



**STEVE MOYER
PUBLIC RELATIONS**

P.O. Box 5227 • West Hills, CA 91308 • Phone: 818.784.7027 • Fax: 818.784.7099

Media Contact for Mike Stoller and Corky Hale Stoller: Steve Moyer Public Relations
@ 818.784.7027; moyerpr@earthlink.net

Media Contact for the Museum at Eldridge Street: Amy Stein-Milford, Deputy Director;
212.219.0888, ext. 201; 917.576.0956; asteinmilford@eldridgestreet.org

**MIKE STOLLER AND CORKY HALE STOLLER TO APPEAR AS
INAUGURAL GUESTS KICKING OFF A NEW
“*IN CONVERSATION*” SPEAKER SERIES
AT THE MUSEUM AT ELDRIDGE STREET, CELEBRATING THE
125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUSEUM’S LANDMARK HOME,
THE 1887 ELDRIDGE STREET SYNAGOGUE**

**Legendary Music Couple Shares Stories
Of Working with Hit-Makers From
Elvis Presley, The Coasters and Peggy Lee to
Billie Holiday, Tony Bennett and Barbra Streisand
Moderated by Amy Krakow**

**Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Museum At Eldridge Street
12 Eldridge Street
New York, NY 10002**

Los Angeles, CA – Los Angeles-based Grammy Award® winning songwriter Mike Stoller and his wife, renowned pianist, harpist and singer, Corky Hale Stoller, will appear as the inaugural guests kicking off a new “*In Conversation*” Speaker Series at the Museum at Eldridge Street; 12 Eldridge Street (between Canal and Division Streets); New York, NY 10022, on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. The Series is part of an ongoing 125th Anniversary celebration of Jewish life and culture in the museum’s landmark home, the 1887 Eldridge Street Synagogue.

The legendary music couple will share stories of working with hit-makers from Elvis Presley, The Coasters and Peggy Lee to Billie Holiday, Tony Bennett and Barbra Streisand. The event will be moderated by noted producer and author, Amy Krakow.

Mike Stoller and Corky Hale Stoller Kick Off New “*In Conversation*” Speaker Series At The Museum at Eldridge Street – Page 2 of 7

Other upcoming speakers in the “*In Conversation*” Series will include: actor **Fyvush Finkel** who will be interviewed by his son, xylophone virtuoso **Ian Finkel** on **Sunday, March 11, 2012**; *Los Angeles Times* film critic **Kenneth Turan** and filmmaker **Henry Bean** who will explore ways their Jewish upbringing and heritage has influenced their work on **Thursday, March 29, 2012** and **Rabbi Elliot Dorff** who will explore the confluence of medical technology and Jewish law and ethics with the Museum’s Scholar-in-Residence, **Dr. Regina Stein** on **Wednesday, May 30, 2012**.

“*In Conversation*” events are \$25 each for Adults, and \$18 each for Students and Seniors. RSVP for three or more 125th Anniversary “*In Conversation*” events and receive a 20% discount. Tickets may be purchased by calling 212-219-088 or online at www.eldridgestreet.org. The Museum at Eldridge Street is housed in the 1887 Eldridge Street Synagogue; 12 Eldridge Street (between Canal and Division Streets); New York, NY 10022, and can be accessed via subway on the F line to East Broadway or the B line or D line to Grand Street.

When **Mike Stoller** and **Corky Hale Stoller** sit down to talk, they have no shortage of extraordinary stories to tell. The pair met in the late 1960s when Hale, a world-renowned pianist, harpist and singer did a demo for the legendary songwriting team of **Leiber & Stoller**. Happily married since 1970, Hale and Stoller’s shared life in the music industry covers some of the most exciting times in music and politics. In this public conversation, they will talk about working with a *Who’s Who* of hit-makers.

Corky Hale has played harp with Liberace, piano with Billie Holiday, and has appeared at the White House with Tony Bennett. She soloed with Barbra Streisand in Central Park, appeared with Björk on her MTV Special in London, and has sung with the bands of Harry James, Ray Anthony and Jerry Gray. In partnership with the late Jerry Leiber, Mike Stoller’s many hit songs include: “*Hound Dog*,” “*Jailhouse Rock*,” “*Stand By Me*,” “*Love Potion #9*,” and “*Is That All There Is?*” *Smokey Joe’s Café*, which still holds the record as the longest-running musical revue in Broadway history, features 39 Leiber & Stoller songs.

More About Mike Stoller:

Mike Stoller is one-half of the legendary songwriting team of **Leiber and Stoller**. Over the course of a 61 year partnership, Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller created enduring classics in a variety of genres including Rhythm & Blues, Pop, Country, Jazz, Cabaret, and—perhaps most notably—Rock & Roll.

