PRESENTER PACK

Listen to Her Heart

A celebration of Nancy LaMott

If Nancy were alive today,
everyone would know her name.

An intimate cabaret telling the story of one of America’s finest interpreters through the songs she made unforgettable.

Performed by Nicky Gayner and Tom Wakeley.
Created by Nicky Gayner, Tom Wakeley and David Friedman.
Directed by David Friedman. Original arrangements by Christopher Marlowe.

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75 MINUTES, NO INTERVAL • 90 MINUTES WITH INTERVAL
TWO PERFORMERS

Booking enquiries: gayner@btinternet.com

About the show

Listen to Her Heart is an intimate and uplifting celebration of Nancy LaMott, one of the finest interpreters of American popular song. Through the songs Nancy made unforgettable, Nicky Gayner and Tom Wakeley trace her journey from the clubs of San Francisco and New York to national recognition and performances at the White House.

This is a celebration, not an impersonation. Nicky sings in her own voice, finding a connection with Nancy through warmth, emotional honesty and a deep respect for the lyric. Tom accompanies her at the piano using Christopher Marlowe’s original arrangements.

Nancy’s close friend, songwriter and record producer David Friedman helped Nicky and Tom write the show, shape its dramatic arc and choose the songs. His first-hand memories and personal insight are woven through the evening.

Nancy’s story includes illness, struggle and an early death. The show also celebrates her wit, resilience and the joy she brought to her listeners, through music, humour and storytelling.

Who will enjoy it?

No prior knowledge of Nancy is needed. The show welcomes lovers of cabaret, musical theatre and the Great American Songbook; admirers of Nancy and David Friedman; and anyone drawn to an intimate musical evening or the rediscovery of a remarkable performer.

For programmers

The two-performer format suits cabaret rooms, studio theatres, arts centres and festivals, including venues with limited technical facilities. It can also suit jazz venues presenting vocal storytelling, fundraising evenings and special events. A post-show conversation with Nicky and Tom is available by arrangement.

How the show began

Tom first worked with Nicky as musical director of Musical Memories. Knowing her love of Nancy’s music, he proposed a show marking the 30th anniversary of Nancy’s death. They invited David Friedman to collaborate, and the three developed Listen to Her Heart together.

The people behind the show

Nicky Gayner | Performer and co-creator

Nicky is a London-based cabaret singer and actor whose work combines musical interpretation with warm, personal storytelling. She has performed at The Crazy Coqs, The Pheasantry and Wilton's Music Hall, at the Edinburgh Fringe and internationally. Her solo shows include Empty Nest, Hooray for Love, Musical Memories and Unashamedly Christmas. Nicky discovered Nancy's recordings while recovering from major back surgery. Nancy's ability to tell a story through song profoundly influenced her singing; she brings her own voice and experience to this celebration.

nickygayner.com • Instagram @nickygayner

Tom Wakeley | Pianist, musical director and co-creator

Tom is a pianist, conductor and vocal coach whose career spans the West End, cabaret and music-theatre training. His credits include Chicago, Miss Saigon, The Phantom of the Opera, City of Angels, She Loves Me and Oliver! He made his Carnegie Hall debut as an accompanist in 1985 and has worked as a vocal coach at RADA since 1993. After working with Nicky on Musical Memories, Tom proposed the Nancy LaMott project. He performs Christopher Marlowe's arrangements and shares in telling Nancy's story.

tomwakeley.co.uk • Instagram @tomwakeley

David Friedman | Director, writer and creative collaborator

David is an award-winning American composer, songwriter, conductor and record producer. Nancy's close friend and musical collaborator, he founded MIDDER Music to record her and wrote songs including Listen to My Heart, Help Is on the Way, We Can Be Kind and We Live on Borrowed Time. His career encompasses Broadway, Disney and the award-winning musical Desperate Measures. David helped Nicky and Tom write and shape Listen to Her Heart, select its repertoire and develop its dramatic arc, as well as directing the production.

Original arrangements by Christopher Marlowe

Award-winning pianist and musical director Christopher Marlowe was Nancy's pianist and arranger for 11 years. The show uses the arrangements he created for her, honouring a musical partnership central to her artistry.

