

WILLIAM LUDWIG & DEAN AUSTIN shows

WEIMAR, NOW! - Berlin Cabaret Songs (voice/piano)

Weimar, Now! - Berlin Cabaret Songs is a journey back to the dark, exciting Kabarett of 1920s Berlin. The free spirit of Weimar Berlin was explored in these songs through criticism of government and the airing of previously taboo themes of gender conflict, corruption and homosexuality. Join Actor William Ludwig and West End MD Dean Austin for an evening of the songs of Brecht/Weill, Hollaender, Spoliansky and others. Satirical, confrontational and sometimes shocking, these songs are as relevant and current today as they were almost a hundred years ago. They tell stories of survival, dreams and societies of the past and the future, connecting yesterday to today.

YOUKALI - Kurt Weill Songs (voice/piano)

An evening of Kurt Weill songs from the Berlin beginnings to French songs and classic American standards. Kurt Weill's work encompasses music for the opera house, cabarets and musicals and in this he was unique. Join William and MD Dean Austin on a journey through the life of Weill, his collaborators and the history of the first half of the 20th century. Songs featured include music from the Berlin years (*Mack the Knife*, *Alabama Song*) and standards like *Speak Low*, *September Song* and *My Ship*.

William Ludwig sings Marlene Dietrich (voice/piano)

This evening brings to life the songs of screen icon Marlene Dietrich. Marlene - actress, soldier, singer: In 1920s Berlin, Dietrich acted on the stage and in silent films. Her performance as Lola-Lola in *The Blue Angel* (1930), directed by Josef von Sternberg, brought her international fame resulting in a contract with Paramount Pictures. Dietrich had starring roles in Hollywood films such as *Shanghai Express* (1932) and *Desire* (1936). She went on to become one of the highest-paid actresses of the era. Dietrich became a U.S. citizen in 1939, and throughout the Second World War she was a high-profile frontline entertainer. Although she still made occasional films after the end of the Second World War, Dietrich spent most of the 1950s to the 1970s touring the world as a cabaret performer.

From her beginnings in the Berlin Cabarets and *The Blue Angel* to her last performance singing *Just a Gigolo*, we will perform the songs that Marlene made famous and those that made her famous. *Falling in love again*, *The Boys in the Backroom* and many more....

The Last Drink - BAR SONGS (voice/piano)

Amidst the pulsating life of the big city, behind the windows of cafes and bars – lovers and loners meet, waiters and bartenders watch, serve drinks and listen to their heartaches. Since the great era of Berlin Cabaret in the 1920s, writers and composers have been fascinated by the big city and its stories of love, loss and loneliness.

Premiered at the Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen, this show follows a day and night in the big city, from the first coffee to Frank Sinatra's *One more for the Road*. Songs by Suzanne Vega, Kurt Weill, Jacques Brel and others reflect moments of happiness and despair.

DARK SOUL – Tango Songs (voice/piano)

“...tango, the hunger of the soul for contact with another soul...”

This is the story of tango and its beginnings in the workers' districts of Buenos Aires. This is also a story of immigration. The narration follows a young man from Italy, who is enticed to Argentina to start a new life at the end of the 19th century. This wave of immigrants brings their culture and their music. *DARK SOUL* takes you through the days of loneliness in a city of men and tells this story through the tango songs of Astor Piazzolla, Jacques Brel, Kurt Weill and others. These are songs of a dark world... early dawn apocalyptic nightmares of Buenos Aires and cities of men. But always in between there is a moment of desire and promise.

FOREIGN AFFAIR

After sold-out performances at Crazy Coqs and Germany's Ruhrfestival, William Ludwig and Dean Austin present their new cabaret *FOREIGN AFFAIR*, debuted at The Pheasantry in London. From the cabarets of Weimar Berlin and the songs of Weill and Hollaender to the music of Brel and Piaf, this is a journey into the heart of 20th century European cabaret and chanson.