

SOUNDS JEWISH, DOESN'T IT?

Mesmerizing Stories and Songs of early 20th Century Broadway Composers and Lyricists

Vocalist **Isabelle Ganz** and pianist **Mary Carol Warwick** take you on a musical journey that demonstrates how Jewish folk songs, Yiddish Theater melodies and cantorial chant became the foundation of the American Songbook.

"Isabelle Ganz is a barrel of fun and a cornucopia of musical knowledge. Sit back, enjoy, and learn from this jewel of an entertainer and educator in this program presented with masterful piano accompaniments by Mary Carol Warwick."

Marilyn Hassid

Director, Arts & Culture ERJCC of Houston



Mezzo-soprano Dr. Isabelle Ganz has had a long and varied career in numerous musical fields. Beginning as a pianist, she was a soloist with the New York Philharmonic at age 10. At 20, she formed a folk singing duo with her first husband, Peter Gardner. "The Gardners" were the opening

act for Joan Baez, Judy Collins, Bob Dylan, The Smothers Brothers, Simon and Garfunkel and many others. She later specialized in classical contemporary music, working with composers such as John Cage and Luciano Berio. She formed the Sephardic music ensemble, Alhambra in 1981. The group has toured throughout the world and has recorded 3 CDs.

She holds a DMA in Voice and Music Literature from the Eastman School of Music, was awarded an NEA Solo Recitalist Grant to perform contemporary music at colleges throughout the US, and was a Fulbright Scholar in Jerusalem. She has recorded over 20 albums and CDs, including "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off: Songs of the Gershwins" with pianist Edward Murray.

For more information, visit www.isabelleganz.com and www.alhambragroup.com.



Dr. Mary Carol Warwick is a composer and librettist whose works are enjoying American and International performances. A protégé of noted opera composer Carlisle Floyd, her works include several chamber operas for children commissioned and premiered by Houston Grand Opera, including the bi-lingual operas

Cinderella in Spain and *Rapunzel*. She has composed for solo instruments, ensembles and string orchestra.

As a Music Director, Warwick has worked for Theater Under the Stars in such productions as *Kismet*, *The Sound of Music*, and a revival of *Cabin in the Sky*; for Main Street Theater in such productions as *Something More* and *Sweeney Todd*; and for Theater LAB, she served as Music Director for the Houston premieres of shows including *Boy Groove* and *The Last Five Years*.

Warwick has won numerous awards and grants to compose works, including Challenge Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Opera New World Grants, the Mayor's Proud Partner Award from the city of Houston, and a commission from NASA to write a wake-up call for Space Shuttle Mission STS-33. For more information visit marycarolwarwick.com.