Performances and audience response

The Crazy Coqs, London | 20–22 May 2026

First presented in a three-performance run, with the final performance on 22 May selling out. Nicky Gayner and Tom Wakeley performed, with director and creative collaborator David Friedman joining them in London.

Don’t Tell Mama, New York | 15 April 2027

Forthcoming performance at the cabaret room whose opening performers in 1982 were Nancy LaMott and Karen Mason. The engagement brings Nancy’s story back to a venue closely connected with her early New York career.

David Friedman, Nicky Gayner and Tom Wakeley at The Crazy Coqs.

> “The story was captivating and the songs beautifully woven into the narrative.”
>
> Audience member, The Crazy Coqs

> “I felt I knew Nancy by the end.”
>
> Audience member, The Crazy Coqs

> “A feel good evening.”
>
> Audience member, The Crazy Coqs

> “She was utterly brilliant and the ying/yang between her and Tom was excellent and so informative. I knew nothing about Nancy La Mott apart from recognising some of her songs. I am now a big fan.”
>
> Nigel, audience member, The Crazy Coqs

Audience quotations are excerpts from responses to the May 2026 performances.

Booking and technical information

Performance

75 minutes without an interval, or 90 minutes with an interval. Two performers: Nicky Gayner and Tom Wakeley.

Availability

All locations considered. A post-show audience Q&A is available by arrangement.

Stage and backstage

Minimum stage size: 3 × 4 metres. A dressing room is required.

Piano

A tuned grand piano is preferred. A digital piano can be used depending on the circumstances. A keyboard can be supplied by prior arrangement.

Sound

Two microphones, two boom stands, a PA system and one stage monitor. Both performers require amplification. Acoustic piano amplification is not required. Sound equipment can be provided on request.

Power

Minimum one 13-amp electrical socket. For international engagements, local power arrangements should be agreed in advance.

Lighting and operator

The show has a specific lighting cue, but can be adapted for festivals, tents and limited facilities. Ideally the venue supplies a sound and lighting engineer to operate the performance.

Access and rehearsal

Ideally allow at least 2½ hours for get-in and preparation. An earlier technical rehearsal can be arranged, allowing a break and time to change before the show.

Fees and availability on request

Contact Nicky Gayner
gayner@btinternet.com

Please include the venue, location, proposed date, audience capacity and available piano and technical facilities in your enquiry.

Publicity copy for presenters

Short listing | 50 words

Nicky Gayner and pianist Tom Wakeley celebrate Nancy LaMott through music, humour and storytelling. Created with Nancy's close friend and songwriter David Friedman, Listen to Her Heart uses Christopher Marlowe's original arrangements. Nicky sings in her own voice, honouring Nancy's warmth and emotional honesty. An intimate evening, welcoming new listeners.

Long listing | 158 words

Listen to Her Heart is an intimate cabaret celebrating Nancy LaMott, a celebrated interpreter of American popular song. Nicky Gayner and pianist Tom Wakeley tell her story through the songs she made unforgettable, from her club performances to national recognition and appearances at the White House.

Created with Nancy's close friend, songwriter and record producer David Friedman, who also directs, the show draws on his personal memories and Christopher Marlowe's original arrangements. Nicky performs in her own voice, bringing warmth, emotional honesty and her own connection to the music. This is a celebration, not an impersonation.

Combining humour, storytelling and songs, the evening honours Nancy's resilience, wit and lasting musical legacy. You do not need to know her recordings to enjoy it. First presented at The Crazy Coqs in May 2026, the show is available as either 75 minutes without an interval or 90 minutes with an interval. A post-show Q&A is available by arrangement with the performers.

Social post | Discover the show

Discover Nancy LaMott through the songs she made unforgettable. Nicky Gayner and Tom Wakeley bring music, humour and storytelling to Listen to Her Heart, created with David Friedman. A celebration performed in Nicky's own voice. Join us for an intimate evening of cabaret.

Social post | Audience response

"I felt I knew Nancy by the end." - Audience member, The Crazy Coqs. Experience Listen to Her Heart with Nicky Gayner and Tom Wakeley: the music and story of Nancy LaMott, created with her friend and songwriter David Friedman. Available as a 75-minute show without an interval or a 90-minute show with an interval.

Add your venue, performance date, time and booking link to each social post. Please retain the show title and creative credits. Publicity enquiries and requests for the supplied photographs: gayner@btinternet.com.