

# Karen Mason

## *Biography*

Karen Mason has starred on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and television; and is renown for her work as a concert and recording artist, as she “has few peers when it comes to ripping the roof off with her amazing voice that knows no bounds!” (TheatreScene.net). Karen is a 12-time MAC Award recipient, including 2016 MAC Award for Best Show (Mason’s Makin’ Music), and winner of 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.

On Broadway, Karen most recently garnered rave reviews starring as “The Queen of Hearts” in WONDERLAND. 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” and “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.

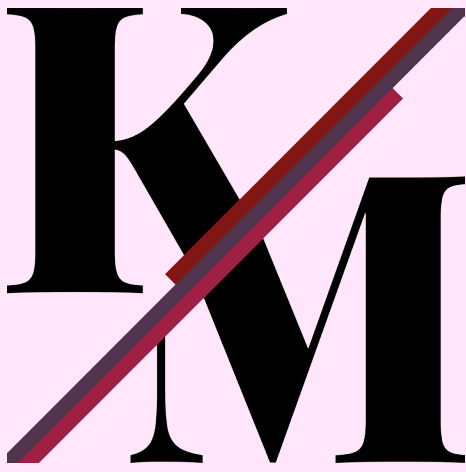
In regional theatre, Karen received critical acclaim as the legendary “Kay Koverman” in CHASING RAINBOWS at Goodspeed Opera House; she starred in the Pre-Broadway tour of A CHRISTMAS STORY as “Miss Shields,” in the world premiere of the stage production of WHITE CHRISTMAS; (playing the Rosemary Clooney 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); and YOU MIGHT AS WELL LIVE (NYMF), the one-woman musical about Dorothy Parker.

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

As a concert artist, Karen has headlined Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Feinstein’s at The Regency, Rainbow & Stars, the Algonquin, Arci’s Place, The Supper Club and The Ballroom in NYC; Rockwell, The Cinegrill and the UCLA/ASCAP Concert Series in Los Angeles; The Plush Room & Bay Area Cabaret in San Francisco; and Davenport’s in Chicago. She has shared concert stages with Michael Feinstein, Jerry Herman, Chita Rivera, Luciano Pavarotti, Rosemary Clooney, Liza Minnelli, 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 Long Beach Symphony Orchestra with Maestro Michael Berkowitz, The Philly Pops with Peter Nero, The New York Pops with Skitch Henderson, The Oklahoma Philharmonic with Joel Levine, the premiere performance of The Chicagoland Pops, The Indianapolis Philharmonic, and the St. Louis Symphony with John McDaniel.

Her highly acclaimed recordings include her newest single, the MAC Award-winning, "It's About Time", written by Paul Rolnick and Shelly Markham; her MAC Award-winning RIGHT HERE/RIGHT NOW, THE SWEETEST OF NIGHTS, the MAC Award-winning WHEN THE SUN COMES OUT, as well as three other albums: CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS!, recorded live at the West Bank Café; BETTER DAYS, featuring songs by her longtime composer/arranger, Brian Lasser (including the 1998 Emmy Award-winning song "Hold Me"); and NOT SO SIMPLY BROADWAY. Karen has been featured on the soundtrack of the original cast album of WONDERLAND and JEFFREY (Varese Sarabande); the original cast album of AND THE WORLD GOES ROUND (RCA Victor); the studio cast recording of WONDERFUL TOWN (JAY Records); THE CHILD IN ME, VOL. 1 (Harbinger Records), and LOST IN BOSTON II (Varese Sarabande).



# Karen Mason

## *Brief biography*

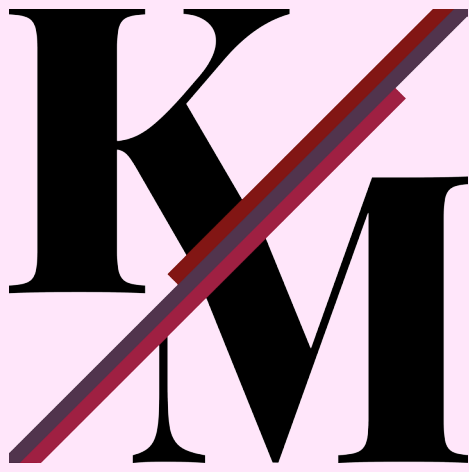
BROADWAY: WONDERLAND ("The Queen of Hearts"), HAIRSPRAY (Velma), MAMMA MIA ("Tanya"; 2002 Drama Desk nomination as Best Actress), SUNSET BOULEVARD ("Norma Desmond"), JEROME ROBBINS' BROADWAY, and TORCH SONG TRILOGY.

OFF BROADWAY/ REGIONAL: Goodspeed Opera House, CT: CHASING RAINBOWS ("Kay Koverman"); Pre-Broadway US tour: A CHRISTMAS STORY (Miss Shields); Westside Theatre, NYC: AND THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND); The York Theatre: CARNIVAL (Drama Desk Nomination for Best Supporting Actress).

CONCERT/CABARET: Carnegie Hall, Teatro Liceiu, Lincoln Center, Feinstein's, The Kennedy Center, and many more.

A 12-time MAC Award winner, Karen has seven solo albums, including BETTER DAYS which has the Emmy Award-winning song, HOLD ME

[www.karenmason.com](http://www.karenmason.com)

The image shows large, bold, black serif initials 'KM'. A diagonal slash, colored in a gradient from red to blue, cuts through the letters from the top-left to the bottom-right.

# Karen Mason

*What the critics are saying:*

"An American Idol" *New York Times*

"At the top of her game and better than ever! Whimsical and in extraordinary voice! The belter connected with every song and the SRO room repeatedly responded with sustained applause!" *Backstage*

"Rating: Highly recommended. All the wit, style, and substance audiences have come to expect from her! Both the audience and singer emerge as winners!" *Chicago Sun Times*

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

"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*

"What has made Mason such a great performer (besides the voice) is her innate comedic ability!" *Playbill Online*

"There's a reason Karen Mason is one of the leading cabaret figures in New York – actually, there are several: Great voice, dynamic personality, boundless charm!" *Cabaret Scenes*

"Her voice is a delightful instrument! Irresistible!" *Daily News*

"She has a solid concert and cabaret career. Mason has a powerful voice and rich resonance you associate with Judy Garland or Barbra Streisand. She can sing slow and smoky or fast and punchy with an innate sense of humor. Mason is a poet of the vocal chords!" *Indianapolis Star*

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

"Looking very chic, Mason is an exciting and visceral performer. She moves her audience and just makes you happy you've got to see this great talent up close!" *WVOX/WRTN Radio*

"A dynamic performer! When Mason sings, regardless of the genre, all I can say is gimme, gimme, gimme!" *Time Out New York*