

He's Been on Broadway and Beyond But This Performer Sang With a New Voice on the Gertrude Lawrence Stage

Dear Eventide Sea of Supporters,

We recently finished a great run of Stephen Sondheim's "A Little Night Music."

We worked hard to cast the play because the singing parts are demanding. Near the end of the casting process, I walked a stranger to us, local Realtor Jeffrey Clonts. If you came to the play, he was the tenor (in the quintet) with the astounding voice.

"We nearly tackled him when we heard him sing" says Toby Wilson, Eventide's Artistic Director, "because we didn't want him to get away."

It turns out that Jeffrey knows his music and his way around a stage. In fact, he wrote us a letter after the play was over, and we thought you'd like to see it. In his own words:



"I recently had the honor of performing in the cast of the Eventide Arts production of "A Little Night Music." It was a labor of love for the cast and crew as well as a journey of self-renewal for me.

I was raised participating in community-based theater. I found a home in the performing arts and eventually made a career of it. I was fortunate enough to have performed on Broadway, National Tours, Regional Theater, Dinner Theater, Summer Stock, Daytime Television and many concert venues.

"My participation in the Arts helped me find a passion, acceptance and direction as a young person. Now I find that the Arts, with the help of Eventide, have come to my rescue again."

Jeffrey Clonts

Several years ago, I was diagnosed with cancer. The "cure" for this particular form of a hideous disease involved radiation therapy, surgery and months of chemotherapy. The end result is that I am a Cancer Survivor, but much about my life has changed. The abdominal surgery I had as a result of the disease left me unable to sing as I once had. In fact, I was unsure whether I would ever be able to be "on stage" again. That was a devastating psychological loss.

Part of my journey of recovery has been to challenge myself to overcome this adversity and face my fears. I was afraid to do many things, including standing in front of an audience and sharing what I loved to do...performing! I worked to get my voice back in shape and that process is ongoing.

I have been a promoter of Arts in Education for many years. My participation in the Arts helped me find a passion, acceptance and direction as a young person. Now I find that the Arts, with the help of Eventide, have come to my rescue again.

I have 2 favorite quotes from Pablo Picasso:

- *“Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life”*
- *“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”*

The opportunity to practice a theatrical artist’s craft, which Eventide Arts provides members of the Cape community, is invaluable to both the participants and the audience they serve. In my case, the experience truly helped wash away the dust from my soul and revived the adult artist inside.

I am truly grateful. “

I want to thank Jeffrey for sharing this letter with us and for his permission to share it with you.

We at Eventide are truly grateful for Jeffrey, the talent he put on our stage, and the supportive environment he found himself in, thanks to **your** gifts which are like a pat on the back that lets us know that what we do at Eventide with and for people like Jeffrey **matters to you too**.

If you have been with us long or are new to Eventide we want you to know that your support is valued and critical to our continuing mission.

If you’ve never given a gift to Eventide, now is a good time to consider doing so. We hear many great stories like Jeffrey’s... people who have stepped on our stage and treasured the experience, or sat in our seats and relished a performance.

If you have given to Eventide, we are grateful for your gifts over the years, because you are the support that allows us to bring powerful, heartfelt experiences both to our audiences and to our performers...experiences precious to the quality of life on Cape Cod and beyond.

Won’t you consider a gift to Eventide? And if you’ve given before, would you consider an additional amount? This year we did not send out a spring fundraising letter and are need of additional sustaining funds at this time.

We deeply appreciate what you do for us. And with your help, we’ll keep doing what you want us to do for you and provide great entertainment, year in and year out.

Sincerely,



Shannon Goheen, President

Eventide Arts Inc.

P.S. As I said, we didn’t send out a spring fundraising letter. Some remembered their prior gifts and gave anyway while others did not and now we definitely are in need of sustaining funds! I hope you can join us with your support today. Your gift may be tax deductible as we are a 501 c3 non-profit organization. Thank you!

*Photo on front courtesy Focal Point Studio and featuring Jeffrey Clonts with Joan Kirchner