

# George Evans

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# Curriculum Vitae

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## OBJECTIVE

To secure a position as voice teacher in the area of jazz vocals, and add my expertise to that of the jazz faculty in creating new direction in the training of young singers. By offering an excellent base in vocal technique, interpretive skill, repertoire development and performance technique, I hope to raise the bar in the development of young professionals who will emerge from the collegiate experience ready to enter the field as proficient musicians, performers of skill and artists of nuance and depth.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Twenty-five years of experience in the US, Canada and abroad in all areas of the performance industry, primarily:

- Theatre work as a singer, dancer, actor and director
- Nightclub work in high-level jazz and cabaret venues
- Radio and television work as host, announcer, and producer
- Film and commercial work as a principle actor and vocalist

## EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

**1977-1981:** Graduate of the School for the Creative and Performing Arts in Cincinnati, Ohio, a magnet school for gifted teens. During my years at SCPA I received training in all the major artistic disciplines, and appeared in countless productions as a singer, actor, dancer, and orchestra member (trombone) both on stage and television. This included roles in:

### MUSICAL THEATRE:

Guys and Dolls  
The Pajama Game  
Carousel  
Dear World  
Company  
Oliver

### STRAIGHT THEATRE:

Auntie Mame  
Taming of the Shrew  
Job  
The Crucible  
Dark of the Moon  
A Midsummer Nights Dream

### OPERA:

Amahl and the Night Visitors  
Manon  
La Bohème

### BALLET:

La Boutique Fantasque

**1981-1986:** Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre program at the College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio, the first school in the US to offer a degree in Musical Theatre. Voice, theory, acting, and dance are all treated as concurrent majors under this program.

**ARTISTIC DIRECTION:** Worth Gardner

**VOICE:** Patricia Berlin (Professor of voice), and Burton Coffin (author of several respected books on vocal technique)

**VOCAL COACHING AND REPERTOIRE:** Oscar Kosarin (Broadway conductor of the classic era) Jeffrey Saver (Current Broadway conductor)

**ACTING:** Diane Danzi (Meisner and Morris techniques), Michael Hankins (Chekhov technique), Michael Burnham (Viola Spolin technique)

**DANCE:** James Truitte (Modern. Lead dancer of the Alvin Ailey company) Oleg Sabline (Ballet, 30 years faculty emeritus at CCM) Joanie Walton (Tap, Sister and dance partner of Broadway star Jim Walton)

My experience on stage at this time was extremely varied and included:

**MUSICAL THEATRE:**

Gypsy  
The 1940's Radio Hour  
Evita  
Man Of La Mancha  
Sweeney Todd  
Pacific Overtures

**THEME PARK:**

Opryland USA, singer/dancer  
"I Hear America Singing" '82

**SUMMER STOCK:**

A Day In Hollywood - A Night In  
The Ukraine  
The Rocky Horror Show

**CLUBS:**

The Royal Oak  
(Country Club)  
  
The Gold Room  
(Cincinnati Club)

**VARIETY:**

The Miss Ohio Pageant Lead  
Dancer (2 yrs)  
  
The UC Singers (a celebrated  
swing choir under the direction of  
Earl Rivers)

**PUPPETEERING:**

Professional contracts

**1984-1991:** Residence in New York City, private study, contract work and a short return to CCM. During this time I expanded my horizons with study under the best teachers available to musical theatre professionals, including:

**DANCE:** Studied daily with Finis Jhung and the American Chamber Ballet in NYC. Concurrently took regular classes in jazz and tap with Steps 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, notably under Lesley Lockerey and Jojo Higgins.

**VOICE TECHNIQUE:** Joan Patenaude Yarnell, current faculty of music at Manhattan School of Music and Curtis School of Music in Philadelphia.

My work experience out of New York City included:

**DINNER THEATRE:**

Gypsy  
Fiddler on the Roof  
(and others)

**INTERNATIONAL TOUR:**

Sessue: A Japanese Musical  
Production contract, TV appearances  
and so on

**CLUB WORK:**

Debut at Eighty Eight's in  
Greenwich Village  
(With many returns)

**1991-1999:** Residence in Montréal. A change of focus, study of radio and the beginning of this phase of my career, as well as the beginning of a major concentration on vocal interpretation, study of song and performance opportunities in clubs and concerts.

