

# The Local Girls

The Local Girls were formed on a summer's night in Athens, Ohio in 1988. The three singers--Brenda Catania, Gay Dalzell, and Mimi Hart--came from varied musical backgrounds but quickly realized that they shared an enthusiasm for close three-part harmony songs. Each woman remains stylistically distinctive, but together they create an unusually strong, vibrant blend--and they have fun doing it! Although much of their material focuses on the hot and vampy swing tunes of the 30s and 40s (The Boswells, The Jimmy Lunceford Trio, and The Rhythm Boys), they also pursue their eclectic musical interests by performing their own arrangements of cowpoke, be-bop, blues, standards, and an occasional psychedelic hit. The Local Girls have opened for The Platters, accompanied David Bromberg, and entertained the troops surrounding Air Force One! Having provided music for the award-winning PBS TV series "RURAL COMMUNITIES: Legacy & Change," The Local Girls performed the historical songs in "America's Women: A Legacy of Change," a nationally syndicated four-part documentary for which Gay Dalzell provided the narration and which won the Women in Radio and TV award for the best documentary series. Working with the renowned string ensemble, The Lark Quartet, The Local Girls premiered a new birthday song, *Your Trip around the Sun*, on the occasion of Hillary Clinton's 50th birthday gala in Washington DC, hosted by Tipper Gore. They have also performed in the East Room at The White House for the candlelight holiday festivities, throughout Germany and Austria in the summer of 2004, and as guests of A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor at Town Hall in New York City in April 2000.

Brenda Catania has worked primarily in Boston and San Francisco doing studio work, cabaret, musical theatre, rock and roll, and with the performance art groups Nuclear Beauty Parlour and Monster Girls. On the West Coast, Brenda shared the stage with artists like Etta James and Bonnie Bramlett. Gay Dalzell has toured extensively, singing from bluegrass to blues. She was a featured member of the Governor's Official State Touring Group, the Appalachian Green Parks Project, and continues her popular folk/jazz duo work with her husband, Bruce Dalzell. Mimi Hart began singing at six with her sisters for ladies' luncheons, which eventually led to her touring and recording with the Allman Brothers. She's worked the East Coast with Hotcakes and The Paula Lockheart Band, toured the North and South with The Bopcats, and sang backup for David Bromberg. In October of 2003, Mimi spearheaded the collaboration to showcase Ohio University songs of the past and produced a CD, *Four Year Heaven*, featuring performances by the The Local Girls as well as other OU musicians.

The Local Girls' guitar accompanist, Mike McGannon, is a well-known Ohio musician; he was the musical director of The Angels, and toured with The Drifters, The Coasters, and members of Steely Dan and Toto. Mike's multi-instrumental talent--on banjo and electric and acoustic guitar--is heard on innumerable jingles and soundtracks. Bill Douds would rather be playing the bass than doing anything else, and he is happy playing bluegrass, jazz, rhythm and blues, or rock. The Local Girls are singers who respect a beautiful melody and lyric, but still wanna have fun. They provide a truly entertaining evening, evoking not simply nostalgia, but the timeless pleasure of fine music. And they do it in three parts!

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