

**IN PERFORMANCE**

# 'Chicago Legends' lights up Auditorium stage



CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Singer-guitarist Frank D'Rone, 81, a versatile jazz artist, has faced health challenges in recent years, but is not slowed by them.

**BY HOWARD REICH**  
 Tribune critic

Several years ago, the Auditorium Theatre hit on an unusual idea: Seat the audience on the stage with the performers, the lights of the house serving as a glittering backdrop.

The "On Stage With ..." series caught on but hit a new high point over the weekend, and not only because the event was sold out for the first time. More important, several widely admired performers converged for the occasion, titled "On Stage With ... Chicago Music Legends."

Considering that singer-guitarist Frank D'Rone, singer-pianist Judy Roberts and cabaret performer Denise Tomasello shared the bill, the "Chicago Music Legends" title was justified, for each artist has been deeply identified with this city for decades. True, Roberts now lives in Arizona, but

she returns every summer for several weeks of performances and remains a symbol of Chicago jazz wherever she travels. That the cast also included Roberts' husband, saxophonist Greg Fishman, and pianist Beckie Menzie, a key figure in Chicago cabaret, only underscored the hometown nature of the evening.

On paper, at least, the juxtaposition of these names may have seemed a bit odd, if only because D'Rone, Roberts and Fishman are hard-core jazz artists, while Tomasello draws wholly on cabaret traditions. But because the evening was divided into distinct halves, no musical compromises were forced upon anyone.

During the past couple of months, Roberts has played uncounted rooms across the Chicago area but hasn't sounded quite the way she did Saturday evening. For starters, she was playing a Steinway grand of a

caliber rarely encountered in jazz clubs, where pianos get beaten into submission through years of overuse.

This time, listeners could hear the intricacies of Roberts' keyboard voicings, the beauty of her touch, the complexities of her harmonies. Everything resonated beautifully, the stage of the Auditorium proving as acoustically inviting as the larger house itself always does. Surely that's why Roberts played so much piano on this night — she couldn't help herself.

In George Shearing's "Lullaby of Birdland," Roberts' extended, ultra-sophisticated chords warmly supported her silvery vocals, while Fishman's solos on tenor saxophone reminded listeners of his prowess as improviser. When the couple offered bristling two- and three-part counterpoint, you

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NANCY STONE/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Kelsey Grammer works on a scene Sunday while filming "Transformers 4" at Millennium Park. He plays a villain in the film, due out in June.

# Bean gets star turn in 'Transformers 4'

Director Bay's weekend spent amid blasts, with Grammer at park



**LUIS GOMEZ**  
*About Last Night*

Whatever the 100 or so extras were frantically running away from during "Transformers 4" filming Sunday at Cloud Gate (better known as The Bean) in Millennium Park, Kelsey Grammer, who plays a villain in the film, was nonchalantly walking toward it. Grammer was on the phone in the scene paying no attention to the scared civilians running past him.

There were no explosions like the ones that went off Friday and Saturday in the plaza at McCormick Place or low-flying helicopters like the ones that glided just above the Chicago River, along Upper Wacker Drive, Sunday morning. And there was no sign of



JOHN J. KIM/TRIBUNE PHOTO

The crew films Friday at McCormick Place, and later in the weekend at Blue Cross Blue Shield Tower.

the sports cars that spent much of the weekend parked outside Blue Cross Blue Shield Tower, including the yellow Camaro known to Transformers fans as Bumblebee.

It was just Grammer and several extras filming the same scene repeatedly, which was good enough for the crowd of onlookers who stuck it out in

the hot sun. They raised their cameras whenever they heard the crew yell "rolling" and some inquired about how they too could become extras. One fan was shaking with excitement after taking a photo with Grammer, who like, director Michael Bay, had a chair waiting for him with his name on the front and the "Transform-

ers 4" logo on the back. Filming is scheduled to take place Wednesday and Thursday in the Uptown neighborhood and will return to Blue Cross Blue Shield Tower over the weekend. One business owner said he was told aerial shots of the Uptown Theatre

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**COMMENTARY**



DONNA SVENNEVIK/ABC PHOTO

Dr. Phil's tweet from last week: "If a girl is drunk, is it okay to have sex with her?"

## Dr. Phil, tweeting and deleting

Controversial note may be 'gone,' but is trashing it worse?

**BY MONICA HESSE**  
 The Washington Post

On Tuesday, Dr. Phil, drawing psychologist to the masses, posted a tweet that some interpreted as, at best, tone-deaf and, at worst, a tacit encouragement for date rape. "If a girl is drunk, is it okay to have sex with her?" someone from his account tweeted at 5:49 p.m. "Reply yes or no to @drphil #teensaccused."

