

## Shana Farr holds moonbeams in her hand with Julie Andrews show

Posted by [Mark Dundas Wood](#) on April 13, 2013



**Shana Farr** is a bright-voiced and comely singer who has drawn a great deal of attention in the past few seasons for her New York cabaret performances. On Thursday night she gave a program at the Episcopal Actors Guild Hall in Manhattan called *Whistling Away the Dark: Through Songs of Julie Andrews*. Accompanying her on stage were pianist **Bill Zeffiro**, along with author **Robert Windeler**, who wrote (and has repeatedly updated) the biography, *Julie Andrews: A Life on Stage and Screen*. Windeler talked between musical selections about Andrews' long and storied career.

Farr made it clear that she would not impersonate Andrews' famously sunny voice. (She, for instance, avoided utilizing a British accent while singing). But, as a classically trained vocalist, she proves to be a fine match for the Andrews canon. Like Andrews, she has a sound that exists comfortably in a niche somewhere between the genres of operetta and pop.

Farr opened with a medley that incorporated some of Andrews' most enduring songs from her biggest stage and screen turns, including "The Sound of Music," "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" and "Show Me" plus a lesser-known title or two. As the program progressed, I was happy to hear two songs that I've always felt should be more heralded titles in the Great American Songbook: "Jimmy" (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*) and "Crazy World" (*Victor/Victoria*).

The highlights of the program, for me, were two **Noël Coward** songs: the stirring “Someday I’ll Find You” (heard in the film *Star!*) and the absolutely thrilling “I’ll Follow My Secret Heart.” I also admired the singer’s plaintive quality on the Gershwins’ “Someone to Watch Over Me” (also heard in *Star!*).

Windeler’s narrative included plenty of fascinating facts and stats, including that Miss Julie wore a record 94 different costumes when she portrayed **Gertrude Lawrence** in *Star!*). He clearly has a great deal of affection for Andrews, whom he first met on the *Star!* set. His thesis, he said, has long been that Andrews was “a star before she became a person.”

**In May, Farr will take this program to the Crazy Coqs club in London. It takes a bit of nerve for an American gal to present a Julie Andrews program on the star’s native soil. But Farr will clearly pull it off. The pipes are there, and the polish.**

Besides which, you see, she has confidence in herself.