If Elvis Presley was the king of Rock & Roll, then Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller were certainly two of the most important powers behind that throne. It’s impossible to think of Elvis without thinking of “*Hound Dog*,” “*Loving You*,” or “*Jailhouse Rock*”— all creations from the pen and piano of Leiber and Stoller.

(-more-)

Mike Stoller and Corky Hale Stoller Kick Off New “*In Conversation*” Speaker Series At The Museum at Eldridge Street – Page 3 of 7

To carry the analogy a step further, the court jesters of the Rock & Roll kingdom would have to be The Coasters. Leiber and Stoller wrote and produced all of The Coasters’ hits, including “*Searchin’*,” “*Young Blood*,” “*Yakety Yak*,” “*Charlie Brown*,” “*Along Came Jones*,” “*Poison Ivy*” and “*Little Egypt*.”

But Elvis and The Coasters are only two of the acts whose careers skyrocketed because of Leiber and Stoller’s creative partnership.

Mike Stoller and Jerry Leiber began their partnership in 1950 at the age of 17 when they discovered that they had a mutual passion for Boogie Woogie and the Blues. By the time they were 20, Leiber and Stoller had seen their earliest songs recorded by such important blues artists as Jimmy Witherspoon, Little Esther, Amos Milburn, Charles Brown, Little Willie Littlefield, Bull Moose Jackson, Linda Hopkins, Ray Charles, and Willie Mae “Big Mama” Thornton.

Leiber and Stoller’s series of hits as both songwriters and record producers began with Big Mama Thornton’s recording of “*Hound Dog*” in 1953. This record and others produced by them caught the attention of executives from Atlantic Records.

In 1955, Atlantic signed Leiber and Stoller to the first independent production deal, forever changing the course of the record industry. Leiber and Stoller’s songs and productions were constantly on the charts during the next decade. Aside from The Coasters’ many hits, there were Ben E. King’s “*Stand By Me*,” and “*I (Who Have Nothing)*,” The Drifters’ “*There Goes My Baby*,” “*Dance With Me*” and “*On Broadway*,” as well as La Vern Baker’s recording of “*Saved*” and Ruth Brown’s “*Lucky Lips*.”

During this same period, while Leiber and Stoller were producing The Clovers (“*Love Potion #9*”), Jay and the Americans (“*Only In America*”), and Chuck Jackson (“*I Keep Forgettin’*”), other artists were having hits with Leiber and Stoller compositions. There was Wilbert Harrison with “*Kansas City*,” The Drifters with “*Fools Fall In Love*,” Dion with “*Ruby Baby*,” Peggy Lee with “*I’m A Woman*” and Edith Piaf with “*L’Homme a la Moto*.” Elvis Presley recorded more than 20 songs written by Leiber and Stoller, including “*Hound Dog*,” “*Love Me*,” “*Loving You*,” “*Jailhouse Rock*,” “*Treat Me Nice*,” “*Don’t*,” “*(You’re So Square) Baby, I Don’t Care*,” “*Bossa Nova Baby*,” “*Santa Claus Is Back In Town*” and “*Trouble*.”

In 1969, the team produced the Peggy Lee recording of their composition “*Is That All There Is?*” According to music critic Robert Palmer, “*Is That All There Is?*” was the song that “...clearly pointed to the direction their new work would take.” It was this change in the creative style of Leiber and Stoller that prompted Palmer to write: “...the Golden Age of Rock & Roll had come to an end.”

(-more-)

Mike Stoller and Corky Hale Stoller Kick Off New “*In Conversation*” Speaker Series At The Museum at Eldridge Street – Page 4 of 7

Leiber and Stoller have been the recipients of many awards and honors, including the following:

- 1985 – Inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame
- 1987 – Inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
- 1994 – Their star placed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame & their handprints imbedded into the Hollywood Rockwalk
- 1995 – Grammy Award® for Best Original Cast Album, *Smokey Joe’s Café*
- 1999 – National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences Trustees Award – Grammy Award® for Lifetime Achievement
- 2000 – Johnny Mercer Award (National Academy of Popular Music)
- 2000 – Ivor Novello International Songwriters Award
- 2005 – World Soundtrack Award, Flanders International Film Festival

In March of 1995, *Smokey Joe’s Café: The Songs of Leiber and Stoller* opened on Broadway at the Virginia Theatre. Comprised of 39 Leiber and Stoller songs, the show was nominated for seven Tony Awards®. *Smokey Joe’s Café* would remain at the Virginia Theatre for over five years, becoming the longest-running musical revue in Broadway history, which it still is to this day. The show also played London’s West End for two years, and has toured around the world.

