

A man and a woman are smiling and looking at each other. The man is on the left, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a patterned shirt. The woman is on the right, wearing a purple leather jacket over a blue top. The background is a deep red color with several small, white, heart-shaped icons scattered throughout. In the top right corner, the title 'SONGS IN THE KEY OF LOVE' is written in white. 'SONGS' and 'IN THE KEY OF' are in a simple sans-serif font. 'LOVE' is in a larger, stylized font where the 'O' is replaced by a white circle containing a black silhouette of a fork. The word 'LOVE' is positioned over a white graphic of a musical staff with five lines.

SONGS
IN THE KEY OF
LOVE

**WESTPORT
PLAYHOUSE**

A Romantic Musical Revue starring Illeana Kirven,
Horace Smith and The Heartstrings Band.

FEBRUARY  14  16  17 AT 7:30 PM

SONGS
IN THE KEY OF
LOVE



Scan here or visit
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A ROMANTIC MUSICAL REVUE



Starring Illeana Kirven and Horace Smith
Written and Choreographed by Illeana Kirven
Musical Direction by Charlie Mueller

The Heartstrings Band

Dave Black, Guitar

Joe Akers, Brass

Bernard Long Jr., Drums

Brandon Thompson, Reeds

Willem von Hombracht, Bass

Artistic Director - Lee Anne Mathews

Costume Design - Illeana Kirven and Horace Smith

Lighting Design and Operation - Joel Wilper

Video Design - Lenny Mink

Wardrobe Crew - Liz Henning

Sound Engineer - Justin Smith

Public Relations - Insight PR, Julie Lally and Nancy Milton

Director of Marketing Development - Liz Henning

Director of Sales and Development - Gail Studt

Executive Directors of the Westport Playhouse -

Dan Byington and Lenny Mink

SET LIST

Got to Get You Into My Life

Then Came You

Don't Go Breakin' My Heart

When A Man Loves A Woman

Knock On Wood

Try A Little Tenderness

Can I Take You Out Tonight

How Sweet It Is

A Whole New World

Higher and Higher

INTERMISSION

Never Too Much

Superstar

Natural Woman

Love Train

Can't Get Enough Of Your Love, Babe

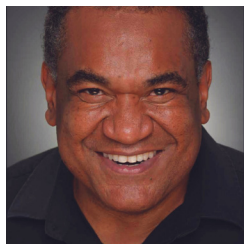
Tell Me Something Good

Just The Way You Are

For Once In My Life

My Funny Valentine

Ain't No Mountain High Enough



Horace E. Smith has been singing love songs for a long time. With performances from

Tennessee to Texas, stages from Missouri to Maine, Horace has sung soulful ballads to Broadway standards. He has been compared to legendary artists such as Luther Vandross and Barry White with titles like *Never Too Much*, *Let's Get It On*. While in theatre, he starred in productions of *SHOWBOAT* singing the classic, *Ol' Man River*. He also starred as Coalhouse Walker in *RAGTIME* & Jim in *BIG RIVER*. Here in St. Louis, you may remember him as Big Moe in *FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE* at St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre. These are just a few of the productions in Horace's very extensive theatrical background.



Like Horace, **Illy** has performed love songs of various genres from coast to coast. She was last seen at

the Playhouse at Westport in 2019 as Gary Coleman (Broadway World Nomination) in *AVENUE Q*. She starred as Deloris Van Cartier in *SISTER ACT*, the Musical

(Broadway World Nomination) and as Caroline in *CAROLINE, OR CHANGE* (Broadway World Nomination). Her theatrical experience includes productions of *AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'*, *GODSPELL*, *JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT*, *SHOWBOAT*, *SOUTH PACIFIC*, *THE DROWSY CHAPERONE* to name a few. She is also a director, choreographer and songwriter and currently working on her debut CD with a hopeful release in 2023.

Horace and Illy are ecstatic to share the world premiere of *SONGS IN THE KEY OF LOVE* with audiences in St. Louis. They hope these songs will bring wonderful memories and experiences to be cherished for many years to come.

