

# KAREN MASON



*"She can sing the roof off of St. Patrick's Cathedral! A towering talent! A most accessible diva!"* (TheatreMania)

*"Mason has a voice that lifts the room to some new astral plane!"* (Village Voice)

*"Fierce emotion! Intense and intimate! She creates a mood of wild expectation. Hearty affability... the kind of person you sense you could trust to be a loyal friend! A rarity!"* (New York Times)

## Biography

Karen Mason has starred on Broadway, Off-Broadway, television, and recording; and "has few peers when it comes to ripping the roof off with her amazing voice that knows no bounds!" (TheatreScene.net) Karen is a ten-time MAC Award winner and has won the MAC Award for Major Female Vocalist of the Year for six consecutive years. She has also won the 2006 Nightlife Award for Major Female Vocalist and has three Bistro Awards.

Ms. Mason most recently garnered rave reviews starring as The Queen of Hearts in **WONDERLAND** on Broadway She originated the role of Tanya on Broadway in Abba's **MAMMA MIA!**, and was awarded a 2002 Drama Desk nomination as Best Actress. Her other leading roles include Norma Desmond in **SUNSET BOULEVARD**, which she performed to critical acclaim and standing ovations on Broadway and in Los Angeles for three years; Velma von Tussel in the final Broadway company of **HAIRSPRAY**; "Monotony" singer, Mazeppa in **JEROME ROBBINS' BROADWAY**; Rosalie in **CARNIVAL** (another Drama Desk nomination); plus featured roles in Broadway's **TORCH SONG TRILOGY**; and **PLAY ME A COUNTRY SONG**.

Karen won the Outer Critics Circle Award for her performance in **AND THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND**, and starred Off-Broadway in her own show **KAREN MASON SINGS BROADWAY, BEATLES AND BRIAN**.

Her television appearances include the hit dramas **ED** and **LAW & ORDER: SVU**. Film credits include **SLEEPING DOGS LIE** and **A CHORUS LINE**.

In regional theatre, Karen starred in the world premiere of the stage production of **WHITE CHRISTMAS**, (playing the Rosemary Clooney role at St. Louis Muni Opera), **SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM** (Coconut Grove Playhouse in Florida), **GYPSY** (Sundance Theatre in California), the world premiere of **ONE TOUGH COOKIE** (Apple Tree Theatre in Chicago), **HEARTBEATS** (Goodspeed Opera House in NY) and **COMPANY** (Huntington Theatre in Boston). Most recently in New York, Karen starred in the one-woman musical about Dorothy Parker **YOU MIGHT AS WELL LIVE**.

Karen has headlined Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Feinstein's at The Regency, Rainbow & Stars, the Algonquin, Arci' Place, The Supper Club and The Ballroom in NYC; The Cinegrill and the UCLA/ASCAP Concert Series in Los Angeles; The Plush Room in San Francisco; and Davenport's in Chicago.

She has shared concert stages with Luciano Pavarotti, Rosemary Clooney, Liza Minnelli, Michael Feinstein, Jerry Herman, and John Kander & Fred Ebb, among others. Karen has given concerts in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Brazil, Scotland, Tokyo and Osaka. Her starring symphonic performances include The New York Pops with Skitch Henderson, The Oklahoma Philharmonic with Joel Levine, the premier performance of The Chicagoland Pops, The Indianapolis Philharmonic, and the St. Louis Symphony with John McDaniel.

In addition to her live performances, her voice graces the soundtrack of **JEFFREY** (Varese Sarabande), the studio cast recording of **WONDERFUL TOWN** (Jay Records), the original cast album of **AND THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND**(RCA Victor), **THE CHILD IN ME Vol.1** (Harbinger Records) and **LOST IN BOSTON II** (Varese Sarabande).

In 2005, Karen released her fifth universally acclaimed CD, **SWEETEST OF NIGHTS**, after winning the 2002 MAC Award for Major Female Recording of the Year for **WHEN THE SUN COMES OUT**. Her other CD's are **BETTER DAYS** (featuring the 1998 Emmy winning song, "Hold Me", by Brian Lasser); **NOT SO SIMPLY BROADWAY**; and her live recording **CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS!**(all on Zevely Records).