In 2009, *Hound Dog: The Leiber and Stoller Autobiography*, was published by Simon & Schuster. In 2010, Leiber and Stoller celebrated their 60th anniversary as a songwriting team. In April of 2011, the musical *The People in the Picture*, with music by Mike Stoller and Artie Butler and book and lyrics by Iris Rainer Dart, opened on Broadway at Studio 54.

In October 2011 Stoller was honored at a black-tie gala with Chapman University’s 30th Annual American Celebration Lifetime Achievement Award. In November 2011 Stoller was honored as the BMI Ambassador at the annual dinner of the Society of Composers and Lyricists. In 2012 the Original Broadway Cast Album of his musical, *The People In The Picture*, starring two time Tony Award® winner, Donna Murphy, was released. The CD is currently available at www.kritzerland.com. The musical was the recipient of a Tony Award® nomination, three New York Drama Desk® nominations, a New York Outer Critics Circle nomination and two New York Drama League nominations.

Mike Stoller is married to Jazz great, Corky Hale. To learn more about Mike Stoller, please visit www.leiberstoller.com.

(-more-)

Mike Stoller and Corky Hale Stoller Kick Off New “In Conversation” Speaker Series – Page 5 of 7

More About Corky Hale Stoller:

Corky Hale (Pianist, Harpist and Vocalist) was born in a small mid-western farm town and started taking piano lessons at age three. At age seven, while vacationing with her family in Florida, Hale was heard in the lobby of her hotel picking out tunes on the piano by House bandleader, Horace Heidt. Heidt had a little band jacket made for her and featured her for the next few weeks in the evening show. She began studying piano at Chicago Conservatory at the age of seven, and harp at the age of eight.

She has performed at The White House with Tony Bennett, soloed with Barbra Streisand in Central Park and at the Hollywood Bowl, and performed with Björk on her MTV Special in London. Hale has also appeared with George Michael at London’s Royal Albert Hall and Washington, D.C.’s RFK Stadium. She has played harp for Liberace (on his television show and at Madison Square Garden) and Judy Collins, piano for Billie Holiday, Mel Tormé and Peggy Lee, and sung with the bands of Harry James, Ray Anthony and Jerry Gray.

Hale’s harp, piano and vocals can be heard on her three albums **“CORKY!;”** **“Have Yourself A Jazzy Little Christmas;”** and her current CD **“Corky Hale and Friends...I’m Glad There Is You.”** Corky Hale’s CDs are available at www.cdbaby.com and www.amazon.com.

Her sold-out performances at the Oak Room at the Algonquin in New York, Davenport’s in Chicago, the Cinegrill and Herb Alpert’s Vibrato Grill Jazz...etc. in Los Angeles, the Plush Room in San Francisco, and Pizza On The Park in London have led *Los Angeles Times*’ jazz reviewer Don Heckman to observe that Hale is “more than a triple threat,” and the *San Francisco Examiner*’s Philip Ellwood noted her performances are “of cyclonic proportions.” She has also been seen and heard on *“The Tonight Show With Johnny Carson.”*

Hale produced *“Give ‘em Hell Harry,”* starring Jason Alexander at the Tiffany Theatre in Los Angeles in 1992. Since 2000 Hale has frequently produced and performed her star-studded show *“Corky Hale and Friends: From Tin Pan Alley to Beverly Hills,”* at the Beverly Hills Civic Center. In March 2003 her *“Salute To Hollywood Songwriters”* opened the newly restored Ferry Building at a Gala for San Francisco’s *“Raising Hope”* charity, and in 2002 this show opened the 25th Anniversary Season of the 1,000-seat La Mirada Theatre. In that same year Hale’s musical *“Boulevard of Broken Dreams”* broke Box Office records at the Coconut Grove Playhouse in Florida. She also produced 1998’s *“Lullaby Of Broadway”* at the Tiffany Theatre in West Hollywood, voted one of the “10 Best Shows” of the year by the *Los Angeles Times*. Later a concert version of the show starring Sally Kellerman was presented at the University of Judaism. She is currently preparing a new version of the production, re-titled *“I Only Have Eyes For You.”*

(-more-)

Mike Stoller and Corky Hale Stoller Kick Off New “In Conversation” Speaker Series – Page 6 of 7

On November 22, 2007, Corky Hale made her debut at Carnegie Hall as a Piano Soloist with the New York Pops Orchestra, under the baton of Guest Conductor, Barry Levitt. In 2008 she appeared at the Metropolitan Room in New York and produced a Tribute to Sammy Cahn at the Wilshire Theatre Beverly Hills. In 2009 she appeared at Herb Alpert’s Vibrato Grill Jazz...etc. in Los Angeles, selling it out for the third time. Also in 2009, she also appeared as a performer on the Inaugural Playboy Jazz Cruise of the Caribbean.

