years at various elementary schools, and then transferred to Rome Free Academy. She remained at RFA for the rest of her career, teaching Concert Choir, Music Theory, Music History and Literature, Guitar, and founding the RFA Select Choir.

Valerie has been active in the Senior Choir and the Joyful Ringers Bell Choir at the First Presbyterian Church for many years. She has been guest conductor for several All-City and Area All-State choirs, and has been a member of the Oneida Chorale for many years.

Twyla Edwards has a Masters in Music Education from Ithaca College and a Bachelors in Music Education from Virginia Commonwealth University. She continued postgraduate work in music at Central Connecticut State University. She taught choral and classroom music for 30 years in the Rome City School District. She retired from teaching at Rome Free Academy in 2015, where she directed the Select Choir, Jazz Voices, and the Mixed Chorus. She performs with the cabaret trio, Broadway Babes and has appeared in local theater and concert productions both as a member of the pit band/orchestra and as a vocalist on stage.

Kimberly Nethaway is a graduate of Hartwick College, receiving a B.S. in Music Education with emphasis in Piano and Vocal Music. She completed graduate work at SUNY Cortland and Potsdam in Music and Education. Kim began her teaching career at Holland Patent Central School. She retired from Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Central School after a 25-year tenure, where she taught music classes and led choruses for children in Pre-K through 6th grade, as well as adaptive music classes for children with special needs. Kim has been an active choir director, organist and pianist in area churches since high school, including twenty years of service at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, and ten years as Music Director at First Presbyterian Church of Rome. As a member of the American Choral Directors Association, she has performed with the ACDA Eastern Division Community Honor Choir in Providence, and the ACDA National Women's Honor Choirs in Chicago and New York City. From 1995- 2020, Kim was the Director of the Oneida Area Civic Chorale, a 100-voice adult community chorus. She led OACC singers on nine European concert tours with American Music Abroad.

Gary Williams attended Oswego State University where, as a business major, he met his musical future. He, along with the rhythm section of Oswego's jazz band, formed "Jasmin" a show band that took him around the country playing in hotel lounges. Jasmin eventually landed in Nashville where he played with various groups, ending up at one point on the Grand Ole Opera. Upon returning to Utica, he joined his father at Peate's Music House and played in area bands. He is a bit of a chameleon as he can find his way with whatever music is before him. He has played in polka, country, jazz, Broadway musicals, rock and roll, Christian and dance bands. Gary gained his reading chops during family music sessions by looking over his mother's shoulder while she played the piano. Looking over Kim's shoulder and reading the music is like going home.