**SUMMER 1991:** Study at the Eugene O'Neill cabaret symposium in Waterford Connecticut. This was my introduction to the upper level world of cabaret and the people who inhabit it. I worked privately under Margaret Whiting, Sylvia Syms, Jeanne Hammons, Kay Starr, Ann Hampton Callaway, Tex Arnold, Jack Wrangler, Paul Trueblood, Geoff Klitz, and others whose idea of song interpretation is as an intimate means of communicating one's most personal feelings and experiences. This time and the return visits to the Symposium created a major shift in the way I work as a singer, allowing me to grow and expand as a performer, and to pursue my dream of being a soloist to the exclusion of most other theatrical activities.

**SUMMER 1992:** CKUT Radio-McGill gave me a weekly program which grew over time to be a fixture on that station and ultimately on another as well, running a total of seven and a half years:

**I FEEL A SONG COMING ON** CKUT  
90.3 fm

Best Program/Best Host (mention) Montreal Mirror

**BASICALLY JAZZ K103, 103.7 FM**

Three seasons on the air

During that time I became a voice-over talent of note, and was invited on two occasions to create pilot programs for the CBC:

**JAZZ SINGING (1994)**

With Producer, Dave Ryan (Brave New Waves)

**TIME AFTER TIME (1996)**

With Producer, Frank Opolko (A Propos)

A return to nightclub vocal performance starting with an appearance at a major radio station fundraising event in 1992, lead to these jazz dates through 2002:

**IN MONTRÉAL**

The Stornaway Gallery  
Cleo's Jazz bar  
Biddles Jazz and Ribs  
Café Boomers in Point Claire  
Jello Bar  
Upstairs  
Sky Pub  
Cabaret Music Hall  
The Wax Lounge  
Koji's Kaizen  
Restaurant Modavi

4 appearances with different groups  
5 return engagements  
3 return bookings  
2 return engagements  
3 return bookings  
2 return engagements  
2 return engagements  
3 different appearances  
3 different appearances  
Countless returns  
5 returns

CBC Radio: Jazz Beat	2 sessions (1996 and 1999)
CBC Radio 60 <sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration LIVE	With Oliver Jones and an All-Star band
“Jazz Singing” [1996]	Maison de la Culture tour (3 Maisons)
“The Songs Sinatra Sang” [1998-1999]	Maison de la Culture tour (5 Maisons)
Montreal International Jazz Festival	Vocal stage performance 1999
Richard Rodgers: Factice Jazz [2002]	Maison de la Culture tour (3 Maisons)

**OTTAWA**

The After Eight Jazz Club	2 return engagements
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**LAKE GEORGE, NY**

The Lake George Jazz Festival	Headline performer, featured concert
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**NEW YORK CITY**

Eighty Eight's	7 return engagements
July Cabaret Festival	Major booking
The Mabel Mercer Cabaret Convention	Town Hall engagement
“My Ideal: The songs of Richard Whiting”	A revue featuring Margaret Whiting

**HAMILTON, ONTARIO**

Theatre Aquarius, Valentine's Day event	Trio performance introducing “Moodswing”
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**PORT HOPE, ONTARIO**

All-Canadian Jazz Festival	Quintet vocal stage performance
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**TORONTO**

The Leopard Lounge	4 return engagements with trio
The Rex	Trio dates
The Four Seasons	Corporate performance work
The Montreal Bistro	Bookings starting in 2002
Top O' The Senator	5 major return engagements and record launch.
	Continued bookings through 2003

**WEST COAST**

Vancouver International Jazz Festival	Quartet performance at O'Doul's as a part of the festival line-up.
Victoria, BC	Corporate work and club dates

Also during this time I was active in the recording studio musically, commercially and for CBC radio's Jazz Beat, completing two commercial releases that are in distribution nationally:

<b>MOODSWING</b> , with André White, George Mitchell, Dave Laing, Greg Amirault, Steve Kaldestad, Kevin Dean, and Art Roberts.	MSW-G023
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<b>I'M ALL SMILES...LIVE FROM STUDIO 13</b> , with two groups: André White, George Mitchell, Dave Laing, Greg Amirault, Steve Kaldestad, Kevin Dean, and Art Roberts, and Tilden Webb, Greg Clayton, Fraser Hollins, Dave Laing and Kevin Dean	MSW-G024
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Acting work during the period of 1991-1999 included:

<b>JEANNE LA PUCELLE</b> at Places des Arts, supporting role in English and French.	1996-1997
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**JEANNE LA PUCELLE** at la Capitale, QC, principal role in English and French.  
**BONANO: A GODFATHER'S STORY** for Hallmark/Showtime, TMN/Global

1997

1998

**1999-2001:** Relocation to Toronto. As a continuation of the voice-over work I had been having much success with in Montreal (with dozens of corporate videos to my credit) I accepted a major voice-over staff position with Bell ExpressVu satellite television. In my two-year association with Bell ExpressVu I voiced several hundred television spots and was heard in constant rotation on many of the channels and services they provide. This job enabled me to stay in Toronto to work with and make the acquaintance of musicians with whom I would otherwise have had little contact, and cultivate my name in English Canada.

**MUSICIANS** I have become associated with on the Toronto scene include: Jerry Fuller, Neil Swainson, Dave Restivo, Terry Clarke, Kieron Overs, Brian Dickinson, Jim Vivian, Don Thomson, Guido Basso, Ed Bickert, Reg Schwager, among other fine players.

**TELEVISION AND RADIO INTERVIEWS AND FEATURES** on my performance work have been seen and heard across Canada on CBC Radio and Television, Radio-Canada, CTV, Global, TVO, Bravo, MuchMusic, CityTV, and CJRT-Jazz FM.

Because of my notoriety as a historian in the field of recorded pop and jazz vocals, **UNIVERSAL/VERVE** gave me the opportunity to work behind the scenes in A&R for a number of major re-issues from catalogue. I contributed to the Verve box sets "Jazz Singing" and "A Jazz Romance", and in 2001 was asked to independently select and sequence a full disc of rare, out-of-print material by budding singer/pianist Buddy Greco. The disc, "Buddy Greco, Talkin' Verve", is available internationally and is selling well. Due to the success of the project, I have assurance that there will be more such opportunities in time.

**2001 - 2002:** During this period in Toronto, I produced two new albums of standards which were well received by critics and fans alike, both receiving substantial airplay on local and national outlets.

**FROM MOMENT TO MOMENT**, with Dave Restivo on piano, Reg Schwager on guitar, Neil Swainson bass, Jerry Fuller on drums, and Michael Stuart on tenor

MSW-G025

**EYES FOR YOU**, with Mark Eisenman on piano, Reg Schwager on guitar, Neil Swainson bass, Jerry Fuller on drums, and Denny Christianson on trumpet

MSW-G026

**CONCERT WORK:** The Richard Rodgers centennial year afforded the opportunity to create a concert of Rodgers work with various lyricists in jazz vocal interpretations. Bookings in QC and BC, as well as ON have been successful, the program well-received, and an album will be spun off from the project in the next year.

**JOURNALISM:** Presented with an invitation to write for Planet Jazz Magazine out of Montreal, I created their jazz vocal column, and a series of song and artist-related

features. These have been well received, and I have been offered an open-ended tenure with this publication.

**THE FUTURE** holds more nightclub and concert dates, more studio sessions both for radio and commercial release, and I foresee the opportunity to return to radio in a hosting capacity if time and scheduling permit. I currently reside in Toronto, but am prepared to live near any of the major Canadian creative centers.

**IN CLOSING** The schedule and regimentation that University employment demands and the regular immersion in vocal technique and song study it affords would be tremendous adjuncts to the career I will continue to have in music. I hope you will consider my application seriously and find me to be an asset to your staff.

**NOTE:** See my online press kit at <http://www.george-evans.net> for reviews and clippings from my recent activities. Clippings and reviews from the period pre-dating my involvement in jazz are available on request, as are personal references.