"If Dr. Phil is drunk, is it okay for him to tweet?" responded one follower. Another wondered, "If a person is a misogynist (sic), is it okay to just refer to him as 'Dr. Phil' from now on?" Within a few hours, Oprah Winfrey's former acolyte became thoroughly detested online. Then, he compounded the situation by committing what has become an unpardonable sin in the public venues through which we conduct discourse: He deleted the tweet.

On his timeline, the comment no longer appears, but other Twitter users quickly made sure it wasn't gone.

"Hey, @DrPhil, if someone deletes his tweet, is it okay to post a screenshot of it?" queried a user who attached a cached image. Others were more direct: "@DrPhil is a bloody coward and has since deleted the tweet"

While some users applauded the attempt to remove what they saw as garbage, the prevailing notion was this: Dr. Phil McGraw had created the garbage, therefore he should have to sit with the garbage, a scarlet garbage letter affixed to his chipper, family-expert profile. The deletion became, for some, nearly as objectionable as the original missive.

For half a decade, we've issued online playbooks to

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# High point for the stage

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understood anew the pleasures of hearing them outside the din of a club or restaurant setting.

Roberts was a close friend of pianist Marian McPartland, who died Tuesday at age 95, so Roberts naturally paid tribute to her mentor by playing one of McPartland's best known tunes, "Twilight World." Under Roberts' fingertips, the piece traveled to remote harmonic regions that surely would have pleased McPartland, who always savored new ideas in jazz.

D'Rone revels in a musical language honed by Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Nat "King" Cole, all of whom publicly stated their admiration for him. The reasons were plain to hear on this evening, for at 81 D'Rone still can stretch a phrase like taffy, swing a rhythm with ferocity and cut quickly to the inner meaning of a ballad.

Many listeners identify "When Joanna Loved Me" with Bennett, but D'Rone crafted a distinctive reading, his reedy vocal quality and long, sustained lines bringing forth the bitter-sweet flavor of the lyric. In "Yesterday I Heard the



CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Saxophonist Greg Fishman and pianist Judy Roberts share the stage with the crowd Saturday at the Auditorium Theatre for "On Stage With ..."

Rain" he expressed deep, dark currents of romantic loss.

And when D'Rone picked up his guitar, he reiterated his versatility as jazz artist, especially in "Make Someone Happy," from his illuminating album "Double Exposure." The singer-guitarist has faced health challenges in recent years, but he will not allow them to silence him. Bravo.

Singer Tomasello closed the evening, and though her emotionally extravagant cabaret show represented a gear shift from the

jazz opening, she offered precisely the persona that Chicagoans have come to associate with her. As ever, Tomasello combined gutsy performance with high camp, serving up soliloquies of self-congratulation — such as "I'm the Greatest Star" from "Funny Girl" — with a dash of self-satire.

You had to chuckle at the local references she and lyricist Bob Moreen wrote into Stephen Sondheim's "I'm Still Here," but it was the grit of the performance that mattered most. Her rendition of Charles Aznavour's "Yesterday When I

Was Young" was a bit overwrought for at least one listener's tastes, but surely no one does over-the-top as exuberantly as Tomasello.

Pianist Menzie nimbly led a trio that tried to give Tomasello some musical ballast. But who could resist a singer who asks her 99-year-old uncle to stand up in the audience and take a bow, then wends her way into the crowd — in mid-song — to kiss each of her relatives?

You had to be there.

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Denise Tomasello performs an extravagant cabaret show with the persona that Chicagoans associate with her.

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## Dr. Phil's controversial tweet still alive, even after deletion

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teenagers, warning them against posting tipsy photos on Facebook or texting compromising images by cellphone. It's common knowledge that nothing

really disappears online: Enemies might cut, paste and screen-grab your worst mistakes into infamy.

What's interesting is the way that this warning — nothing disappears online — seems to have become

law. This is an era of no take-backs, and those who attempt them are viewed as either idiots who don't understand the system or weasels who are trying to game it.

It can't be gamed: Web-

sites collect celebrities' deleted tweets the way they once collected side boob shots: Ashton Kutcher's, Cee Lo Green's, Kanye West's. Designer Kenneth Cole was harangued in 2011 for tweeting that Egyptian

uprisings might be due to hordes of people trying to score items from his new collection, and then he was harangued for removing the tweet. Patricia Heaton, the everymom of "Everybody Loves Raymond," deleted not only individual tweets but her entire Twitter account after posting a series of rants against Sandra Fluke, the Georgetown University law student who advocated for insurance coverage for contraception.

"Deleting a tweet is not an apology," says Steven Petrow, who writes a digital etiquette column for Parade magazine. "And if that's the thing you're attempting to do, you need to make an apology." That, he speculates, is what makes people so angry about deleted tweets. It's not atoning; it's removing.

Americans like redemption narratives, but they must happen in the proper order: acknowledgment, shame, apologies, soul searching, rehabilitation.

