

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRIAN TOM O'CONNOR

in

THE ZEN OF SHOW TUNES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17TH @ 3:00 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH @ 7:00 PM

DON'T TELL MAMA

343 West 46th Street (8th & 9th Aves)

\$20 Cover (\$10 for MAC members) plus a 2 drink minimum

Cash Only, No Credit Cards

Reservations: (212) 757-0788 after 4pm daily

OR ONLINE AT

<https://donttellmamanyc.com/shows>

Music Director: Michael McAssey

Directed by Elfin Vogel

Starring:

Brian Tom O'Connor

brian@briantomoconnor.com

917-670-6985

briantomoconnor.com

SUMMARY

"The Zen of Show Tunes" is a cabaret romp through O'Connor's favorite musical theater songs, some familiar, some rare, from the angle of a guy who tries to meditate but fails. He just can't keep his monkey mind quiet. The show ranges from the tongue-in-cheek and the silly, through the dark emotions that challenge us all, and out again into the sunlight of theater music that make life worth living.

FURTHER BLURBERY

A wise old Zen master once wrote, "Light the candles, get the ice out, roll the rug up, It's today."

Do show tunes have mystical powers? Can laughter change your life? Do songs from musicals have secret wisdom? To find out, come and be initiated into the secret cult of Broadway musicals. Or just come to laugh and cry at the most delightful, clever, tuneful, funny, wise, cosmic, moving, and enjoyable show tunes Brian could find to help bring you to the blissed-out nirvana that only great musical theater songs can create.

With his fellow devotees on the path, crack music director Michael McAssey at the piano, and master stage director Elfin Vogel at the helm, Brian and his team are becoming one with the universe of musical comedy.

Brian Tom O'Connor is the co-creator of three hit "O'Connor & Vogel" cabaret shows with Debra Vogel – *Guy & Doll*, *How to be Perfect*, and *Found & Lost*. Critics have called the O'Connor & Vogel shows, "absolutely refreshing," "thoroughly delightful," "quite moving," "a perfect mix between comedy and musicality," and "true fun from beginning to end."

Brian brings that same blend of reimagined musical comedy and heartfelt song to his solo show.

Brian is also a teacher of his own brand of playful meditation practices called "Awareness Games," and is the author of *Awareness Games: Playing with Your Mind to Create Joy*, and the co-host of the podcast, "Awareness Explorers." He'll be mining the Great American Musical for some of that wisdom, playfulness, and humor that makes life a delight.

THE ZEN OF SHOW TUNES CREATIVE STAFF:

Music Director and pianist: **Michael McAssey** – Host of Facebook's and YouTube's popular "Open Mac," Michael conducted the Broadway National Tours of Avenue Q and Titanic: The Musical, and the 2016 tour of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert. Mac is also one of cabaret's busiest and most sought-after entertainers, whether as a front man center stage, or behind the piano in a piano bar. Winner and three-time nominee of the MAC Award for Outstanding Male Vocalist, Michael has appeared at Freddy's Supper Club, Eighty-Eight's and Don't Tell Mama in New York; The Gardenia in LA; Toulouse-On-The-Park, Davenport's and Gentry in Chicago; Odette's in New Hope, PA.; and venues as far flung as Mykonos, Aspen, and Puerto Vallarta. Michael has acted on and off Broadway in *Late Nite Comic*, *A Hard Time to Be Single*, *Sex Tips for Modern Girls*, *In Gay Company*, at Lincoln Center as Herbie in *Gypsy* with Sally Mayes, *Putting It Together*, as Edna Turnblad in two productions of *Hairspray*, and as Max Bialystock in three different companies of *The Producers*.

Director: **Elfin Vogel** – Director, designer, and violinist Elfin Frederick Vogel rejoins Brian, having directed all three O'Connor & Vogel shows, as well as all the marvelous Debra Vogel solo cabaret shows. Elfin directed Brian in *The Three Sisters*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Measure for Measure*, and they even acted together in Kirt Gunn's *The American* in Vienna.

HEADSHOT, POSTCARD, PRESS RELEASE, AND SONG LIST MAY BE DOWNLOADED HERE:

<https://www.briantomoconnor.com/zen-of-show-tunes-pr>

Photos by Josh Yu

Postcard design by Hector Coris

HectorCoris.com

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