The Heartstrings Band **Musical Director/Keyboard** **Charlie Mueller**

Charlie Mueller is thrilled to return to The Playhouse at Westport Plaza for his third show as Music Director (previously *Flanagan's Wake* and *Avenue Q*). Charlie is a music director, music educator, and pianist who works throughout the St. Louis area. He is currently the Education Programs Manager at The Muny, where he also serves as the Music Director and Arranger for the Muny Teens. He has served as a music director and arranger for many local

theater companies such as Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, New Jewish Theatre, Insight Theatre Company, Theater Nuevo, ERA, West End Players Guild, and COCA. He previously served as the Director of Vocal Music at CBC High School and the Artistic Director of Allegro, a vocal music company, at COCA, where he has also served as a member of the vocal music faculty. He served as Tenor section leader at First Congregational Church of St. Louis and Baritone section leader at First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood. He has been an adjunct faculty member and music director at both Webster University and Saint Louis University. Charlie received his BA from Saint Louis University in Communication and Music and then went on to receive his MA from Webster University in Choral Conducting.

Brass - Joe Akers

Joe Akers teaches elementary music in the Mehlville School District and is also the Adjunct Instructor of Trumpet at Saint Louis University. He has his own trumpet studio and teaches students throughout the St. Louis area. Joe has played shows with Stray Dog Theatre, Fly North Theatricals, Gateway Center for the Performing Arts, and New Line Theatre. When not playing or teaching, he helps raise and train service dogs for CHAMP Service Dogs with his family.

Guitar- Dave Black

If you're a native of St. Louis, you may recognize the name Dave Black as one of the area's most versatile and in-demand guitarists, having performed and recorded with artists/groups from numerous genres, including Jazz, Rock, Blues and World Folk! Dave also teaches Jazz Guitar and directs Jazz Ensemble at Webster University.

Drums - Bernard Long Jr.

The late Bernard Long, Sr., sensed Jr. 's love and feel for music and introduced him to the world of music at age 4. Bernard, Jr. graduated with his B.M. in Jazz Studies in May 2009 from Northern Illinois University under the leadership of Professor Ron Carter. Bernard, Jr. performed in the world renowned NIU Jazz Ensemble toured with greats like Clark Terry, Benny Golson, Rodney Whitaker, and Peter Erskine. Bernard Jr. graduated from Michigan State University in May 2012 with his M.M. in Jazz Studies. At MSU Bernard, Jr. directed the MSU Jazz Orchestra 3, and performed with the MSU Jazz Orchestra 1. Bernard, Jr. graduated from Lindenwood University in May 2016 with his MAT in Music Education, and with his Ed.S. in School Administration in December 2018. Bernard, Jr. is an Adjunct Professor of Jazz drum set at Lindenwood University. Bernard, Jr. is the band director at Madison Jr/Sr High School in Madison, IL

where he started the music program via zoom in 2020. Bernard is a 2016 graduate of the Focus St. Louis emerging leaders' class. Bernard has been teaching students for 20 years. Bernard, Jr is a 2018 honoree of the Salute to Excellence in Education class sponsored by the St. Louis American Foundation. Bernard is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; INC. Bernard is the Illinois Music Educators Association district 6 percussion representative. Bernard Jr is on the Percussive Arts Society Education and Diversity committee. Bernard, Jr. is the percussionist for Third Presbyterian Church.

Reeds - Brandon Thompson

Brandon is a professional musician who specializes in woodwind doubling (saxophone/clarinet/flute) and music directing. He is currently an Operations Lead for team Nissan at Ansira Inc. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Lindenwood University where he studied for five years. He now lives in Maryland Heights with his partner, Peter, and his dog, Colby. Brandon is excited to experience his first show with Westport Playhouse.

Bass - Willem von Hombracht

Willem von Hombracht has been playing bass since 1977; studied at the Arnhem Conservatory of Music in the Netherlands, and has had a strong presence on the St. Louis music scene since the 1990s.

Though he is most often to be heard in jazz-related performances, he is also active in many other settings, including blues, rock, classical, folk, Brazilian, Cuban, Mexican, and West African groups, as well as a wide variety of theater productions. He often collaborates on projects with poets, dancers, actors, and painters.

Though based in St. Louis, and most often engaged in this region, he has also traveled quite extensively throughout North America, Europe and West Africa, both as a performer and as a teacher. Since 2003 Willem has been adjunct professor of jazz studies at Webster University, and since 2001 he has been on the faculty of the International Summer Jazz Academy in Kraków (Poland).

He has been featured on over 25 CD recordings, on both US and European labels.

Willem has been a part of several productions here at the Playhouse and is happy to be returning once again!

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Global Beats Bazaar	March 4
Disbelief - A Night of Wonder and Laughter	March 11
The 411 on the 314 (Improv and Comedy for \$3.14!!!)	March 14
The Wee Heavies	March 17
The Not Quite Right Improv Comedy	April 1 & 2
Popovich Pet Comedy Theatre	April 8 & 9
Broke! The Game Show Show	April 14-May 6

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