

# MYRNA LAKE

Myrna Lake, native of St. Paul, Minnesota, was born into a family immersed in music. Her mother sang in church, her father in bars, she told friends. "Both my grandfathers were musicians. One of them accompanied silent movies on the piano. My great grandparents sang and danced in vaudeville."

Myrna's parents encouraged the musical interests of their five children. Myrna took piano lessons. Later, she studied music on her own during an early marriage, while bringing up three children and working eight years as a registered nurse. In middle age, she turned to a career she knew she had to follow. She enrolled at CUNY York College and earned a BA degree in music Magna Cum Laude in 1995.

MYRNA sang in the New York City area for over 30 years. She was vocalist at Cajun Restaurant's Sunday Brunch band from the 1990s until the restaurant's closing in 2005. There she hypnotized crowds, under the leadership first of Jimmy The Face Butts, and upon his passing in 2000, under his long-time partner Al Doc Pittman; on Doc's passing, she co-lead the group with saxophonist Carol Sudhalter. Myrna performed regularly at Lenox Lounge, La Guardia Performing Arts Center, Jazzmobile and more. In recent years, she did a steady Sunday evening performance with the Jon Roche band at Small's Jazz Club, Greenwich Village. She performed with Carol Sudhalter's Astoria Big Band from 1998 on, in parks and venues around Queens and Manhattan, and at the Mary Lou Williams Festival, Kennedy Center, Wash., D.C. in May 2004.

Ms. Lake was an instructor for singers and so-called non-singers. She constantly encouraged her students to learn and perform as much as possible. She taught at Brooklyn-Queens Conservatory and at Jazzmobile. She strongly influenced the lives of hundreds of students of all ages.

# PERFORMERS and SPEAKERS

**Larry Newcomb (guit) with Dmitri Kolesnik (bs), Mike Camoia (pno) and Barbara Merjan (dms)**

**Bill Wurtzel (guit)**

**Habiba Matthew (voc)**

**Jon Roche (bs), Roman Ivanoff (pno), Ai Murakami (dms)**

**Sarah McLawler (organ/voc)**

**Spike Wilner (pno)**

**Ruth Brisbane (voc)**

**Thomas Bruce [Myrna's younger brother] (voc)**

**Antoinette Montague (voc)**

**Zeke Mullins (pno)**

**Carol Sudhalter (fl) and Rick Stone (guit)**

**Frank Senior, (voc), 'Time After Time'**

**Dotti Anita Taylor (fl/pno)**

**Bertha Hope (pno)**

## Remarks:

**Arlene Lichtermann  
Habiba Matthew  
Yolanda Bruce  
Joe Vincent Tranchina  
Evan Kapitansky**