In December 2008 – January 2009, she produced a Sold Out, Standing Room Only Revival of Leiber & Stoller’s *Smokey Joe’s Café* at El Portal Theatre in North Hollywood, which received rave reviews, including a Critics Choice in the *Los Angeles Times*. The same production was also nominated for 10 Ovation Awards in 2009, receiving the most nominations of any single theatrical show produced in Los Angeles during that year. Currently discussions are underway for another National Tour of the Revival of the show. In 2010, Corky Hale served as one of the financial backers of Academy Award® nominated documentary film, “*The Most Dangerous Man In America – Daniel Ellsberg and The Pentagon Papers.*” Hale also appeared at Catalina Bar & Grill and the Hillcrest Country Club in Los Angeles in 2010.

2011 appearances included: the 22nd New York Cabaret Convention at Lincoln Center; the 16th Annual Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; the Knickerbocker Bar & Grill in New York; Midtown Jazz at Midday at St. Peter’s Church in New York; Catalina Bar & Grill in Los Angeles, CA, and the Barbara Morrison Performing Arts Center in Los Angeles, CA.

In addition to her musical accomplishments, Hale jokingly considers herself the ultimate cook-housewife. She has been happily married since 1970 for 41 years to songwriter Mike Stoller of the team Leiber & Stoller, whose show *Smokey Joe’s Café* still holds the record as the longest running musical revue in Broadway history. She and her husband built the state-of-the-art Dorothy Hecht Health Center in partnership with Planned Parenthood Los Angeles, which serves 2,000 women monthly. She and her husband are currently building another health center in South Los Angeles. In 2011 Hale was honored as the Champion of Choice by NARAL Pro-Choice America (National Abortion Rights Action League) for her lifelong advocacy for women’s reproductive rights.

Hale serves on the national advisory board of NARAL, the national advisory board of Planned Parenthood and the California board of the Women’s Reproductive Rights Assistance Project (WRRAP). She and her husband are strong advocates of the Southern Poverty Law Center and serve on the board of the National Coalition to Ban Gun Violence. In 2012 she will appear in “*A Birthday Tribute To Billie Holiday*” featuring herself and singers Freda Payne and Tricia Tahara, to be presented at Catalina Bar & Grill on April 18, 2012. To learn more about Corky Hale, please visit www.corkyhale.com.

(-more-)

Mike Stoller and Corky Hale Stoller Kick Off New “*In Conversation*” Speaker Series – Page 7 of 7

About The Museum At Eldridge Street:

In the fall of 1886, 125 years ago, a community of Jewish immigrants gathered together to lay the cornerstone for a new house of worship. Less than a year later, they opened the Eldridge Street Synagogue with great fanfare. It was the first great house of worship built in America by Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. The synagogue served as spiritual home for the community that was arriving en masse from the Old Country. 125 years later, the Museum at Eldridge Street has beautifully restored this National Historic Landmark and is planning special activities to mark the Eldridge Street Synagogue’s anniversary year. To learn more about the Museum at Eldridge Street, please visit the website, www.eldridgestreet.org.

Event Calendar Listing

“In Conversation: Mike Stoller and Corky Hale Stoller”

WHO

& WHAT: Los Angeles-based Grammy Award winning songwriter Mike Stoller and his wife, renowned pianist, harpist and singer, Corky Hale Stoller, will appear as the inaugural guests kicking off a new “*In Conversation*” Speaker Series at the Museum at Eldridge Street. The legendary music couple will share stories of working with hit-makers from Elvis Presley, The Coasters and Peggy Lee to Billie Holiday, Tony Bennett and Barbra Streisand. The event will be moderated by noted producer and author, Amy Krakow.

WHERE: The Museum at Eldridge Street; 12 Eldridge Street (between Canal and Division Streets); New York, NY 10022.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

HOW: “*In Conversation*” events are \$25 each for Adults, and \$18 each for Students and Seniors. RSVP for three or more 125th Anniversary “*In Conversation*” events and receive a 20% discount. March 6th: Mike Stoller and Corky Hale Stoller; March 11th: actor Fyvush Finkel interviewed by his son, xylophone virtuoso Ian Finkel; March 29th: *Los Angeles Times* film critic Kenneth Turan and filmmaker Henry Bean; and May 30th: Rabbi Elliott Dorff and the Museum’s Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Regina Stein. Tickets may be purchased by calling 212-219-0888 or online at www.eldridgestreet.org. The Museum at Eldridge Street is housed in the 1887 Eldridge Street Synagogue; 12 Eldridge Street (between Canal and Division Streets); New York, NY 10022, and can be accessed via subway on the F line to East Broadway or the B line or D line to Grand Street. For more information, please visit the website, www.eldridgestreet.org.

###