Twitter, unfortunately, is a very difficult medium for the redemption narrative. It doesn't lend itself well to these stages. Each set of 140 characters is taken as a discrete occurrence, divorced of larger context.

The comedian Patton Oswalt recently conducted an experiment in how little people seek context on Twitter, posting a series of two-part tweets that were innocuous if read together but diabolical if read independently, as many people did.

If there is a larger context in the Dr. Phil debacle, it's this: His entire Twitter feed — chin-up aphorisms and pop psychology — is dedicated to pairing intimate questions with hash-

tags and encouraging debate among his followers. His other recent tweets:

"How young is too young to have 'the talk' with your kids — and why? Reply with @drphil #pregnant-ween."

"If you knew you'd never be caught, would you cheat on your partner? Tweet your answer to @drphil with hashtag #cheaters."

In this context, Dr. Phil's "drunk sex" tweet might still have been read as problematic. It targeted intoxicated women instead of intoxicated people, and it presented the situation as if either choice might be correct (Why, yes, it is OK to have sex with a drunk girl!) in a post-Steubenville, Ohio, era when people should be better informed about the rules of consent.

But, in this context, a reader probably also would have realized that the tweet was meant to be a discussion topic rather than a personal musing. That's how Dr. Phil's team is explaining it.

"This tweet was intended to evoke discussion leading into a very serious show topic based upon a recent news story," read a statement from a spokesperson. "Dr. Phil deleted it the second he saw it. It was clearly ill-advised. We sincerely apologize that it suggested anything other than what was intended, data gathering. As you can imagine, Dr. Phil is very upset that this happened."

The apology was not, however, posted on his Twitter feed. Which raises the question, if it had been — if he had apologized instead of deleted — would people who retweeted his mistake also retweet his mea culpa?

## CELEBRATIONS

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### ANNIVERSARY



#### Happy 20th Anniversary!

Ray and JoBelle Strobel happily celebrate their 20th Wedding Anniversary (can you believe it?!). Met at restaurant Sole Mio --- remember Dennis? and married at Kiki's Bistro, still the best French restaurant in Chicago.

Lesson to be learned: Always marry your best drinking buddy!

Raystrobel.com

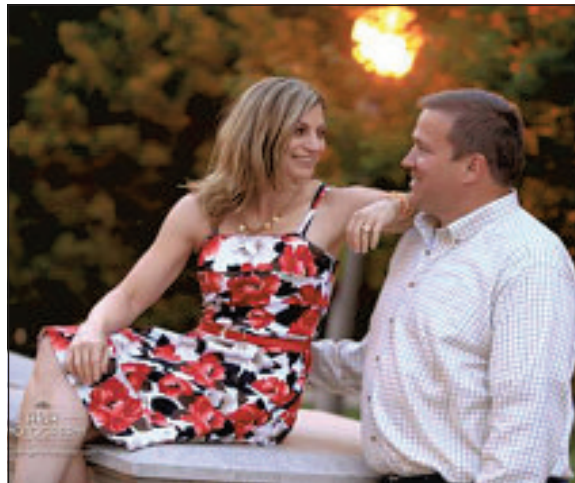
### ANNIVERSARY

#### Andrew & Virginia Lekousis

Married 65 years ago, on 8-28-1948, in the Greek Church Of The Assumption, in Chicago, IL. They have 3 children, Theresa Kean, Pete Lekousis and Debbie Lekousis; 3 grandchildren, Josh Posanka, Matt Posanka and Andrew Posanka and 5 great-grandchildren.



### WEDDING



#### Neuzil - Scanlan

Nancy and Len Neuzil of Frankfort, IL are pleased to announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter Peggy Neuzil to Thomas Scanlan, son of Nora and Lon Scanlan of Peachtree City, GA. The future bride is a marketing director with Health Forum at the American Hospital Association. She also teaches yoga & P90X (fitness program). The future groom is a Senior VP with ICAP, the world's largest broker of transactions between banks. The future bride and groom both have master's degrees. The couple has planned a September 1, 2013 wedding, followed by a reception at the Metropolitan Club at the Willis Tower. Tom's children, Alexa and Kellen, will be a central part of the wedding. (Photo by Ali Matin)

### ENGAGEMENT

#### Cygan - Bubinas

Congratulations on Your Engagement Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cygan of Des Plaines, Illinois are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Misty to Joshua Bubinas, son of Mrs. Rita Vanderwall and Mr. Dennis Bubinas. Misty earned her Juris Doctorate from Nova Southeastern Shepard Broad Law Center in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and has been practicing law in Chicago since 2007. Joshua graduated from Illinois State University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Sciences. Best wishes from the Vanderwall, Bubinas, and Cygan families. A January, 2014, wedding is planned.



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