

Jeanne Ragonese - Born in Syracuse, NY, Jeanne has been performing in USAREUR theaters since 1991. Though she's always lived in Heidelberg, she's driven thousands of miles over the years to have the opportunity of performing in such theatres as the Frankfurt Playhouse, The Stuttgart Theater Center, Heidelberg Roadside Theater, Darmstadt Performing Art Center, Rhein-Neckar Theatre, and Mannheim's Off-Main Street Theatre. She has performed at the Frankfurt Alte Oper, and at several international theater festivals. Some of her favorite shows have included leading roles in *Evita*; *City of Angels*; *The Will Rogers Follies*; *My Fair Lady*; *Hello Dolly!*; *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; *A Little Night Music*; and *Sweeney Todd* as well as dramatic and comedic roles in plays, such as *As Bees In Honey Drown*; *Don't Dress For Dinner*; *All My Sons*; *Lost In Yonkers*; and *Dancing at Lughnasa* (just to name a few)! She's thrilled as always to be working with Alan Buxkemper, Texan and musician extraordinaire.



Alan Buxkepmer - (Piano) is the Director of the Stuttgart Entertainment Branch. Prior to that, Alan served as the Music Center Director (since June of 1989). He has served as the musical director for every musical the Stuttgart Theatre Center has produced since *The Music Man* (in 1990). Alan has been nominated as "Best Musical Director" at the IMCOM-E Tournament of Plays five times and has won the award

four times (for *Ain't Misbehavin'*; *The World Goes 'Round*; *The Secret Garden* and *Urinetown*). Alan received his Master's Degree in Piano Performance from Southwest Texas University. Upon graduation, he joined the faculty at Southwest Texas University as Vocal Coach/Accompanist/and Class Piano Instructor as well as conducting the University production of Puccini's *La Boheme*. Alan has studied German Art Song at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart and also served as an accompanist at the Stuttgart Opera School. He has recorded Rachmanioff's Symphony "No. 3 in A Minor" and Ravel's "*Spanish Rhapsody*" with the Süddeutsche Rundfunk Symphony in Stuttgart. Alan is married to soprano Jennifer Buxkemper, who teaches at the International School in Sindelfingen as well as Kindermusik. He is the proud father of two sons, Andrew and Peter.

Notes from the Artist

Although I've been performing in musicals since I was in 8th grade, performing a "cabaret" style evening is still quite new for me. I had the great good fortune to be accepted into Yale University's Cabaret Conference two summers ago where I had the opportunity of working with some amazing people who opened my eyes to a whole new kind of performance. (Amazing and intimidating. When you have "instructors" who are really Broadway and NYC cabaret stars who start a sentence with, "Well, when Stephen Sondheim wrote that song for me" or "Well, after I won the Tony Award..." you know you'd better sit up and listen, because these are folks who really know their stuff!)

It's been exciting to use what I know from that experience, and from the musicals I love to create a cabaret evening. I've especially enjoyed using songs in a totally different context than they were used in a show. (For example, the song, "I Will Be Loved" comes from a scene in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* where a young woman is getting ready for a first date. But when I listened to it again, I realized how meaningful the same song might be for a woman who has a loved one returning home after a long deployment).

I'm so happy to get the chance to sing and tell stories for you tonight. But life is funny. I never dreamed, when I was a kid in Syracuse watching *Cinderella* with my big sister Anne, that one day I'd be telling that story on a stage in Germany! Hope you enjoy the evening!